

Written by
Friday, 15 May 2009 14:35

Sri Lanka - More than 400 people were killed and over 1,000 injured over the weekend in what the UN has described as a bloodbath. The UN estimates that about 50,000 civilians are trapped by the conflict, in a three-sq-km strip of land. Most of this area has been designated by the government as a safe zone which will not be attacked by air or by heavy weapons. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said on Monday he was appalled by the killings and called for an immediate halt to the fighting.

Diplomats from the UK, France and Austria said the Security Council should address the crisis, while the US said it was "deeply concerned" by the crisis. The Tamil Tigers have fought for an independent homeland for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority since 1983.

More than 70,000 people have been killed in the war.

Darfur - Actress Mia Farrow has discontinued her hunger strike after 12 days, upon the advice of her physicians. Farrow began her fast to raise awareness of the more than one million Darfuris at great risk of starvation and disease following the recent expulsion of 13 humanitarian aid agencies from Darfur.

Alleged Nazi war criminal - John Demjanjuk is in jail in Munich, facing charges of being an accessory to the deaths of 29,000 Jews in World War II. The 89-year-old arrived in Germany on Tuesday morning after being deported from the US.

Broadcast - "Holocaust Aftermath - Across Generations," Minnesota Channel of TPT, Sunday, May 17 at 8:30 PM
Monday, May 18 at 2:30 AM
Monday, May 25 at 9:30 PM
Tuesday, May 26 at 3:30 AM
Tuesday, May 26 at 9:30 AM
Tuesday, May 26 at 3:30 PM

Broadcast - "Genocide Again: Darfur," Minnesota Channel of TPT,
Sunday, May 17 at 7:30 PM
Monday, May 18 at 1:30 AM
Monday, May 18 at 7:30 AM

Conference - Refugee Protection around the World: Durable Solutions or Durable Suffering?
Monday, June 22, 8:30-5:00, Dorsey and Whitney, 50 S. 6th St., Minneapolis, 15th floor.

The conference will bring together international, national and local experts and advocates to examine the current refugee protection system, its shortcomings, and possible durable solutions. Sessions will address:

- International refugee law
- The refugee experience from a personal perspective
- Internally Displaced Persons
- The "outsourcing" of refugee protection

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- Refugee "warehousing"
- Local integration
- Forced repatriation
- Refugee resettlement in the U.S.
- Sudanese and Liberian refugee situations

Conference Speakers:

Michael Barringer-Mills, Field Support Manager, American Refugee Committee International (Jessica Eby, Protection Officer, Church World Service (CWS)

Mark Hetfiled, Senior Vice President for Policy and Programs, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)

Ellen Kennedy, Interim Director, Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

Bradley Lehrman, Attorney, Lommen, Abdo, Cole, King & Stageberg, P.A.

Dr. Sima Samar, U.N. Special Rapporteur for Sudan

Registration at http://discoverhumanrights.org/Law_Policy_Conference_Registration.html
CEU and CLE credits. Cost: \$150 general; \$75 nonprofit; \$30 student. Questions: Colleen Beebe at (612) 341-3302, ext. 114 or cbeebe@advrights.org

For further information contact: Ellen J. Kennedy, Ph.D., Interim Director, Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, 101 Nolte, 315 Pillsbury Drive SE, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis MN 55455 www.chgs.umn.edu ekennedy@umn.edu 952-693-5206