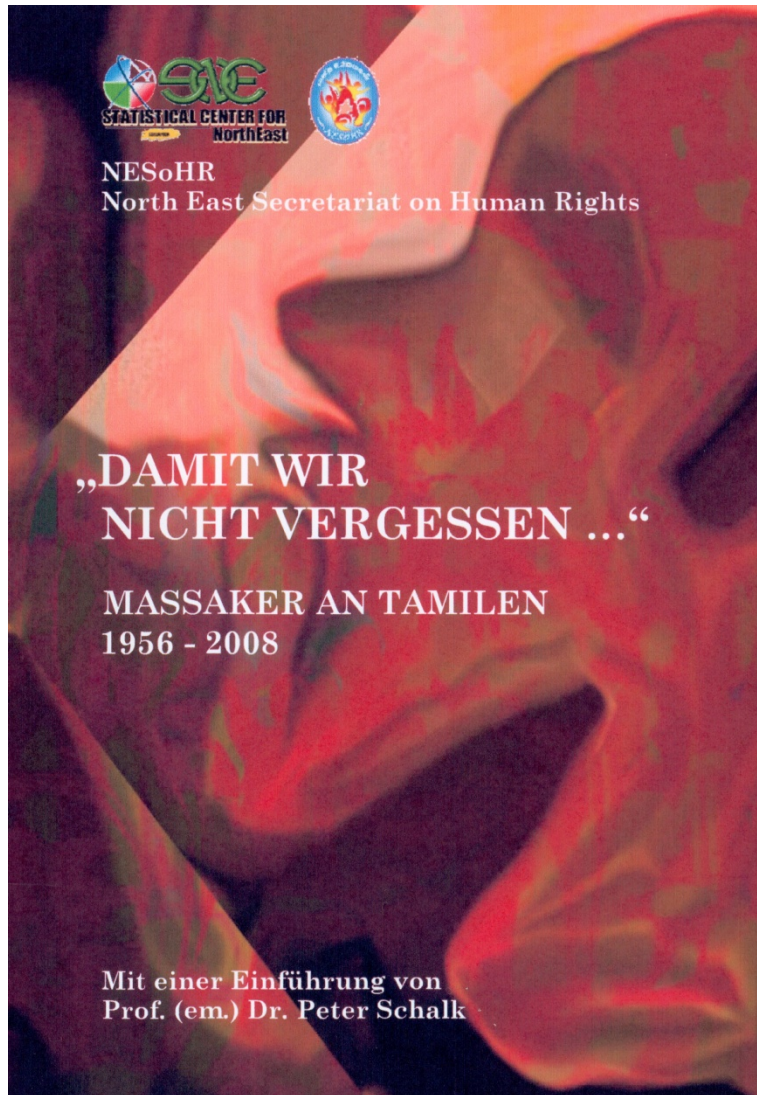


NESoHR's Publication about Massacres on Tamils in German

NESoHR. „Damit wir nicht vergessen...“. *Massaker an Tamilen 1956–2008*. Heidelberg: Draupadi-Verlag, 2012. ISBN: 978-3-937603-71-1. 400 pages. [‘Lest we forget’ ...Massacres on Tamils 1956-2008].



The book in German can be purchased already now at <http://www.draupadi-verlag.de/publikationen.html>. The official launching will take place at the Frankfurt Book Fair on 14 October 2012 at 4 pm (Halle 3.1, Stand A 136).

NESoHR (‘North East Secretariat on Human Rights’) was founded in June 2004 in Kilinocci. Statistical Centre for North East (SNE) founded in 2002, also in Kilinocci, contributed to the data collection of events prior 2002.

NESoHR operated in the north in Kilinocci (Kilinochchi) which was then under the control of the Tamil Resistance Movement. NESoHR’s logo carries the words *manita urumai* ‘human rights’. Among the founders of NESoHR was a Member of Parliament, Josep Pararajacinkam, and a former member of Parliament, Ariyanayakam Cantira Neru. Both were assassinated because of their commitment to human rights. The head of NESoHR was the Catholic priest Mariam Ceviar Karunarattinam Pillai, who was also assassinated, in April

2008. The other employees were living under constant threat of their lives. The survivors now live underground on the island and in the Diaspora. The German version was made in cooperation with them.

