

Statement by S.J.Emmanuel on behalf of Liberation on the 30th Sept. 2015

We give a **cautious but hopeful welcome** to this Resolution. We thank the High Commissioner and his team for the very valuable report - a historic document in promoting Truth, Justice and Accountability for **all the peoples of Sri Lanka** and in particular for the proposal recommending a **hybrid mechanism** to fulfill the hopes of the victims for due justice.

The regime change in Sri Lanka, which was brought about by the distinctive and decisive contribution of the Tamils and Muslims in the island, as well as the present government's willingness to cooperate with this Council, are among the reasons for the tabling of a new resolution at this juncture. How far the mechanism proposed in this resolution will prove to be **credible** and serve truth, justice and accountability, will depend **largely on the sincere and genuine cooperation of the Sri Lankan Government** .

The victims of war and the Tamils in particular, understandably lost all confidence in leaving implementation of the High Commissioner's Report, to the Government of Sri Lanka and its own local mechanism, because many personnel of the Government and its military are among the suspected criminals of the war. The only silver line of hope for us all is the international component of this proposed mechanism and the **sincere and genuine** cooperation of the new government as promised by its Foreign Minister in this aala.

Tamils have been admittedly let down more than once by the UN in not stopping the massacre of so many civilians during the war. Here is a chance for this Council to act as guardian and guarantor for the future conduct and cooperation of one of the members of the U.N.

The new Government, has shown some signs of good will in resolving the problems of the Tamils and Muslims, but not yet had the needed courage and strength, either to rectify all the injustices still suffered by the victims of the war, nor to start any meaningful dialogue to resolve the long standing ethnic conflict among the communities. A clear example, even under this new government, instead of demilitarization of Tamil areas, there is further escalation of army presence.

We strongly exhort the Government to translate their own promises into quick actions towards reconciliation and peace.

We wish much sincerity, good will and courage to all leaders of this august assembly in Geneva to continue its active vigilance on Sri Lanka as well as to the political and civic leaders of all the peoples of Sri Lanka, to grasp this opportunity and move meaningfully to reconciliation and peace.