

# Sri Lanka: Int'l Conference on Freedom & Justice: Saturday, April 26 in Canada: TGTE

*Remedial Approaches to Gross Human Rights Violations: The Tamil Struggle for Transnational Justice*

TORONTO, CANADA, April 24, 2014  
/EINPresswire.com/ --

• Live Broadcast: [www.tgte.org](http://www.tgte.org),  
[www.tgte-us.org](http://www.tgte-us.org), [www.naathamnews.org](http://www.naathamnews.org),  
& [www.tgte-homeland.org](http://www.tgte-homeland.org),

• Speakers include: Prosecutor, International Tribunal for Rwanda & Internationally renowned Professors.

When: Saturday, April 26, 2014

Time: 8:30 am to 1:30 pm (Canada Time)

Where:

Hotel Delta Toronto East

2035 Kennedy Rd,  
Scarborough, ON M1T 3G2

Organized by:

- 1) Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE).
- 2) Consortium of Tamil Associations.
- 3) Human Rights Advocacy Groups in Canada

PROGRAMME:

8:30 am Registration and Breakfast

9:30 am Welcome & Introduction

9:35 am: Opening Address:

Justice and Accountability in the Face of  
Impunity for Sri Lanka's Crimes Against Tamils



By: Professor Ali Beydoun  
Director & Co-Founder  
UNROW Human Rights Impact Litigation Clinic

10:15 am:

Refugee Claimants and their Human Right for Life and Protection

By: Professor David Matas  
Formerly Professor of International Law,  
Civil Liberties, and Immigration & Refugee Law, University of Manitoba

11:00 am: REFRESHMENT BREAK

11:15 am:

Prosecuting Mass Crimes: Is it Possible to Seek Remedial Justice?

By: Professor David Akerson,  
Prosecutor, International Tribunal for Rwanda,  
Sturm College of Law, University of Denver

12:05 pm

Human Rights and Human Wrongs: Tamil Rights in Sri Lanka

By: Prof. Theodore (Ted) S. Orlin, J.D.  
Harold T. Clark Jr. Professor Emeritus of Human Rights Scholarship  
and Advocacy, New York

12:50 pm: Concluding Remarks: Prof. Nadarajah Sriskandarajah

1:05 PM LUNCH

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#### BACKGROUND:

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

According to the report by this UN Panel, tens of thousands of Tamil civilians were killed in five months due to deliberate and intense shelling and bombing of areas designated by the government as "no-fire zones", where Tamil civilians had assembled for safety.

According UN Internal Review Report on Sri Lanka over 70,000 Tamils were killed in five months in

2009. The Sri Lankan Government also restricted food and medicine for Tamils, resulting in large numbers of people dying from starvation and many of the injured bleeding to death.

According to the UN Panel, 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.

UN Human Rights Council in March 2014 established an international war crimes investigation for these killings.

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

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

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

Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE) is a democratically elected Government of Tamils (from the island of Sri Lanka) living in several countries.

It held internationally supervised elections among Tamils around the world to elect over 120 Members of Parliament and is leading a campaign to realize Tamils' political aspirations through peaceful, diplomatic and democratic means.

TGTE has a bicameral legislature and a Cabinet and held one of its Parliamentary sittings in the British Parliament.

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.

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