

# Delve Deeper into "No More Tears Sister"

A film by Helene Klodawsky

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Jennifer Ewing of the San Diego Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "No More Tears Sister" that premieres on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at [www.pbs.org/pov/](http://www.pbs.org/pov/)).

A story of love, revolution and betrayal, "No More Tears Sister" explores the price of truth in times of war. Set during the violent ethnic conflict that has enveloped Sri Lanka over decades, the documentary recreates the courageous and vibrant life of renowned human rights activist Dr. Rajani Thiranagama. Mother, anatomy professor, author and symbol of hope, Thiranagama was assassinated at the age of 35. This documentary recounts her dramatic story.

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## ADULT NONFICTION

**De Silva, Chandra Richard. *Sri Lanka, A History*. New Delhi: Advent Books, 1987.** A concise work covering over 2,500 years of Sri Lankan history.

**De Silva, K. M. *Reaping. The Whirlwind: Ethnic Conflict, Ethnic Politics In Sri Lanka*. New Delhi: Penguin Books, 1998.** Discusses the historical reasons behind the ethnic violence.

**Giles, Wenona et al. *Feminists Under Fire*. Toronto: Between the Lines, 2003.** Focusing on the civil wars in Sri Lanka and the former Yugoslavia, diverse feminist authors look at nationalism, militarized violence, and ethnic conflict.

**Lévy, Bernard Henri. *War, Evil, And The End Of History*. Hoboken, NJ: Melville House Pub., 2004.** Levy investigates five of the world's most under-reported and horrific war zones: Angola, Sri Lanka, Burundi, Colombia and Sudan.

***Lives Blown Apart: Crimes Against Women In Times Of Conflict, Stop Violence Against***

**Women. New York: Amnesty International, 2004.** A report showing some of the ways in which conflict affects women, and the many different roles conflicted women play.

**Manogaran, Chelvadurai. *Ethnic Conflict And Reconciliation In Sri Lanka*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press, 1987.** A history of the ways the Tamils have been harassed over the decades since Sri Lankan independence.

**McGowan, William. *Only Man Is Vile: The Tragedy Of Sri Lanka*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 1992.** An account of the bloody civil war between the Sinhalese majority (Buddhists) and the Tamil minority (mostly Hindu).

**Moser, Caroline N. O. and Fiona Clark, eds. *Victims, Perpetrators or Actors?: Gender, Armed Conflict and Political Violence*. New York: Zed Books, 2001.** Explores the links between political, economic and social violence, illustrating how local community organizations run and managed by women play a key role throughout conflict situations.

**Narayan Swamy, M. R. *Tigers of Lanka: From Boys to Guerrillas*. New Delhi: Konark Publishers, 1994.** Study of the genesis and spread of Tamil militancy in Sri Lanka.

**Rotberg, Robert I., ed. *Creating Peace in Sri Lanka: Civil War and Reconciliation*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 1999.** A series of interrelated chapters by Sri Lankan, British, and American authorities on the war and its aftermath. Discusses how to end the war and how the island nation can heal its physical and psychic wounds.

**Rudolph, Joseph R. *Encyclopedia Of Modern Ethnic Conflicts*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2003.** Each of the 38 ethnic conflicts in this text is presented with a timeline and extensive essay covering the conflict's details, historical background, management and significance: Sri Lanka: Tamil-

Sinhalese conflict in India's backyard.

**Spencer, Jonathan, ed.. *Sri Lanka: History And The Roots Of Conflict*. New York: Routledge, 1990.** Sheds fresh light on the historical roots of the ethnic crisis in the country.

**Tambiah, Stanley Jeyaraja. *Buddhism Betrayed?: Religion, Politics, and Violence in Sri Lanka*. Chicago, IL: University Of Chicago Press, 1992.** Seeks to answer the question of how the Buddhist monks in today's Sri Lanka -given Buddhism's traditionally nonviolent philosophy-- are able to participate in the fierce political violence of the Sinhalese against the Tamils.

**Tambiah, Stanley Jeyaraja. *Sri Lanka: Ethnic Fratricide and the Dismantling of Democracy*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1986.** Recounts the Tamil-Sinhalese conflict and its historical origins, showing how certain government responses to the crisis threatened democratic institutions.

**Wickramasinghe, Nira. *Sri Lanka in the Modern Age: A History of Contested Identities*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press, 2005.** A history of the peoples of Sri Lanka rather than a history of the nation-state.