NESoHR is a further development of the Citizens' Committees which were active during the war when the civil service for the good of the citizens had broken down. There is a detailed presentation of the Citizens Committee in *Yalppanam*(Jaffna) in the 1990s in the book *Hoping Against Hope. Appeals for Help to the President of Sri Lanka and other Dignitaries, by the Citizens Committee, Yalppanam (Jaffna), Sri Lanka, 1990-1992*. With a Preface, Index, and Introduction by Peter Schalk. Uppsala: Peter.Schalk@telia.com, 1995.

NESoHR's work was hampered as the government forces threatened Kilinocci in October 2008. NESoHR retired to a small office in Putukkutiyiruppu in Mullaitivu until January 2009.

NESoHR's work can be studied at close range in N Malathy, *A Fleeting Moment in my Country. The Last Years of the LTTE DE-Facto State*. Foreword by Radha d'Souza. Atlanta: Clear Day Books, 2012. ISBN 978 0 9845255 4 8. 176 pages. This book is complementary to the English and German versions because it takes the reader into *NESoHR*'s workshop in Kilinocci and takes him beyond 2008 to the worst genocidal actions in the modern history of Ilam, of the annihilation of tens of thousands civilian Tamils while fleeing and while pining away in concentration camps in 2009.

The German version of *NESoHR*'s book is based on the following earlier versions in Tamil and English.

1. *NESoHR. Massakers of Tamils 1956 - 2008*. Chennai: Manitham Publishers, 2009. ISBN: 978 81 909737 0 0. 296 pages.
2. vatakilakku manita urimaikal ceyalakam[=*NESoHR*]. *tamilina ppatukolaikal 1956-2001*. pakam 1. 168 pages.
3. www.nesohr.org.
4. vatakilakku manita urimaikal ceyalakam[=*NESoHR*]. *tamilina ppatukolaikal 2002- .* pakam 2. www.nesohr.org. 41 pages.'
5. *NESoHR. IPKF Massakers of Tamils 1987 - 1989*. Delhi: Delhi Tamil Students Union, 2010.
6. vatakilakku manita urimaikal ceyalakam[=*NESoHR*]. IPKF. *tamilina ppatukolaikal 1987-1989*. 48 Seiten. [Unpublished].

In the widespread English version - nr 1 above - the atrocities by the IPKF are missing. The book was published in India. The IPKF specialised on and intensified the raping of Tamil women which had been practised by the Lankan armed forces. All this has been hushed up. Moreover, the dedication in this English version made in India did not consider all known names of victims of the Lankan Government and of the victims of the IPKF. All known names of victims have been included in the German version. It has become a book not only of numbering and identifying the dead but also of grieving them. The dedication, written by *NESoHR*, is as follows in the German version (India is not mentioned in the English version):

cirilanka araca pataikalin kaikalilum intiya araca pataikalin kaikalilum tamatu uyirkkalaip parikotutta ayirakkanakkana ilattamil makkalukku innul camarppanam.

Dieses Buch ist den Tausenden des Volkes in Tamililam gewidmet, die ihr Leben durch die Hand der Streitkräfte des lankesischen und des indischen Staates verloren haben. [This book is dedicated to the thousands of the people in Tamililam who have lost their lives through the hands of the military forces of the Lankan and Indian states].

There are three reasons to classify NESoHR's work as one of the most important documentations of a genocidal policy and practice of the Lankan Government.

1. The assassinations of civilian Ilamtamils massacred by the armed forces of the Lankan and Indian state are followed up by background information and by authentic descriptions of eyewitnesses. The information was collected in the vicinity or even at the place of massacre.

2. The publication has an important historical dimension. It presents massacres of the 1950s to the present. This perspective should prevent us from concentrating on only the recent events from the year 2009. In a shortened time perspective those violations of human rights may appear as an occasional and random deviation of a particular Government of Sri Lanka or as committed by individual offenders. We have good reasons to assume that this massacre by the government represents a planned cultural and physical genocide over a long time.

3. The title of "Lest we forget ..." has been taken over in the German edition from an earlier version in English by NESoHR. The title indicates both a retrospective and prospective dimension. It points not only to an interest in the past, but also to a concern for the future by learning from the past, in order to avoid repetition and to establish justice with collected facts in a trial of Lankan and Indian war criminals. To face the future, we must examine the past through a well-documented study of atrocities, which were commissioned by the Governments of Sri Lanka and India.

A French translation is forthcoming. A Chinese one is desirable. The Chinese people should know to whom in Sri Lanka is transferred their acquired surplus value through hard labour.

Peter Schalk