

## Chapter 1 : Media and the Law (Sri Lanka): Thesis Extract I

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## Chapter 2 : Famous Criminal Law Cases In U.S. History

v. 1. *The Attygalle murder case, The Duff House murder case, The Pope murder case, The Wirawila tank murder case,*  
v. 2. *The whitehouse murder case, The turf club robbery & murder, The Kadugannawa postal bomb murder case,* v. 3.  
*The Bandaranaike assassination.*

High Crime Threats Sri Lanka faces a high level of criminal activity. The majority of crimes against Americans and Westerners continue to be petty crime pickpocketing, hotel room thefts, fraud, etc. Many of these crimes are preventable. Although official statistics for are not yet available, higher levels of serious crime in Colombo were reported in Borella, Bambalpitya, and Cinnamon Garden districts. American businesses have reported instances of threats and intimidation over business dealings and labor disputes. Most violent crime occurs within the local community. In , the preponderance of violent crime in Colombo involved in order of frequency: In recent years, media, police, and diplomatic reporting indicates sexual crimes against women, including Western women, is a rising concern. Some incidents involved the surreptitious spiking of drinks. Incidents have also occurred at tourist beaches and smaller hotels in the Southern Province. Sporting events can also be hostile or uncomfortable environments for foreign women, especially in economy seating areas. Several foreign nationals and organized groups have been arrested for complicity in these types of financial crimes. ATM skimming is another threat. The following websites provide more information on ATM skimming, to include photos of skimming devices: A temporary restriction on foreigners traveling to the Northern Province was rescinded following the January presidential, and there are no restrictions on foreigners traveling to any province in Sri Lanka. Visitors should take particular care when travelling to the areas of the north and east former conflict zones. Some areas in the north and east former conflict zones may contain both marked and unmarked mine fields, making travel potentially dangerous. Traffic in urban areas is very congested. Narrow two-lane highways combined with overloaded trucks, dangerously-driven buses, motorized trishaws tuk-tuks , and motorbikes and sometimes elephants, cows, ox carts, and bicycles make driving challenging and dangerous. Despite ongoing efforts to improve them, some roads in the north and east former conflict zones remain in bad condition. One-way streets may not be clearly marked and occasionally change direction without notice. Drivers are notoriously reckless, and vehicle accidents should be considered a principal threat for visitors not familiar with driving. Travelers should drive defensively at all times. In the event of an accident, crowds might gather and become aggressive, particularly if the accident involves a bus, tuk-tuk, or taxi. On one occasion during an election campaign period in which anti-American slogans were featured, an American family was involved in a minor accident with a tuk-tuk. The accident turned into a serious incident involving a violent, prolonged confrontation with a mob of tuk-tuk drivers and passersby. The family was forced to depart the scene and report to the local police station as soon as practical. Many visitors opt to hire a car and driver. In , the police continued efforts to enforce traffic laws more vigorously. Speed traps and traffic enforcement checkpoints are becoming more common. Public Transportation Conditions Individuals choosing to hire a tuk-tuk should select one with a working meter; otherwise, it is advisable to agree on a fare beforehand to avoid arguments at the final destination. Train travel is common and inexpensive. If using trains, visitors should keep a close watch on their possessions, especially in the economy class cars. There is a scam wherein Sri Lankans in Colombo will fill trains bound for the tourist areas and take all of the seats. They will then sell their seats to tourists and visitors for a profit and exit the train before it departs. The Regional Security Officer RSO advises against the use of public buses as they are often overcrowded, driven recklessly, and involved in serious accidents. Reports indicate a disproportionately large percentage of accidents are caused by public and private buses. During the brief campaign leading to the January 8, , presidential election, observers noted a spike in targeted political violence directed against opposition political figures, organizers, and supporters. Monitors tracked more than 50 acts of election-related violence, including one death. He was sworn in the same day without incident. The LTTE leadership did not survive the war, and there have been no terrorist attacks since Throughout its year insurgency, the LTTE targeted Sri Lankan security forces, government officials, and civilians with assassinations and suicide

