



LIGUE INTERNATIONALE POUR LES DROITS ET LA LIBERATION DES PEUPLES
INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS AND LIBERATION OF PEOPLES
LIGA INTERNACIONAL POR LOS DERECHOS Y LA LIBERACION DE LOS PUEBLOS

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Press release

The International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples (LIDLIP) informs that a

Seminar on Humanitarian Action in the “Undeclared” War in Sri Lanka

will take place on

22 septembre 2007

from 8.30 am to 6 pm

World Council of Churches

150, route de Ferney
Geneva

The objective of the Seminar, organized in partnership with the **Centre for Just Peace and Democracy (CJPD)** and **International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, (IMADR)** is to assemble actors and experts active in the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka, a consequence of the conflict between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

In February 2002, a cease fire was agreed among the two principal protagonists of the conflict in order to maintain peace negotiations after 20 years of war. If during the first 4 years, the cease fire was maintained despite violations of the accord by both sides, since 18 months, Sri Lanka wages in a new war situation, a war not officially “declared”.

This return to violence causes numerous humanitarian consequences for the population such as hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons, an economic crisis in the Jaffna peninsula because of its isolation, the hindering of the action of non governmental organization because of the risk their actors encounter (in January 2006, seven staff members of the *Tamils Rehabilitation Organization* (TRO) were killed and more recently, in August 2006, 17 members of the French organization *Action Contre la Faim* were found dead). The dramatic humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka is for most of the time forgotten by the Western media, that is a reason for the holding of the Seminar in Geneva on the question.

Local and international NGOs, UN agencies and other actors involved in the present humanitarian action in Sri Lanka will attend the Seminar in order to draw attention on the situation and discuss solutions for the population.

The presence during the Seminar of numerous representatives of organizations in Sri Lanka will give opportunity to have first-hand information of the contents of the conflict in Sri Lanka and its humanitarian consequences for the local population. We might to suggest, among others, to interview **Mr. Sivapalan**, an eminent Tamil lawyer originally from Trincomalee in Sri Lanka.

For more information and requests for interviews:

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