



Expert Panel: Is Sri Lanka Living up to its Commitment to UN Human Rights Council? Assessment by Int'l Legal Experts

Geneva Event on June 22 (Wednesday). Time: 13:00 to 14:00. Room: IV (UN Human Rights Council)

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, June 20, 2016 /EINPresswire.com/ --

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- In September 2015, the Sri Lankan Government co-sponsored a UN Human Rights Council Resolution on accountability and transitional justice relating to the human rights abuses committed during the Sri Lankan conflict, including the mass international crimes perpetrated against Tamil civilians in 2009. The Resolution recognized the limitations of Sri Lanka's own justice system and called for the participation of international prosecutors and judges in a war crimes court.
- On 29 June 2016, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights will present his assessment on Sri Lanka's efforts to implement the provisions of the Resolution.
- Ahead of High Commissioner's oral report, legal experts on the Monitoring and Accountability Panel (MAP) will give their assessment on the implementation of the Resolution so far. They will discuss the importance of accountability and transitional justice measures in post-conflict Sri Lanka, as well as the international standards that should be applied.

The speakers will provide a brief overview and then respond to questions.

Speakers:

1) Geoffrey Robertson QC is founder and joint head of Doughty Street Chambers. He has had a distinguished career as a trial and appellate counsel, an international judge, and author of leading textbooks. He has argued many landmark cases in media, constitutional and criminal law, in the European Court of Justice; the European Court of Human Rights; the Supreme Court (House of Lords and Privy Council); and the UN War Crimes courts. He has a large advisory practice, for clients including governments, media corporations, NGO's and local councils.

2) Heather Ryan is a US lawyer and currently a special consultant for the Open Society Justice Initiative monitoring the Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts in Cambodia. She has been involved since 2005 in evaluating and reporting on the development and implementation of the court in terms of compliance with international fair trial standards as well as the court's effectiveness in meeting its goals with respect to the victims and public it seeks to serve.

3) Marie Guiraud is a French lawyer who is currently the Civil Party Lead Co-Lawyer for the Civil Parties at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) where she represents the interests of nearly 4,000 victims. She is involved in the design and implementation of judicial reparations, which provide benefits to the victims who suffered from the crimes committed during the Democratic Kampuchea. Marie has also represented victims of international crimes before Ivorian and Congolese Courts.

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