**Wilson, A. Jeyaratnam. *The Break-Up Of Sri Lanka: The Sinhalese-Tamil Conflict*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press, 1988.** An insider's view of the disintegration of Ceylon due to pressures from its ethnic groups during 1978-1983, including an analysis of the political process since the island's independence in 1948.

**Winslow, Deborah and Michael D. Woost. *Economy, Culture, And Civil War In Sri Lanka*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2004.** An exploration of topics such as the effect of the conflict on employment opportunities; life choices for rural and urban youth; personal decisions about involvement in the war; and

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women's employment in the garment industry.

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**Feinberg, Leonard. *Waking The Tiger: A Novel of Sri Lanka*. Boulder, CO: Pilgrims' Process, 2005.** Feinberg weaves a complex story of the clash between cultures and castes of Sri Lanka during the late-1950's.

**Hower, Edward. *A Garden of Demons*. Princeton, NJ: Ontario Review Press, 2003.** A girl begins to see her once idyllic world in new ways when her uncle Richard joins her family on a visit.

**Meidav, Edie. *The Far Field: A Novel of Ceylon*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 2001.** Henry Fyre Gould travels to Ceylon with the intent to create a model society built on the lost truths of Buddhism, but finds that his utopian village is a tinderbox of caste struggle, political rebellion, espionage, and intrigue.

**Ondaatje, Michael. *Anil's Ghost*. New York: Vintage Books, 2000.** A woman's attempt to piece together the lost life of a victim of war.

**Sivanandan, Ambalavaner. *When Memory Dies*. London: Arcadia Books, 1997.** The saga of a Sri Lankan family's search for coherence and continuity in a country broken by colonial occupation and torn apart by ethnic wars.

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## NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

**Barker, Carol. *Ananda in Sri Lanka: a story of Buddhism*. London: H. Hamilton, 1985.** A picture book that describes the everyday life, family, and religious beliefs of a young Buddhist living in a small village in Sri Lanka.

**Hoffmann, Sara. *Sri Lanka in Pictures*. Brookfield, CT: Twenty-First Century Books, 2006.** Ages 9-12. Sri Lanka's topography, history, society, economy, and government are concisely described and augmented by photographs and maps.

**Katz, Samuel M. *At Any Cost: National Liberation Terrorism*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 2004.**

Describes the history and current situation of various National Liberation movements throughout the world: the Irish Republican Army, the Basques, the Kurdistan Workers Party, and the Tigers of Sri Lanka.

**Miller, Debra A. *Sri Lanka (Modern Nations of the World)*. Chicago, IL: Lucent Books, 2005.** Sri Lanka, a small but beautiful island country in South Asia, has long endured a bitter civil war between its Sinhalese majority and the minority Tamils. This book explores this unique nation's history, people, and culture.

**Sri Lanka. Danbury, CT: Grolier, 2004.** Discusses the festivals and holidays of Sri Lanka and how the songs, foods, and traditions associated with these celebrations reflect the culture of the people.

**Wanasundera, Nanda P. *Sri Lanka (Cultures of the world)*. New York: Benchmark Books/Marshall Cavendish, 2002.** Describes the geography, history, government, economy, social life and customs, religion, culture, and more of this island country in the Indian Ocean. Includes a recipe for milk toffee.

**Zimmermann, Robert. *Sri Lanka*. New York: Childrens Press, 1992.** Ages 9-12. Describes the geography, history, culture, industry, and people of Sri Lanka.

**Zwier, Lawrence J. *Sri Lanka: War-Torn Island*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 1998.** A history of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, including current issues.

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## FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

**Wettasinghe, Sybil. *The Umbrella Thief*. New York: Kane/Miller Book Publishers, 1987.** When each of the umbrellas he brings back to his village disappears, Kiri Mama devises a plan to track down the thief.

