PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL

President: SALVATORE SENESE (ITALY)

Founder: LELIO BASSO

Official Release of the Judgement of the Peoples' Tribunal on Sri Lanka

The 'Permanent Peoples' Tribunal' wishes to invite you to the official release of the Judgement of its investigations against the Sri Lankan State and its accomplices on the charge of Genocide against the Tamil people.

Wednesday 22 January, 10 am, at the 'Geneva Press Club' Club Suisse de la Presse, Route de Ferney 106, La Pastorale, Geneva

General Secretary: GIANNI TOGNONI (ITALY) According to the UN's Petrie Report the final weeks of the war in Sri Lanka in early 2009 left an estimated 70.000 Tamils unaccounted for. The thorough investigation by the Tribunal into the history of the Sri Lankan conflict has established that the Sri Lankan military's conduct during this period constitute not only war crimes but are 'part of a coordinated plan whose different components aim at the physical destruction' of the Tamil people 'in whole or in part.' Further, it was found that without the substantial political and military assistance by its external accomplices the Sri Lankan State would not have had the capacity to conduct its extermination campaign. The reputed jury of eleven genocide experts, experts on international law and human rights defenders examined several studies and background papers on the charges and heard evidence from more than 30 witnesses and analysts, before reaching the verdict. The text of the judgement will be made available to those attending, and the following representatives of the panel of jurors will be present to answer questions and to elaborate on the points raised by the verdict.

Dr. Denis Halliday

Former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. Laureate of the Gandhi International Peace Award

Dr. Haluk Gerger

Renowned Turkish academic and middle east analyst

Dr. Gianni Tognoni

Secretary General, Permanent People's Tribunal, Rome

The Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT)

Promoted by the Lelio Basso International Foundation for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, the PPT was founded in June 1979, in Bologna, Italy, by a broad spectrum of legal experts, writers, and other cultural and community leaders (including five Nobel Prize laureates) from 31 countries. The PPT is rooted in the historical experiences of the Russell Tribunals on Vietnam (1966-67) and the dictatorships in Latin America (1974-1976). The importance and strength of decisions by the PPT rest on the moral weight of the causes and arguments to which they give credibility, as well as the integrity and capability to judge of the Tribunal members.

Gianni Tognoni

Secretary General of Permanent Peoples' Tribunal.

GENERAL SECRETARIAT:

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