

Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly President welcomes UN Resolution on aid workers and calls for worldwide support of the ICC

Strasbourg, 27.08.03 - Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly President Peter Schieder today welcomed the unanimously-adopted UN Resolution 1502 which strongly condemns violence against humanitarian workers and calls for increased action to ensure their safety.

"Against the background of last week's murderous attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad we must welcome every decision which may effectively deter future attacks on staff involved in humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping missions. It was important to recall that such attacks constitute a war crime.

The most pressing concern now is to make sure that the perpetrators of such attacks will no longer go unpunished. This was exactly the purpose for which the International Criminal Court was set up.

The full and unconditional support of all international key actors would strengthen the ICC's role of deterrent and thus contribute to the preservation of stability and peace in the world," Mr Schieder said.

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