Sri Lanka Human Rights Project

You are cordially invited to a forum on

Human Rights in Sri Lanka
and Australia’s Role

On May 19 2009, the Government of Sri Lanka reported it had won the war against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (Tamil Tigers). However, with the end to the war, accusations of human rights violations and war crimes are emerging. Independent media recently reported deaths of 1,000 civilians per week in military run camps where war refugees are currently interned indefinitely.

What is the real situation in Sri Lanka?
What is the role of the Government of Australia and its people in protecting human rights in the Asia-Pacific region?

Date: Wednesday 9th September 2009
Time: 12.30pm - 2.00pm (Lunch provided)
Venue: Room 1R5, Federal Parliament

RSVP: 4.00pm Monday 10th August 2009
(Strictly registered visitors only)

Guest speakers:

Hon. John Dowd AO QC
President of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) Australia and Vice President of ICJ Geneva

Mr. Dowd has been on ICJ missions to Hong Kong, East Timor and Nepal, and led the Australian Government Delegation to Palestine to monitor the Palestinian Legislative Council Elections. A former NSW Attorney-General and Supreme Court judge he is currently the Chancellor of the Southern Cross University and recently elected President of ActionAid Australia (formerly AusAid).

Ms. Sharan Burrow
President of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU)

Ms. Burrow is currently the President of the International Centre for Trade Union Rights, a member of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). She is a member of the Stakeholder Council of the Global Reporting Initiative, and former President of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

Dr. John Whitehall
Paediatrician and Associate Professor in Public Health at James Cook University

Dr. Whitehall has done voluntary medical work in Sri Lanka in 2004 and 2005, and in 2006 was a finalist for Senior Australian of the Year for his work raising relief funds for victims of the Asian tsunami. He is the co-author of the book War and Medicine, a collection of short stories of the experiences of medical practitioners in NorthEast Sri Lanka.

Mr. Bruce Haigh
Political commentator and author and a former Australian diplomat

Mr. Haigh joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 1972 and has extensive experience in South Asia, the Middle East and South Africa, including as Deputy High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Counsellor in the Australian Embassy in Pakistan. As First Secretary in the Australian Embassy in South Africa he initiated Embassy contact with members of the black South African resistance and helped a number of political activists to escape South Africa.

For more information or to RSVP please call Dr. Sam Pari on 0433428067