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Non-violent Communication and the Process of reconciliation in Sri Lanka

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The war in Sri Lanka is over but Peace has not arrived. Need for reconciliation has been recognized by those interested in Peace. However the expansion of the military and colonization of North and East seem to obstruct initiatives of peace-building and reconciliation. As the government seems to be unwilling to initiate reconciliation the Buddhist clergy who have the tools for reconciliation work are slow to be involved.

Nonviolent Communication which was introduced to Sri Lanka in 1997 seems to have picked up much work. The Sandhi Institute and Center for Communication Training (CCT) have taken Nonviolent Communication to all parts of the country.

Peace-building has to come from all directions. Both Sri Lankan and international universities have a special role in peace-building. This should be explored further.

About Dr. Chris Rajendram:

- Director of the Foundation for Nonviolent Communication
- Retired Rector of the Trincomalee Campus (2004-2007) and former Dean of the Faculty of Communication and Business Studies at Eastern University of Sri Lanka
- Guest professor at the University in Tromsø (Norway) and lecturer in USA, South Korea and the Czech Republic in the field of conflict resolution, communication, pedagogy, and spirituality
- Licentiate in Philosophy in Italy (1967), B.A. of Theology in New Delhi (1974), M.A. in Communication (Film and Television) in Los Angeles and PhD in Communication in Ohio
- Several programs with the South Asia Institute in 2003-4: Students research paper competition on “The role of religion in the conflict and peace process” (2003), a seminar on peace building in Colombo (2004) and an inter-disciplinary workshop in Trincomalee (2004)