

Batticaloa Fishermen



A sofobomo 2009 Book
by Markus Spring

A Solo Foto Book Month 2009 Book
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For Solo Foto Book Month Information see
<http://www.sofobomo.org/2009/>

Preface

I had the privilege to visit the city of Batticaloa on the east coast of Sri Lanka regularly since July 2004, before the tsunami. At that time the Norwegia-brokered cease-fire agreement gave reason to hope for a peaceful future of this war-torn zone. The tsunami of Dec. 26th, 2004 brought incredible devastation to Batticaloa, killing thousands and eradicating all the belongings of the people living near the coast, most of the fishermen among them.

Help was brought to the city of Batticaloa and the war held it's breath for some months. Unfortunately it came back in 2006, bringing daily incidents, suppression, fear and uncertainty to most of the citizens of Sri Lanka. The project I was working for made progress in spite of the difficulties, and we all are more than happy that there were no victims among our local colleagues.

Whenever my presence was necessary in Batticaloa, I used the early morning hours to visit the beach and the fishermen and watch and photograph their activities. As my last visit fell into 2009's fuzzy month, it was just natural to select this as the theme for my book.

But creating just a book of beautiful photo-

graphs would not do justice to the men on the beach of Batticaloa. Even now in these months, where the Sri Lanka government has won the civil war against the Tamil Tigers, daily violence threatens the lives of the citizens of Batticaloa. Therefore I have decided to accompany my pictures with headlines from tamilnet, just exposing the reality that rules the lives especially of the tamil minority in Sri Lanka.

To state this very clearly: I do not support in any way the case of the LTTE, nor do I justify the violence from any of the sides in this conflicts. But this does not mean that I can close my eyes in front of the permanent danger that makes a normal civilized life impossible for the tamil population of Batticaloa. So I ask to read those headlines 'cum grano salis' - they are not meant as evidence but as thorn in the side of photographic beauty.

Munich, June 16th, 2009

Markus Spring





29.7.06 SEERALAN
NANTHU

... 29.05.09 Tamil family man reported missing in Batticaloa



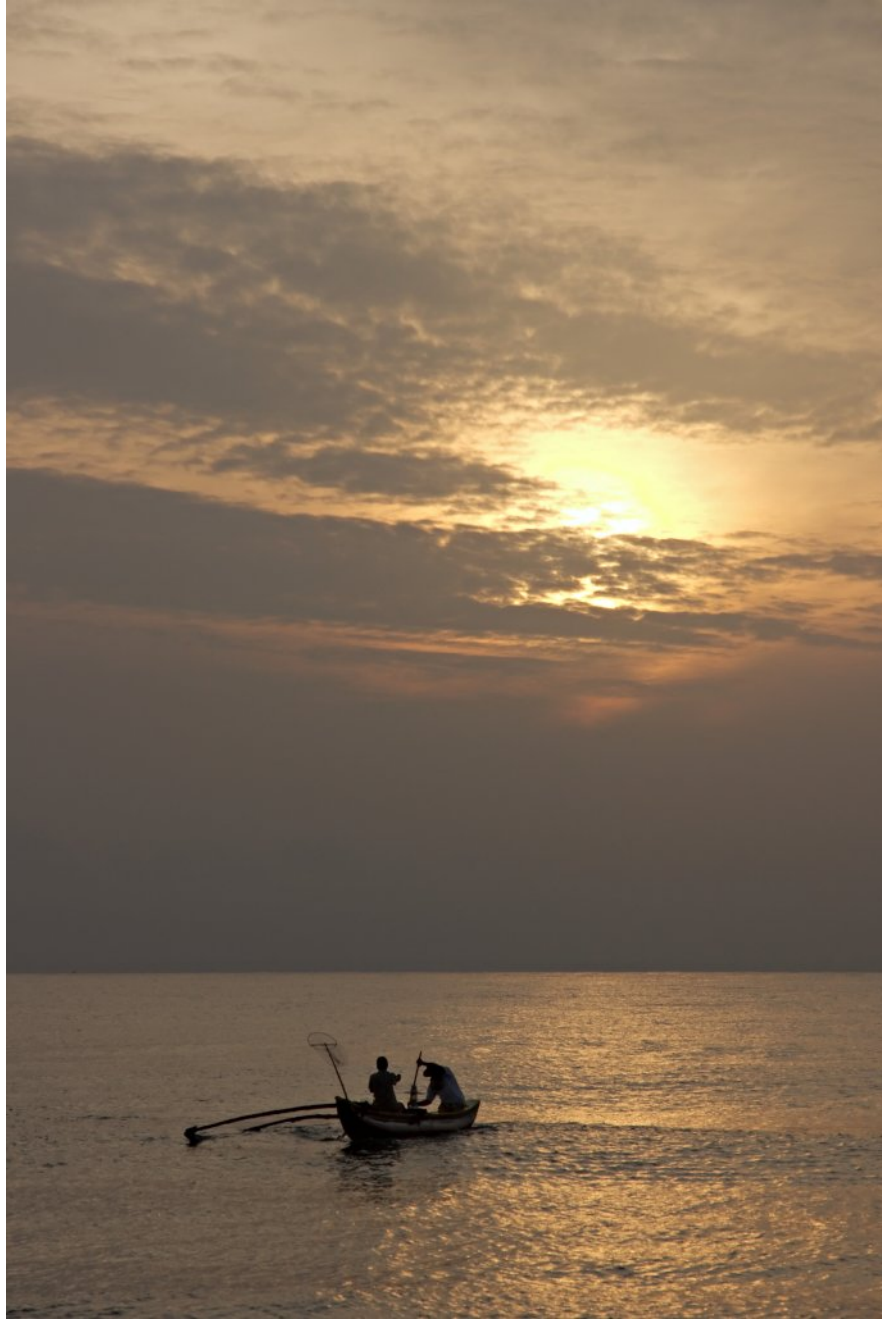
... 28.05.09 Catholic priest reported missing