bombings at political rallies, government buildings, economic targets, and military installations. American citizens were never specifically targeted. In March , police and local media reported the disruption of a small, pro-LTTE cell involved in spreading separatist propaganda in the Northern Province. Dozens of detentions and arrests stemmed from an incident that involved one police officer being shot by the alleged leader of the cell. Some civil society activists were arrested or detained in a crackdown that followed the investigation. The tape encouraged lone-offender and target-of-opportunity attacks. The transnational capabilities of select terrorist groups, ease of international travel, the availability of black-market weapons and explosives, all require U. In , two Sri Lankan nationals were arrested in India and Malaysia amid Indian allegations that they were involved in a plot to strike U. In Maldives, local media indicated a number of Maldivian nationals traveled to Syria in , with five Maldivian nationals purportedly being killed during fighting there. A significant spike in anti-U. In July and August , anti-U. These demonstrations remained peaceful, though American and Israeli flags were burned on a few occasions. Civil Unrest Demonstrations in Colombo occur regularly. Some protests over Sri Lankan political issues have resulted in violent clashes, gun violence, and casualties. In , some demonstrations involved rock throwing, intimidation, and minor confrontations with police using water cannon and tear gas on rare occasion. While the majority of demonstrations are related to domestic politics, protests directed toward Western embassies and international organizations are not uncommon. Some protestors carried black flags or banners resembling the ISIL flag. On July 15, , a large pro-Palestinian rally in central Male burned U. On July 28, a group of Israeli surfers clashed with Maldivian protestors in Thulusdhoo Kaafu Atoll , an inhabited island 15 miles north of Male. The airport and resort islands remained isolated from any political activity. Ethno-religious tensions have sparked demonstrations and mob violence against places of worship. In June , militant Buddhist monks and supporting mobs targeted Muslims in Aluthgama and Beruwala, near the tourist beach town of Bentota southern edge of Western Province. A temporary curfew coincided with vandalism, arson, and physical attacks against Muslims three killed or their homes and businesses. The violence followed a rally by the militant Buddhist organization Bodu Bala Sena, which was reportedly prompted by an assault against a monk by Muslim youths days earlier. Places of worship, to include evangelical Christian churches and mosques, have been the target of lesser forms of harassment and intimidation. Post-specific Concerns Environmental Hazards Each year, Sri Lanka is affected by severe flooding brought on by the northeast monsoon October-December and the southwest monsoon May-July. The heavy rains can be unpredictable and do impact the hill country in the central regions. With road development and soil erosion, landslides are a concern. In October , a landslide destroyed approximately 65 homes in the Baddula District; at least six people were killed, and thousands were affected by flooding. After three years of erratic weather that included periods of droughts and heavy rains, in December , severe flooding affected 22 districts, destroyed approximately 6, homes, and killed 38 people. Landslides may block roads including some of the major highways. Travelers should pay close attention to local news reporting and heed advice from the local government during adverse weather. Critical Infrastructure Concerns Approximately 50 fatal industrial accidents and about 3, non-fatal accidents are reported annually. These were only reported figures; a large number of accidents are not reported. Approximately percent of the industrial accidents were due to technological and mechanical defects unsuitable machinery to fit the physical make up of Sri Lankans, defective parts, unguarded machines, damaged electrical cables, worn-out hoisting ropes etc. The boom in construction since the end of the war has contributed to a great number of construction-related accidents resulting in death or serious injury. Piracy of sound recordings, movies, and software is widespread. Local agents of well-known U. Sri Lanka is a party to intellectual property agreements with the U. Infringement of IPR is a punishable offense under both criminal and civil law; however, enforcement remains a significant problem. Police occasionally raid counterfeit sellers, including counterfeit garment sellers, though it is rare for the police to act without a formal complaint and assistance from an aggrieved party. Privacy Concerns Privacy-related concerns involving Americans have been low. There have been few reported incidents of increased scrutiny or harassment of some Western travelers associated with civil society outreach or NGO activities. Drug-related Crimes Sri Lanka has a small, but ever increasing, drug problem. The government remains committed to targeting drug traffickers and implementing nationwide demand reduction programs. Sri

