



Press release

Arnhem, July 2009

4th Bridge to the Future Conference ‘End to Impunity’

The theme of the fourth Bridge to the Future Conference to be held this year will be ‘End to Impunity. The keynote address will be given by Mr Song Sang-Hyun, President of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, which is concerned with the prosecution of persons accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The conference will be opened by the Queen’s Commissioner in Gelderland, Clemens Cornielje. Shura Lipovsky will be singing, accompanied by the Bosnia-born Merima Kljuco; they will be telling about their work in Bosnia with traumatised children. The conference, organised by the Stichting War Requiem - Bridge to the Future, will take place during the week of the Airborne Commemorations, on Friday afternoon 18 September in the Huis der Provincie in Arnhem.

This will be the fourth Bridge to the Future Conference, the aim of which is to encourage forward-looking reflection on life in peace and freedom. Previous topics were ‘Absence of Peace’, ‘Violence and Climate Change’ and ‘Europe’. This year the subject will be ‘An end to Immunity from Prosecution’ – the mission of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Among other things the Court is investigating war crimes in Uganda, Congo-Kinshasa, de Central African Republic and Darfur (Sudan). These areas are afflicted by wars in which torture, murder, rape and the conscription of child soldiers are commonplace. Chairperson Sophie Lambrechtsen-ter Horst is particularly gratified that Song Sang-Hyun, who was appointed in March as the President of the International Criminal Court, has expressed his willingness to address the Bridge to the Future Conference 2009. As a child he went through the Korean War: a powerful experience that will underlie his remarks to the conference.

This will be followed by a panel discussion in which the President of the Supreme Court, Mr. G. Corstens, will be participating.

The Stichting War Requiem – Bridge to the Future has developed a new website providing a complete overview of the foundation of the Foundation’s activities in recent years and the initiatives being taken for the forthcoming 65th commemorations of the Battle of Arnhem and Operation Market Garden. More information on the Conference and a registration form are available on www.btff.nl.

Note for editors: For any questions please contact Sophie Lambrechtsen- ter Horst, chair of the Stichting War Requiem - Bridge to the Future, tel. +31(0)26 – 3392439 or e-mail: sophielambrechtsen@planet.nl.

Stichting War Requiem - Bridge to the Future: Upon the 50th Commemoration of the Battle of Arnhem the Airborne Commemoration Foundation redubbed the ‘Bridge too Far’ the ‘Bridge to the Future’. In order to follow this the Stichting War Requiem – Bridge to the Future was established in 2001, with the object of converting the experience and body of thought of 65 years of commemoration into a forward-looking tradition of reflection on life in peace and freedom. The Foundation does so by means of artistic and cultural initiatives such



as the five-yearly performance of Britten's War Requiem by the Gelderland Orchestra. In 2006 Introdans put on a performance of 'Make Love not War' in collaboration with the Foundation, in 2007 Oostpool presented the Radio Theater *Schraalhans* and in September 2008 the drama department of ArtEZ put on the MENSEN project in conjunction with Generale Oost and TG 42.

By means of the conference, the Stichting War Requiem – Bridge to the Future wishes to carry forward the contacts built up during the Commemorations between civilians, members of the armed forces and veterans (now also including new generations) in the interests of jointly exploring new responses to questions concerning the justification of violence.

See also www.btff.nl