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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSULTATION ON THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT AND THE RULE OF LAW: BURMA AND THAILAND

The Burma Lawyers' Council (BLC) is pleased to announce the successful completion of a Consultation on the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law in Burma and Thailand, held on November 22 - 23 at the SASA International House of Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Consultation was organized by the BLC and the Union for Civil Liberty (UCL), and supported by the Coalition for the International Criminal Court - Asia (CICC-Asia) and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH).

The first day of the Consultation featured presentations and discussions on:

- Introduction to the ICC: Basic principles and victims' rights; the ICC today; and the principle of universal jurisdiction (Mr. Osman Hummida, Human Rights Expert, and Ms. Delphine Carlens, Program Officer, International Justice Desk, FIDH)
- Frequently asked questions about the Rome Statute (Mr. Harry Roque, Jr., ICC Counsel)
- The mandate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in relation to the ICC (Mr. Teerapat Asavasungsidhi, Legal Adviser, ICRC)
- The status of the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute in Asia (Ms. Evelyn Balais-Serrano, Coordinator for CICC - Asia)
- An overview of the situation in Thailand (Mr. Sarawut Pratoomraj, ICC Coordinator, UCL)
- An overview of the situation in Burma (Mr. Aung Htoo, General Secretary, and Mr. Stewart Manley, Staff Attorney, BLC)

On the second day, one group of participants held discussions regarding the ICC's role in Burma and how international mechanisms of justice can be used to bring criminal accountability to the perpetrators of crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide. The other group of participants attended meetings with the Head of the Legal and Treaties Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand and the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Thailand, to lobby for ratification by the Thai government of the Rome Statute of the ICC.

Representatives of a wide variety of local, regional and international civil society organizations and other NGO's participated in the Consultation.

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