Lanka is not a significant producer of narcotics or precursor chemicals, but it is playing an increasing role as a transshipment route for heroin from Pakistan, India, and other locations. A seizure of kg of heroin valued at approximately U. Officials are addressing a modest upsurge in consumption of heroin, cannabis, and ecstasy. Penalties for illegal drug use and trafficking are severe: Kidnapping Threat Kidnappings occur infrequently and mainly within the local community. The motive is usually political or business-related rather than an organized kidnap and ransom enterprise. No American citizens have been victims of kidnapping. Police Response Although allegations of corruption and politicization of security services has been commonplace, the Sri Lanka Police Service SLPS is becoming increasingly professional, specifically in their specialized units. The RSO is aware of some instances where victims of a crime had to provide transportation for the police to respond to the crime scene, and other incidents involving Americans that were not handled competently. There can be problems with communications with Americans , as police do not always speak English well. Response time varies and can be lengthy depending on the type of incident; police response to traffic-related incidents can be inefficient. How to Handle Incidents of Police Detention or Harassment In cases of police detention or harassment, American citizens should attempt to take note of the badge numbers of the officers involved and notify the American Citizen Services ACS section of the Embassy as soon as possible. If detained by police, notify the Embassy as soon as possible.

*v. 2. The whitehouse murder case, The turf club robbery & murder, The Kadugannawa postal bomb murder case, v. 3. The Bandaranaike assassination case v. 4. The Sathasivam murder case. The Kularatne poisoning case. Pauline de Croos-a verdict in dispute. Tragedy at Tismada v. 5. Alfred.*

Introduction Sri Lanka, formally known as Ceylon, is a multi-ethnic and multi-religion island nation in the Indian Ocean, near the southern coast of India. The distance between the south-eastern tip of India and north-western Sri Lanka is only about 40 miles. Due to major civil conflict that has affected Sri Lanka for more than two decades, no census was conducted in certain parts of the country during the last two decades or more. Thus, all demographic figures include relevant estimates for certain areas in the country. The ethnic and religious diversity of the nation, and also its colonial history, have a direct bearing on aspects of the legal system of Sri Lanka. The majority of the Sinhalese are Buddhists, with a Christian minority. The majority of the Tamils are Hindus, with a Christian minority. The descendants of Indian tea-estate workers, brought in by the British from Southern India from the nineteenth century to the s, form a distinct group. Their native language also is Tamil and they also are referred to as up-country Tamils. The majority of up-country Tamils are Hindus, and they still form a mainstay of the tea industry employees. The third largest ethnic group is composed of Muslims, mainly descendants of Arab traders, and Malays, mainly descendants of South-East Asians who arrived in Sri Lanka during Dutch rule of the country. For a significant segment of the Muslims, Tamil is the main language. The other ethnic group is composed of Burghers who are descendants of Dutch and Portuguese settlers, and are mostly Christian. Largely due to the strongly nationalist politics that began in the s, a significant segment of the Burghers emigrated to Australia. Due to this emigration, and also due to Burghers marrying Sinhalese and Tamils, the Burghers now are a relatively small community in Sri Lanka. English is the first language for the Burghers. All ethnic-composition figures are from the "New York Times Almanac" Colonial History and the Law European control of what is now Sri Lanka began a few years after when inclement weather drove a Portuguese fleet of ships, commanded by Lourenco de Almeida, into what is now the Colombo harbor. Colombo, now the capital of Sri Lanka, is on the west coast of Sri Lanka. Almeida, who also realized the strategic value of the island-nation in the context of trade routes, established cordial relations with the King in Kotte. Kotte, situated in a suburb of Colombo, is now the legislative capital of Sri Lanka. The Portuguese did not introduce their laws in the coastal regions they controlled. They did, however, establish the Roman Catholic faith as the strongest Christian faith in the country. The Portuguese were ousted by the Dutch during the s. With the Dutch gaining control of Sri Lanka, primarily in the coastal regions, Roman-Dutch law gained a presence in the country. Three major courts of justice were established: A circuit court, the Land Raad, presided over by a dissava, sat in various districts. Local chiefs sat in on cases involving local customs. Thus the customary and personal laws that existed in the West, South and North of the country also were administered in the courts, unless these were in sharp discord with Dutch jurisprudence. The customary and personal laws are based on ancient customs of the Sinhalese and Tamils whose ancestors hailed from specific regions in the country, as well as the customs of the Muslims. In the 18th century, Roman-Dutch law was increasingly used in the south-west and the south. As a consequence, private property land rights spread rapidly in these areas, and property transfers were subject to Roman-Dutch law. The Dutch also made efforts to codify the customary law of the different ethnic groups. Codifying Sinhala customary law, however, posed difficulties because of regional diversity and associated issues. Partly as a consequence of this problem, Roman-Dutch law increasingly applied to the Sinhalese in the coastal areas, especially to those Sinhalese who were Christians. The Thesawalamai, the laws and customs of the Tamils of the Northern Jaffna province, was codified in A code of Muslim law was applied with the consent of Muslim elders. The British ousted the Dutch from Sri Lanka in , and adopted a unitary administrative and judicial system for the entire country. A decision by the British to continue enforcing the existing laws, and consequent developments, led to Roman-Dutch law gaining a firm presence in the entire country. As the Sri Lankan legal academic Anton Cooray states: At this point, the application of Roman-Dutch law was extended to the whole country: They

