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### **Press Release:**

On this 26<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Holocaust 1983 and with more than 300,000 Tamil civilians in nazi-style concentration-camps run by the Sri Lankan Government inaccessible to media and int. humanitarian organisations, I as President of the International Federation of Tamils (Geneva) and of the Association of German Tamils, hail the birth of the Global Tamil Forum as fulfilling an urgent need of the hour. This GTF consisting of representatives from the Tamil Diaspora of the five continents will launch its activities according to the Vision, Mission and Constitution which will be published later.

### **Tamil Diaspora Unites**

The Global Tamil Diaspora has united to form the Global Tamil Forum (GTF), in response to the large scale massacre of Tamil civilians, internment of more than 300,000 in camps reminiscent of Nazi Germany and continuing inhumane treatment of these detainees by the Government of Sri Lanka. It is a need of the times and the first of its kind worldwide for the Tamils to speak with one voice.

This Forum will evolve as an independent, international organisation which adheres to the principles of democracy and non-violence and derives its strength from existing grassroots organisations of the Tamil Diaspora. Working in solidarity with the Tamils in Eelam and other communities in Sri Lanka, this Forum will strive to restore Tamil People's right to self-determination and democratic self rule in their traditional homeland in the island of Sri Lanka.

The immediate goal of this Forum will be to address the plight of the Tamils interned in the camps and have their resettlement in their homes and villages expedited by generating international pressure upon the Government of Sri Lanka. The Forum will also explore avenues to bring the perpetrators of crimes against humanity to justice.

Tamil organisations from all five continents are represented in this Forum and have joined hands to further this mission.

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

**Global Tamil Forum** exists to harness the skills and the knowledge of the members of the forum, well-wishers and significant others including mainstream decision makers in the international governments, institutions and organisations with the aim of alleviating the sufferings of the Tamil community in the Island of Sri Lanka and to further their right to self determination within a democratic frame work under pinned by international law, its covenants and conventions. The forum was set-up in 2009 with the support of many International Tamil community organisations. For more information and our mission and vision statements please contact [info@globaltamilforum.org](mailto:info@globaltamilforum.org) and/or visit: [www.globaltamilforum.org](http://www.globaltamilforum.org)