

# A Public Meeting on Sri Lanka, Peace, Human Rights and the Diaspora

Amnesty International  
and  
Human Rights Watch

Invite you to a public meeting with

**Professor Philip Alston**  
UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial,  
Summary or Arbitrary Executions

and speakers from Amnesty International  
and Human Rights Watch

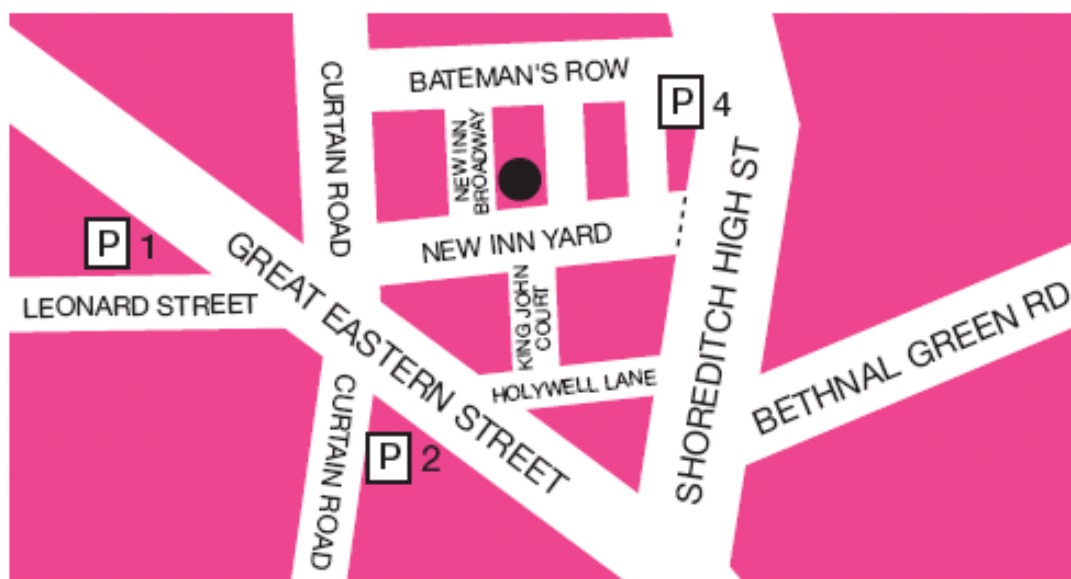
on Saturday, 5 August 2006, from 2 to 5 pm at the

**Amnesty International Human Rights Action Centre**  
**17 – 25 New Inn Yard**  
**London EC2A 3EA**

Following presentations by Professor Philip Alston, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch an open plenary discussion will be held to address the grave human rights situation in Sri Lanka and the constructive role that could be played by the diaspora to achieve peace in Sri Lanka with democracy and human rights

Nearest tube; Old Street, Liverpool Street

Please see attached map for easy access and parking details:



Professor Philip Alston, UN Special Rapporteur on extra judicial killings, summary and arbitrary executions issued a critical report\* on the deteriorating human rights situation in Sri Lanka and its impact on the Peace Process on 27 March 2006, following his visit to Sri Lanka in December 2005.

At the meeting the Tamil and Sinhala translations of the report will be launched by Professor Philip Alston.

*The principal theme of my report is that extrajudicial killings, if left unchecked, have the potential to fatally undermine the peace process and to plunge Sri Lanka back into the dark days of all out war. This conclusion has tragically been borne out by the developments of recent days.*

- Philip Alston, press release, December 2005

Professor Alston has in his report made numerous critical observations on the pervading atmosphere of fear, reprisals and impunity in Sri Lanka, particularly amongst the Tamil and Muslim populations. He states in his report,

*The social consequences of these political killings are, however, exponentially more severe than those that would follow from a comparable number of common crimes or random ceasefire violations. The purpose of these killings has been to repress and divide the population for political gain.*

Professor Alston's recommendations include the following:

*The Government and LTTE should complement the CFA with a wide-ranging human rights agreement, as discussed during their earlier rounds of talks in 2003. An effective international human rights monitoring mechanism should be established with powers to document and investigate abuses, to report to the relevant authorities, and to work closely with other agencies involved in human rights at all levels.*

*The diaspora has a responsibility to use its considerable political and financial influence and funding to promote and to insist upon respect for human rights.*

The presentations and discussions are also a first step towards addressing one of the key recommendations in the report, a call for the diaspora to play a constructive role towards the promotion and respect for human rights in Sri Lanka.

**We welcome all those interested in contributing towards a peace with human rights in Sri Lanka to join this discussion and express their solidarity with the peoples who have suffered two decades of war and long for an end to killings.**

Please RSVP by post or e-mail if you wish to attend this event with your full name.

E-mail: [srilanka@amnesty.org](mailto:srilanka@amnesty.org) (Only to RSVP for this event and no other queries please)

Post: Sri Lanka Team, Amnesty International, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW

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\* The Full Report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions is available at:

[http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/docs/62chr/E\\_CN4\\_2006\\_53\\_Add5.doc](http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/docs/62chr/E_CN4_2006_53_Add5.doc)