respected the prevailing laws, namely the Roman-Dutch laws, and the customary laws that applied to the different ethnic groups. British rule lasted through , when Sri Lanka gained its independence. Legal Constructs Under British rule, the Charter of Justice of ensured the continuation of the laws that were in force at that time. These applicable laws were all of the following: This conglomeration of different laws led to British judges encountering some difficulty in ascertaining applicable laws, especially where Roman-Dutch law principles were expected to be followed. As a consequence, on many occasions British judges introduced principles of English law on the basis that there existed ambiguity on the applicability of Roman-Dutch law. The lack of judicial precedents, and the un-codified nature of the laws, provided an excuse for judges to avoid applying Roman-Dutch law principles. As a consequence, a body of English law principles was in force along with Roman-Dutch law, in addition to indigenous laws such as Kandyan Law and Thesawalamai. Roman-Dutch Law now generally applies in Sri Lanka when statutes and indigenous laws do not regulate the issue in question. Roman-Dutch Law represents in Sri Lanka an inherited legal tradition. Kandyan Law applies to ethnic Sinhalese whose can trace their lineage back to the Kandyan provinces during the period of the Kandyan monarchy in central Sri Lanka. The Kandyan monarchy ceased to exist with the British takeover of central Sri Lanka in Kandyan Law does not apply to all Sinhalese who are now resident in the Kandyan provinces; however, Kandyan Law does apply to Kandyan Sinhalese who now do not reside in the Kandyan provinces in central Sri Lanka. Kandyan Law that remains applicable to Kandyan Sinhalese in present day Sri Lanka relates to marriage, divorce, and interstate succession. Kandyan Sinhalese who choose to marry under the Kandyan Act will be governed by Kandyan law in matters relating to marriage, divorce and interstate succession by virtue of the Kandyan Law Ordinance, as well as the Kandyan Matrimonial and Inheritance Ordinance. Kandyan laws on adoption are also applicable to those who marry under Kandyan Law. The General Law applies in other related issues such as alimony and child custody. Kandyan Sinhalese who choose to marry under the General Marriage Ordinance are governed by Roman-Dutch Law in matters relating to marriage, divorce, and interstate succession. This customary and personal law also applies to numerous Jaffna Tamils who no longer live in the Jaffna Peninsula. It is a commonly held belief among many in Sri Lanka that Thesawalamai applies only to Jaffna Tamils who reside in the Jaffna peninsula. Suntheralingam 6 that Thesawalamai is a personal law that applies to Jaffna Tamils wherever they live in the country, and that it applies also to their movable and immovable property, wherever it is situated in the country. The ruling also indicates that each case must depend on its own facts. The only Thesawalamai laws that are now applicable to Jaffna Tamils relate to property and interstate succession resulting from marriage. Thesawalamai, which was codified by the Dutch in , gained legal validity when the British enacted the Thesawalamai Regulation No. Other relevant laws are Ordinance No. When a Muslim marries another Muslim, the bride and the groom do not have the option of getting married under the General Law, unlike in the case of Kandyan Sinhalese. Marriage, divorce and other related issues involving Muslims are governed by the Marriage and Divorce Muslim Act, no. Issues related to interstate succession and donations, involving Muslims, are dealt with under the Muslim Interstate Succession Ordinance No. There is awareness now that these personal and customary laws based on ancient customs discriminate against women. As the Supreme Court pointed out in Sivagnanalingam v. The consent of the bride is irrelevant to the conclusion of the marriage contract. Kumaratunga served as President from to An authority on Sri Lankan law, H. Tambiah, touches on the rich and complex nature of Sri Lankan law: In Sri Lanka, there are five systems of private law. The Roman-Dutch law, as modified by statutes, and interpreted by the courts, is the general law of the land. English common law applies to commercial contracts and commercial property and has been tacitly accepted in many matters. English law was also introduced by statute and as such forms the statutory law of the land. The Thesawalamai is both a personal and local law. Similarly, Kandyan Law applies to the Kandyan Sinhalese, and the Muslim laws, to the Muslims, in [matters relating to] marriage, divorce, [alimony] and inheritance. Private law governs issues between individuals. It consists of the law of persons, property, obligations, and delicts or torts. Additionally, there are numerous tribunals, etc. Murder trials and various offenses against the State originate in a High Court see section on High Courts. Original jurisdiction over most civil matters lies with the relevant District Court see section on District Courts. It has been suggested that the concerns of minority communities

