

The Peoples' Tribunal on Sri Lanka - Session II **7th - 10th December 2013 Bremen, Germany**

Prosecution presents charges of genocide against the Eelam Tamil people and calls witnesses to support its case

The Second Session of the Peoples' Tribunal on Sri Lanka opened today in Bremen, Germany. A panel of judges heard the Prosecution outline its case that the crime of genocide has been and is being committed against the Tamil people in Sri Lanka.

Eleven direct eye-witnesses and experts testified in support of the Prosecution's case, providing evidence on various alleged crimes that could be determined to constitute the crime of Genocide, as well as on the legal and historical background.

This Second Session in Bremen was convened in response to the determination by the First Session, held in January 2010 in Dublin, Ireland, that War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity had taken place on the Eelam Tamil population during the final months of the war in Sri Lanka in early 2009, and that further investigation be undertaken regarding the question of genocide.

These two sessions of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal on Sri Lanka have been established in response to a submission made by the International Human Rights Association Bremen (IMRV) and the Irish Forum for Peace in Sri Lanka (IFPSL). As in the First Session, here in Bremen a panel of judges consisting of experts in genocide studies, former UN officials, experts in international law and renowned peace and human rights activists (see attachment) will hear the evidence that is presented and will announce their judgment on Tuesday 10 December 2013 (Human Rights Day).

7 December 2013

PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL

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For background about the Dublin Tribunal and for upcoming updates see: www.ptsrilanka.org

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The Peoples' Tribunal on Sri Lanka - Session II
7th - 10th December 2013 Bremen, Germany
Panel of Judges

Co-Chairs

Daniel Feierstein

Director of the Centre for Genocide Studies at the Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero, Professor in the Faculty of Genocide at the University of Buenos Aires and a member of CONICET (Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Cientificas y Tecnicas - The Argentine National Centre for Scholars). He has been elected as the president of the 'International Association of Genocide Scholars'.

Denis Halliday

Former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. He resigned from his 34 year old career in the UN in protest of the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq by the Security Council. Laureate of the Gandhi International Peace Award.

Judges (alphabetical order)

Gabriele Della Morte is a researcher and Professor of International Law at the Università Cattolica di Milano. He was also associate professor in International system, institutions and rules, *Chargé de cours* at the *Académie de droit international humanitaire et des droits de l'homme* of Geneva (2007-2008), counsel for the *International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda* (ICTR) (2003-2004), *Law Clerk* for the Prosecutor Office of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (2000) and member of a government delegation for the establishment of the *International Criminal Court* (1998).

José Elías Esteve Molto, international lawyer and legal expert on Tibet. He is the main lawyer who researched and drafted both lawsuits for international crimes committed in Tibet and a recent one for crimes in Burma. He is a Professor in International Law at the University of Valencia.

Sévane Garibian

An expert on Genocide and International Law. She is an Assistant Professor at the University of Geneva and Lecturer at the University of Neuchâtel, where she teaches Legal Philosophy and International Criminal Law. Her work focuses on issues related to law facing State crimes.

Haluk Gerger

A respected academic and a Middle East analyst who was imprisoned in Turkey for his political activism. He is known for his support for Kurdish people's right to self-determination.

Javier Giraldo Moreno

Colombian Theologian and human rights activist based in Bogota. Known for his depth of analysis in contextualizing genocide affected communities. He is Vice-President of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal.

Manfred O. Hinz

Professor for Public Law, Political Sociology and Sociology of Law at the University of Bremen. He has a long history of engagement in solidarity with liberation struggles in Africa, specially Namibia and the West Sahara. He, for several years, held the UNESCO chair for human rights and democracy of the University of Namibia whilst he was a professor there.

Helen Jarvis

She has worked on the issue of genocide in Cambodia since the mid-1990s, with Yale University's Cambodian Genocide Program; the Cambodian Government Task Force for the Khmer Rouge Trials; and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) as Chief of Public Affairs and then Chief of the Victims' Support Section.

Øystein Tveter

A Norwegian scholar of International Law and a member of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal on extra-judicial killings and violations of human rights in the Philippines.

Maung Zarni

He is a Burmese democracy activist who founded the Free Burma Coalition in 1995. He is one of the few Burmese intellectuals who have come forward to unconditionally oppose the increased discrimination and violence against the Rohingya Muslims and publicly criticised Aung San Suu Kyi on this issue.

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