



December 27, 2021

## Global Tamil Diaspora pay tribute to Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Contribution to Universal Peace and Human Rights

We, who represent over a million strong Tamil Diaspora globally, join the rest of the world to pay our gratitude and tribute to Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a champion of Universal Peace and Human Rights on his demise on 26 Dec 2021.

His contributions to struggles against injustice, locally and globally, are matched only by the depth of his love and respect for the fellow human beings. He was an extraordinary human being. A great thinker and leader.

In 1984, he won the Nobel Prize for Peace. A decade later, he witnessed the end of apartheid regime followed by chairing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that was set up to unearth atrocities committed during the apartheid era.

The Nobel laureate late Archbishop Tutu is not only hailed as the person of South Africa's moral conscience and the great reconciler of a country that was divided by decades of racist politics, but also praised for his outspoken voices on human rights, dignity and peace for the oppressed peoples around the globe including for the Palestinians and the Tamil nation in Sri Lanka.

Archbishop Tutu has always been our inspiration to provide guidance and leadership to exert political pressure on Sri Lanka to end its national oppression of the Tamil nation with genocidal intent. Archbishop Tutu not only spoke loud for justice but has always matched it with his own and collective actions.

In 2013, he joined a group of independent eminent world leaders working for peace, justice and human rights to support the calls by Sri Lankan civil society and by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for an independent and credible international investigation into alleged violations of human rights and international humanitarian law perpetrated in Sri Lanka. This action was aimed at urging the Commonwealth to seriously reconsider appointing Sri Lanka as its chair for 2013-15. He went on to the extent of calling for the boycott of the Commonwealth heads of governments meeting (CHOGM) that was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Desmond Tutu was a patriot and an extremely effective global peace and human rights activist who will not only be missed by the people of South Africa but by the whole world too.

We the Tamil Diaspora are saddened by the departure of Archbishop Tutu, a true friend and wish to share the grief, pain and the celebration of his life and contribution to humanity.

We take a pledge to use the moral strength and courage that Archbishop Tutu passed on to us, to continue our advocacy for truth and justice for our fellow Tamils in Sri Lanka who needs to be freed from the decades long genocidal oppression with no further delay.

**For Contact details:**

**Australian Tamil Congress (ATC):** +61300660629, mano\_manics@hotmail.com

**British Tamils Forum (BTF):** +447814486087, info@britishtamilsforum.org

**Irish Tamils Forum (ITF):** 0035389959270, irishtamilsforum@gmail.com

**Maison du Tamil Eelam (France):** +33652725867, mte.france@gmail.com

**National Council of Canadian Tamils (NCCT):** +14168307703, info@ncctcanada.ca

**Solidarity Group for Peace and Justice (SGPJ - South Africa):** pregasenp@telkomsa.net

**Swiss Tamil Action Group (STAG):** swisstamilag@gmail.com

**Tamil Movement Against Genocide (Mauritius):** +230 5728 5505, tamilmagen0@gmail.com

**United States Tamil Action Group (USTAG):** +12025953123, info@theustag.org