



# How to bring Peace to Tamils in Sri Lanka? Is Referendum an option? TGTE event at FeTNA with South Sudan Expert & others

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TRENTON , NEW JERSEY, USA, June 30, 2016 /EINPresswire.com/ --

How to bring Peace to Tamils in Sri Lanka? Is Referendum an option? TGTE event at FeTNA with South Sudan Expert & others.

When: July 2nd (Saturday)

Time: 2:00 pm

Where: At FeTNA Conference in New Jersey.

Location: Room Monroe at Wyndham Hotel (1 W Lafayette St. Trenton, NJ 08608)

Speakers:

- 1) Ms. Sunday Theresa Wani. Often called the “Iron Lady”, she played important role in the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM), including in the Referendum that brought independence to South Sudan.
- 2) Mr. Visuvanathan Rudrakumaran, Prime Minister of Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE).
- 3) An internationally renowned expert on Referendum, joining via Skype from London.

Contact: Dr. Thavendra Rajah: (614) 202 – 3377; Email: [thave56@gmail.com](mailto:thave56@gmail.com);

Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE) is organizing an event to discuss whether holding a Referendum will bring peace to Tamil's in Sri Lanka, with a guest speaker from South Sudan. South Sudan speaker will share South Sudan's experiences in holding referendum in South Sudan as a means to find political solution to their conflict.

The Tamil conflict in Sri Lanka is dragging on for over sixty years despite several agreements between the Government and the Tamil leaders and several rounds of peace talks with active international mediation.

Tamils resisted Sri Lankan Government's oppression for the first thirty five years through peaceful non- violent means and the final thirty years with active armed struggle. Even though the Government was able to defeat Tamils militarily about six years ago, the conflict is still going on.

## ABOUT TRANSNATIONAL GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL EELAM (TGTE):

Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE) is a democratically elected Government of a million strong Tamils (from the island of Sri Lanka) living in several countries around the world. TGTE was formed after the mass killing of Tamils by the Sri Lankan Government in 2009.

TGTE twice held internationally supervised elections among Tamils around the world to elect 132 Members of Parliament. It has a bicameral legislature and a Cabinet. It held one of its Parliamentary sittings in the British Parliament.

TGTE is leading a campaign to realize Tamils' political aspirations through peaceful, democratic and diplomatic means. The Constitution of the TGTE mandates that it should realize its political objective only through peaceful means.

The Prime Minister of TGTE is Mr. Visuvanathan Rudrakumaran, a New York based lawyer.

Contact: [pmo@tgte.org](mailto:pmo@tgte.org); Web: [www.tgte-us.org](http://www.tgte-us.org)

## BACKGROUND:

Tamils in the island of Sri Lanka faced repeated mass killings since 1958 and the mass killings in 2009 prompted UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to appoint a Panel of Experts to report on the scale of the killings.

According to UN internal review report on Sri Lanka, over 70,000 Tamils were killed in five months in early 2009 and Tamil women were raped by the Sri Lankan Security forces. There are over 90,000 Tamil war widows and thousands of Tamils disappeared due the conflict.

According to this UN report, the killings and other abuses that took place amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Independent experts believe that there are elements of these abuses that constitute an act of genocide.

Members of the Sri Lankan security forces are almost exclusively from the Sinhalese community and the victims are all from the Tamil community.

A Buddhist Monk shot and killed a Sri Lankan Prime Minister 1959 for having talks with Tamil political leaders.

Tamils overwhelmingly voted in a Parliamentary election in 1977 to establish an independent and sovereign country called Tamil Eelam. This Parliamentary election was conducted by the Sri Lankan Government.

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