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## VIDEOS/DOCUMENTARIES

**"At The End Of A Gun: Women And War." A film by Emily Marlow. Bullfrog Films, 2000. (24 min.)** Reporting from Sri Lanka on the suffering of thousands of women -- widowed, displaced, detained, separated from husbands, children and other loved ones -- as a result of the war. [www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/lSATeg.html](http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/lSATeg.html)

**"The Shattered Pearl." A film by Nimal Mendis and Ranjani Mendis. First Run Icarus Films, 1991. (25 min.)** The notoriety surrounding kidnap and murder of Richard De Zoysa, a liberal journalist who reported on human rights abuses in 1990 brought the plight of Sri Lanka to the attention of women's groups which came together to offer support to the victims of violence. In Sinhalese with English subtitles. [www.frif.com/cat97/p-s/s\\_shattr.html](http://www.frif.com/cat97/p-s/s_shattr.html)

**"Torture in the 80's." A film by Thomas Hammarberg. Amnesty International, 1985. (14 min.)** Examines Amnesty International's activities dealing with torture, including how incidences of torture are uncovered and attempts to stop it, such as protests and letter writing.

**"The Universal Declaration Of Human Rights." A film by Prudence Fenton; directed by Stephen Johnson. Amnesty International, 1988. (22 min.)** Illustrates the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by means of imaginative animation sequences created by a number of international animators.

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## WEB SITES

**P.O.V.'s "No More Tears Sister"** [www.pbs.org/pov/pov2006/nomoretears](http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2006/nomoretears)

Includes an interview with the filmmaker, resources, special features and more.

**Virtual Library of Sri Lanka** [www.lankalibrary.com/pol2.html](http://www.lankalibrary.com/pol2.html)

A Virtual library of Sri Lanka's

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ethnic conflict, civil war, and politics.

## Peace in Sri Lanka

[www.peaceinsrilanka.org](http://www.peaceinsrilanka.org)

The official website of the Sri Lankan Government's Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP).

## A Portal on Women, Peace and Security

[www.womenwarpeace.org](http://www.womenwarpeace.org)

The impact of the conflict in Sri Lanka on women.

## Centre for Policy Alternatives

[www.cpalanka.org](http://www.cpalanka.org)

The Centre for Policy Alternatives focuses on formulating public policy recommendations for good governance and non-violent conflict resolution in Sri Lanka. The website includes research and position papers, including results from their monitoring of the accuracy of media reports and of factors affecting the peace process.

## Lines (an online magazine)

[www.lines-magazine.org](http://www.lines-magazine.org)

Lines magazine scrutinizes the underpinnings of political debate in Sri Lanka with the intention of enabling the construction of alternative positions. The website includes ongoing updates on post-tsunami reconstruction efforts.

## University Teachers for Human Rights (Jaffna)

[www.uthr.org](http://www.uthr.org)

The Jaffna chapter of the national organization University Teachers for Human Rights was founded in 1988 with Rajani Thiranagama as a key leader. Since her assassination, the group's public activities have mostly ceased, but their website continues to provide detailed background information about the conflict in Sri Lanka.

## PBS Frontline World: Sri Lanka, Living With Terror

[www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/srilanka](http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/srilanka)

The website of the PBS series FRONTLINE features material from a 2001 documentary on Sri Lanka. Resources include helpful background information as well as unique interviews with leaders from UTHR (see above) and video clips.

## Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

[www.priu.gov.lk](http://www.priu.gov.lk)

The official website of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka includes the government's perspective on the conflict, as well as press releases on current peace negotiations.

## Tamil Eelam

[www.eelam.com](http://www.eelam.com)

The official website of the political wing of the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) presents the conflict in Sri Lanka from the Tiger's perspective. Information focused on the armed struggle is available at [www.TamilTigers.net](http://www.TamilTigers.net).

## The CIA World Factbook

[www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ce.html](http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ce.html)

The CIA's World Factbook presents basic encyclopedia-style information about Sri Lanka from the perspective of the U.S. government.

## Amnesty International

[www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

Amnesty International is an advocacy organization that promotes and protects human rights. It is especially known for publicizing cases of those who have been wrongly imprisoned by governments seeking to silence opponents. Check the website's "library" (which is searchable by country) for information specifically related to the current situation in Sri Lanka.

## Human Rights Watch

[www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)

Human Rights Watch is an international human rights defense organization. Information about Sri Lanka:

[www.hrw.org/doc?t=asia&c=slanka](http://www.hrw.org/doc?t=asia&c=slanka)

Of special interest on their website is a summary of events in Sri Lanka since 1999:

[www.hrw.org/wr2k/Asia-08.htm](http://www.hrw.org/wr2k/Asia-08.htm)

## Center for Women's Global Leadership

[www.cwgl.rutgers.edu](http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu)

The Center for Women's Global Leadership develops and facilitates women's leadership for women's human rights and social justice worldwide.