in Sri Lanka were not adequately considered in the drafting of that Constitution. On Aug 31, , another Constitution replaced the Constitution. Under this Constitution, for the first time in Sri Lanka an Executive President, elected by the entire country, became the leader of the country. Under the earlier Constitution, the government was headed by a Prime Minister, who, as a Member of Parliament, would have been elected by just one electorate in the country. As a consequence of major civil strife that erupted in , now efforts are being made to replace the Constitution with a new Constitution in order to grant greater political autonomy to the different regions in the country. These efforts, at present, seem stalled in an All Party Conference constituted by the current President, Mahinda Rajapakse. Furthermore, not all political parties in the country agreed to participate in the Conference. There are also other courts such as the Kathi Courts that handle matrimonial disputes among Muslims, and numerous tribunals see section on Other Courts. The Supreme Court The Supreme Court is the highest and final court of record, and exercises final civil and criminal appellate jurisdiction. Litigants who do not agree with a decision of the original court, be it civil, criminal, or Court of Appeal, may take the case before the Supreme Court, with permission from the Court of Appeal, or special permission from the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, however, will only agree to consider cases involving a substantial legal issue. The Supreme Court is composed of a Chief Justice and not less than six, and not more than ten, other judges. Cases that fall under the several jurisdictions of the Supreme Court are exercised, subject to provisions in the Constitution, by a bench of at least three judges of the Supreme Court.

## Chapter 4 : Talduwe Somarama - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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Madison Marbury v. Madison is one of the most well-known and studied Supreme Court cases in American history. This Court decision established judicial review, which allows the judicial branch to review and nullify the actions of the legislative and executive branches, therefore, exercising the separation of powers among the three branches of government. Madison challenged this idea, when President John Adams federally appointed William Marbury as the Justice of Peace at the end of his presidential term, but his Secretary of State failed to deliver the documents. Marbury sued Madison and the case went to the Supreme Court, in which Chief Justice John Marshall made the Judiciary Act of unconstitutional, because it gave the Supreme Court authority that was denied within the Constitution. This was the first time the Supreme Court struck down a law because it was deemed unconstitutional. Maryland McCulloch v. Maryland established that sovereignty remains in the United States and not within the individual states. This historic Supreme Court decision ruled that Congress had the right, as implied in the Necessary and Proper Clause of the Constitution, to create the Second Bank of the United States, but the state of Maryland did not have the power to tax the bank in an effort to stop operation. Chief Justice John Marshall presided over the case, which also granted Congress the ability to pass laws that would execute its enumerated powers, such as regulate interstate commerce, collect taxes and borrow money. Wade Roe v. Wade was the landmark Supreme Court case that discussed the issue of abortion. Wade is arguably the most controversial Supreme Court decision in history and is constantly fought to be overturned. Board of Education Brown v. Board of Education was a monumental case for the civil rights movement and attaining racial equality. During the s, a large amount of schools were segregated by race. This was the case in Topeka, Kansas, where Linda Brown, her sister and other black students were denied access to nearby segregated white schools. The Topeka NAACP filed a case on the behalf of a group of 13 parents and 20 children who believed their Fourteenth Amendment rights were violated by the segregated school system. This class action suit was named after one of the plaintiffs, Oliver Brown. The case was taken to the Federal district court, but segregation was upheld because the court claimed all white and non-white students had similar buildings, transportation, curricula and accessibility. The case reached the Supreme Court and the Browns insisted that segregated school will never be equal. The Court decided that school segregation was unconstitutional because it violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Wainwright The right to have an attorney appointed to you, in the event that you cannot afford one, was not always a constitutional right. In the Supreme Court case, Gideon v. Wainwright, a Florida man, Clarence Earl Gideon, was arrested after being spotted near a burglary scene and was unable to afford a lawyer to represent him in court. When he asked a Florida Circuit Court judge to appoint a lawyer for him, he was denied and forced to represent himself. Gideon did not defend himself in court, was found guilty and sentenced to a Florida state prison. Gideon pleaded for the U. Arizona You may know or have heard the following sentences: Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to speak to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed to you. Do you understand these rights as they have been read to you? Arizona was the Supreme Court case that made these rights a customary practice among U. The case came about because of Ernesto Miranda, who was arrested for rape and kidnapping in Phoenix, but was not informed by police of his Fifth or Sixth Amendment rights against self-incrimination or the assistance of a lawyer. The Supreme Court decided that the Arizona police did not follow the designated steps to inform Miranda that he has the right to remain silent and be appointed a lawyer if he cannot afford one. Ogden The Supreme Court case, Gibbons v. Ogden, determined that the federal government has sole power over interstate commerce. Aaron Ogden was one of the business investors, who held a license under the monopoly, allowing him to access these waters. Another steamship trader, Thomas Gibbons, planned to use the same waterways to do his business, but was denied access despite having a federal coasting license that had been issued by Congress. Gibbons sued Ogden and the case went to the Supreme Court, which decided the federal commerce

