

தமிழர் விடுதலைக் கூட்டணி
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Statement issued after meeting with Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu
on Tuesday the 23rd.

Having failed to meet Most Reverend His Lordship Bishop Desmond Tutu during my last visit in April 2007, His Lordship was gracious enough to meet me on the 23rd of this month. My happiness doubled when I realized that, I, the winner of the UNESCO's Madanjeet Singh award for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-violence for the year 2006 was meeting the South Africa's 2nd Nobel Peace laureate His Lordship Bishop Tutu. This is an occasion for me to cherish, my mission being to bring peace to our country.


I wish to quote from a speech I made at a meeting I addressed in Pretoria last year. "I am indeed pleased to see the South Africans after several years of struggle, now celebrating their real freedom. I hope my humble requests for the intervention of your great leaders His Excellency Nelson Mandela and Most Reverend Bishop Desmond Tutu, both of whom are very much loved and respected in our country, to help to find a reasonable solution, will not be turned down. If the mission is accepted by them it will bring great relief for several millions in Sri Lanka and save the lives of many and also bring very much needed peace, normalcy and prosperity to our country".

I had a lengthy meeting with His Lordship Bishop Desmond Tutu, I had to brief him well of the ground situation prevailing in Sri Lanka. My main concern is of the welfare of our

people. The Most Reverend Bishop, as I know, is very much concerned of the Human Rights violations in our country. In recent times he had become very critical of the Human Rights violation there. It is my strong belief that the International Community is not fully aware of the ground situation in Sri Lanka. The LTTE's strong propaganda machinery had done it successfully. They are giving an impression all over the world that they are innocent victims of the Government's atrocities when, in fact, very many of those in areas under their control are the victims where murder, abductions, extortions, torture etc are take place with impunity. Very many believe it. His Lordship is no exception. Further more, His Lordship, like many others, is obviously annoyed over the irresponsible and uncalled for remarks of some individuals without authority and based on their own thinking.

I had enough time to give a full briefing of the situation in Sri Lanka without any bias. A number of my articles, letters, statements and press releases released from time to time handed over to him, would have given him a correct picture of the situation. I did not mean to implicate anybody falsely nor did I try to exonerate anybody. Contrary to that, I have stated facts fairly and truly. His Lordship need not be guided with the very wide experiences he has. I, as an ordinary man, can not influence him. It is we who need his guidance.

Today, His Lordship Bishop Tutu is regarded as an elder statesman strongly committed to non-violence with a major role to play in reconciliation and a leading moral voice; he has become an icon of hope far beyond South Africa more particularly in nations that are in conflict. I have the least doubt that in the event of his assistance forth coming, he will hold the scales evenly.



V. Anandasangaree

President TULF