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ISSUE 1153

Rapp visits Jaffna

By Kelum Bandara

(DailyMirror.lk) - Stephen J. Rapp, the US Ambassador on War Crimes, will visit the North today and meet Northern Provincial Council Chief Minister C.V. Wigneswaran in Jaffna, Daily Mirror learns.

Mr. Rapp heads the Office of Global Criminal Justice at the US State Department. He advises the Secretary of State and the Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights on issues related to war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

A US Embassy spokesman said Mr. Rapp would hold talks with a broad cross section of government officials,

political leaders and civil society activists during his visit to Sri Lanka. External Affairs Ministry sources said he would meet External Affairs Minister G.L. Peiris either on Friday or Saturday. The minister is currently in the Middle East with President Mahinda Rajapaksa who is on a state visit there.

Mr. Rapp is expected to meet the commanders of the security forces and civil society activists including Dr. Pakiasothy Saravanamuttu, and representatives of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA). A meeting has also been sought with the main opposition United National Party (UNP).

Mr. Rapps' official website says, "To this

end, the office advises US Government and foreign governments on the appropriate use of a wide range of transitional justice mechanisms, including truth and reconciliation commissions and reparations in addition to judicial processes.

The office also coordinates the US Government stance on international and hybrid courts currently prosecuting persons responsible for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity – not only for such crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Cambodia – but also in Kenya, Libya, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, and elsewhere in the world.



Stephen J Rapp

Platinum1 London Event

To announce the launch of Platinum1, at 1, Bagatle Road, Colombo 3, Star Fortune Property Limited, UK & Capital TRUST Properties Pvt Ltd, Sri Lanka are jointly organising a presentation in London on Thursday, January 16, 2014, from 1.00 pm to 9.00 pm at IHG | Crowne Plaza London - The City 19 New Bridge Street, London EC4V 6DB
RSVP: Beulah Tanukula – Phone at +44 (0)7894955633 or email via beulaht@gmail.com

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Sri Lankan Named Rotary International's 105th President

K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran, a businessman from Colombo, Sri Lanka, has been named the 105th president of Rotary International, a global network of 1.2 million volunteers working to solve the world's humanitarian challenges. A member of the Rotary Club of Colombo, he begins his one-year term July 1, 2015. He is the first Sri Lankan to hold the position.

Ravindran said his main priority will be to strengthen clubs by attracting those committed to volunteer service.

After the devastation of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the Sri Lankan led Rotary's recovery efforts by helping raise \$12 million to rebuild 22 schools, enabling nearly 15,000 children to resume their studies.

"The tsunami could take away schools, homes, possessions and even loved ones, but it would never be allowed to take away the spirit of children," Ravindran said.

He was also involved in tsunami-related projects in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, India and Thailand. The projects included housing,



K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran

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