



## **FREEDOM OF RELIGION IN SRI LANKA**

Thursday 12th March 2015, 11:00 – 13:00

Room XXIII, Palais des Nations

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### **Introduction**

This parallel event aims to address the current situation of religious minorities in Sri Lanka. Through the voices of local religious representatives and human rights defenders, it will identify structural challenges to guarantee the freedom of religion and belief in Sri Lanka. It will highlight the role of the international community to take measure to support the re-establishment of religious harmony in the country, as a part of its efforts for reconciliation. The event will provide an opportunity for religious leaders, human rights activists, Permanent Missions, United Nations agencies, academics and others concerned by the current human rights situation of religious minorities in Sri Lanka to exchange information and ideas and to join in the search for constructive solutions.

### **Chair**

- **Dr. Nimalka Fernando, Women human rights defender, IMADR**

### **Keynote speech**

- **Mr. Heiner Bielefeldt, Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief**

### **Speakers**

- **Mr. Ruki Fernando, Human rights defender/ Christian Solidarity Movement/ INFORM Human Rights Documentation Centre**
- **Mr. Mohamed Nizam Kariapper L. L. M, Deputy Secretary General of Sri Lanka Muslim Congress/ Mayor of Kalmunai Minicipal Council/ Director, Urban Development Authority/ Attorney-at-Law**

### ***“Still Waiting For the Truth” - a vigil for families of the disappeared in Sri Lanka***

**Location: Place des Nations, Geneva (square of the broken chair)**

**Time/Date: 13:00 – 14:00, 12th March**

Amnesty International will hold a vigil immediately after the above side event. We encourage you to join Ms. Sandya Ekneligoda, two other mothers from Sri Lanka as well as Argentinian campaigners for the disappeared to show your solidarity with families who are still waiting for the truth. We are calling on the Government of Sri Lanka to investigate, prosecute and punish those responsible for enforced disappearances.