

COMBATTING IMPUNITY IN SRI LANKA



A CASE FOR UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION 15 MARCH 2018 (1600 TO 1700 HOURS) PALAIS DES NATIONS (ROOM XXI)

SPEAKERS:

Yasmin Sooka, ITJPSL
Carlos Castresana
Ann Hannah, Freedom From Torture.
Kartiga Thavaraj, Chair

The International Truth and Justice Project (ITJP) filed 4 universal jurisdiction lawsuits against a retired Sri Lankan General, Jagath Jayasuriya, in August 2017. He is alleged to bear individual criminal responsibility as commander for war crimes and crimes against humanity that were committed by the military units under his command.

Freedom From Torture provides therapy and medical evidence to torture survivors living in the UK and we protect and promote torture survivors' rights. The largest case load of survivors the organisation sees is from Sri Lanka.

THE CASE IS LIKELY THE "TIP OF THE ICEBERG".

Pablo de Greiff, Special Rapporteur on Transitional Justice.

"OHCHR CALLS ON MEMBERS STATES TO EXERCISE UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION WHEN REQUIRED".

Report of the OHCHR, January 2018

"THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS IN FOREIGN MEDIA ABOUT ONGOING ABDUCTIONS, EXTREME TORTURE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AS RECENTLY AS IN 2016 AND 2017. OHCHR IS EXPLORING OPTIONS OF HOW BEST TO PURSUE FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS OF THESE ALLEGATIONS".

"IT IS URGENT FOR THE SAKE OF THE VICTIMS THAT PROGRESS BE MADE ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH PROGRESS I WOULD ENCOURAGE MEMBER STATES TO EXPLORE THE USE OF UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION".

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein.
March 2018.



DIPLOMATIC
APPOINTMENTS

INTERNATIONAL
TRUTH
AND JUSTICE
PROJECT