

**Book Launch – 7 July 2012 Kendal, Cumbria**

The UN-War Crimes Tribunal in Former Yugoslavia  
Luckshan Abeysuriya

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It's a privilege to participate in Luckshan Abeysuriya's book launch of "The UN-War Crimes Tribunal in Former Yugoslavia."

Luckshan, a fellow peace activist, who works tirelessly on Human Rights, UN Reforms, disarmament, R2P and wider field of Global Justice. Both of us have been participating in many conferences, meetings, seminars like the European Peace Conferences in Brussels, UNA UK Annual conferences and many others. Luckshan attends our organisation Action for UN Renewal and Uniting for Peace events and has been doing for years. On the publication of his last book "The Srebrenica Tragedy and Bosnia before and after 1995," we invited him to give a talk on his book in London which was well received.

As former director of Amnesty International, and also a former director of UNA UK, his long standing involvement in peace and Human Rights field make him an ideal person for writing the present book. He has skilfully done so to highlight the massacre of warlords and perpetrators of genocide and also examine some of the cases out of the 121 already heard by the ICTY (International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia)

Luckshan's excellent research on genocide, ethnic cleansing and his tireless effort and passion for justice, all combined has produced this brilliant book. In chapter 8 of the book which deals with the 8 cases heard by the ICTY judges while giving their concluding submissions on 7 accused members of joint criminal Enterprise formulated under the leadership of Karadzic concluded that "In the context of the war in Former Yugoslavia and in the context of human history, these events are arrestive in their scale and brutality." One such horrific event was when Up to 8,000 Muslims, men and boys in the Bosnian town of Srebrenica were slaughtered which amounted to genocide.

Prosecutors of ICTY say that they will bring charges against all well known Serbs involved in war crimes and ethnic cleansing. This should serve as a warning to the culprits that they can run or hide for the time being but ultimately they will be caught and will be brought to account for their crimes.

The book also deals with the difficult question of reconciliation of peace and justice within the communities in Balkans. Will the trials stop further atrocities? Can every prosecution of war crimes will make the world a better place? Probably, Luckshan will write another book in perhaps 2020 for that.

Let us reflect on what the first President of ICTY late Antonio Cassese said: "Justice is an indispensable ingredient of the process of National reconciliation – peace and justice go hand in hand "

Luckshan's book and his writings reflect an urgent commitment to the protection of International Human Rights and the furtherance of International Humanitarian Law. In his own words, he aptly summarises the book and says, "The story of my book is just not about War crimes, the ICTY and its jurisprudence, it is also very much about the fears and hopes of the nearly 25 million diverse people that live in the West Balkans.

In conclusion, let me say we cannot call our society civilized if we let criminals kill randomly and create fear and havoc in their countries and societies. One of the best way to bring peace is through global Rule of Law. ICTY by prosecuting and sentencing the criminals has shown that Rule of Law can prevail and it is one of the best ways to restore justice. If Luckshan's ideas presented in his book on peace and global justice are followed, it will go a long way in solving some of the seemingly difficult problems we face today.

Buy the book and recommend it to your friends

Thank you very much