... 28.05.09 Mass burial of IDPs in Vavuniyaa



... 20.05.09 14 Tamil youths arrested in Colombo



... 17.05.09 6 upcountry Tamils arrested in Talawakelle



... 20.05.09 5 LTTE fighters killed in Batticaloa jungles



... 20.05.09 Fears mount for safety of doctors arrested by SLA



... 16.05.09 Muslim trader abducted in Cheddiku'lam



... 16.05.09 Extortion gang arrested in Mannaar



... 15.05.09 Sri Lanka Police arrests 8 Tamils in Colombo



... 14.05.09 Jaffna GA seeks NGOs' help to feed Vanni detainees



... 13.05.09 Tamil worker shot dead in Puththalam



... 13.05.09 Tamil trader shot dead in Mukaththuvaaram



... 11.05.09 4 Tamil women arrested in Puththalam



... 11.05.09 Paramilitary group intimidates Tamil dailies in Jaffna



... 09.05.09 Sri Lanka arrests Channel-4 journalists



... 09.05.09 Sinhala gangs threaten Tamil traders in Kandy



... 09.05.09 4 Tamil youths missing, 1 abducted in Batticaloa



... 09.05.09 Gunmen shoot dead a Muslim, injure 10 in Colombo



... 07.05.09 Family man reported missing with Jaffna HRC



... 06.05.09 Deaths of elderly Vanni IDPs increase in Vavuniyaa



... 06.05.09 Tamil teacher shot dead in Vavu'natheevu



... 06.05.09 Tamil couple arrested in Mannaar



... 05.05.09 Tamil IDP abducted in Moothoor



... 05.05.09 Claymore attack kills youth in Buttal



... 04.05.09 Ocampo urged to investigate Sri Lanka's war crimes



... 04.05.09 160 Tamils arrested in Ampaa'rai



... 04.05.09 Police arrest 6 Tamil youths in Katunayake



... 02.05.09 Paramilitary kills kidnapped girl in Batticaloa



... 02.05.09 Displaced Muslim youth from Mullaiththeevu missing



... 01.05.09 17 Tamil youths arrested in Colombo on May Day



... 01.05.09 Family man knifed to death in Jaffna



... 04.05.09 Colombo SLHRC restricts its Jaffna office functions



... 16.06.09 9 Tamil youths arrested in Colombo



... 11.06.09 11 journalists killed, 50 abducted since 2005



... 10.06.09 Tamil youth abducted in white van in Sammaanthu'rai



... 08.06.09 2 Tamil foreign returnees arrested in Wellawatte



... 07.06.09 Tamil jeweller's body found in Nanu Oya





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