

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**30 April, Harare**

**Courageous Zimbabwean politician wins 2012 Sydney Peace Prize**

Senator Mrs. **Sekai Holland** Co Minister for Reconciliation, Healing and Integration in the Cabinet of President Robert Mugabe and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai will be the recipient of the 2012 Sydney Peace Prize, to be awarded in Sydney on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Sydney Peace Prize jury's citation reads: *'Sekai Holland: for a lifetime of outstanding courage in campaigning for human rights and democracy, for challenging violence in all its forms and for giving such astute and brave leadership for the empowerment of women.'*

The announcement of the choice of Sekai Holland was made at a reception at the Australian Embassy in Harare last night. Professor Stuart Rees , Chair of the Sydney Peace Foundation said, **'In addition to her work for the education of rural women and her founding of Australia's anti Apartheid movement fifty years ago, Sekai Holland has been a significant leader of non violent, democracy campaigns, and is a key figure in her country's national dialogue on how to heal the deep wounds of social conflict.'**

In response Senator Holland commented, 'This award comes as a wonderful surprise but one which is so encouraging. I accept on behalf of the brave women I have worked with for so many years and for my colleagues in our present Organ for National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration. I also acknowledge the long term support and friendship which I have received from Australian Aboriginal campaigners for human rights and for peace with justice.'

2012 marks the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the Sydney Peace Prize, Australia's only international award for peace. Sometimes perceived as controversial, previous recipients have included Professor Muhammad Yunus, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former Governor General Sir William Deane, Australia's 'Father of Reconciliation' Patrick Dodson, the Indian novelist and human rights campaigner Arundhati Roy, Palestinian legislator Dr. Hanan Ashrawi and, least year, the distinguished American academic and activist, Professor Noam Chomsky.

**Sekai Holland will give the City of Sydney Peace Prize Lecture in the Sydney Town Hall on Wednesday November 7<sup>th</sup> and will receive the 2012 Peace Prize (\$50,000 and a trophy crafted by the artist in glass Brian Hirst ) in a gala ceremony on November 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Media Enquiries:**

**In Zimbabwe: Stuart Rees – 0434 930 134**

**In Sydney: Mary Kostakidis – 0418 217 454**

[peace.foundation@sydney.edu.au](mailto:peace.foundation@sydney.edu.au)