clause took precedence over the state law. Sandford Dred Scott v. Sandford, was an important case in the fight for equality and abolishment of slavery. The Supreme Court case involved Dred Scott, a slave who was purchased in Missouri and brought to Illinois, which was a free, non-slave state. Scott moved with his owners to Minnesota, where slavery had been prohibited, and back to Missouri. After his owner died, Scott sued the widow and claimed he was no longer a slave because he was freed while living in a non-slave state. The Supreme Court decided that Scott was not a citizen of the state and blacks cannot become citizens, nor do slaves become free when taken into free states. Ferguson The Supreme Court case, Plessy v. Ferguson, originated because of a Louisiana statute, called the Separate Car Act that forced all rail companies in Louisiana to provide separate but equal accommodations for white and non-white passengers. In , passenger Homer Plessy boarded a car that was designated for white passengers only. Although Plessy was only one-eighth black, he was told to move to the colored car, and when he refused in an act of planned disobedience, he was arrested and jailed. Plessy argued in state court that the East Louisiana Railroad denied him of his Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendment rights. Judge John Howard Ferguson presided over the case and ruled that Louisiana was right to regulate railroad companies within the state boundaries. Plessy took his case to the Supreme Court, which decided that racial segregation is constitutional under the separate but equal doctrine. Johnson The Supreme Court case Texas v. Johnson extended the First Amendment rights to protect symbolic speech. No one was injured or in immediate danger by his demonstration, but many witnesses were offended and Johnson was charged and convicted for desecration of a venerated object. This article is to be used as an educational guide only and should not be interpreted as a legal consultation. Readers of this article are advised to seek an attorney if a legal consultation is needed. Laws may vary by state and are subject to change, thus the accuracy of this information can not be guaranteed. Readers act on this information solely at their own risk. Neither the author, handelonthelaw.

**Chapter 5 : Sri Lanka Crime and Safety Report**

*Famous criminal cases of Sri Lanka / by A. C. Alles. Author/Creator: Alles, A. C., Publication: [s.l.: s.n.], (Colombo: Colombo Apothecaries' Co.).*

This is further compounded by the relatively small numbers in these circles giving those cases that gain attention an added shine. It is interesting to note older cases – such as the Kularatne murder trial, Pope Murder case, and the Whitehouse case share an interesting characteristic in their fame. Coming from an era where the face of media and sharing information was completely different – now the facts of these cases are embedded in urban legend and books written by respected academics and members of the legal profession. This is especially true of Pope Murder Case which is chronicled in W. To further explore how the media has dealt with famous murder cases in Sri Lanka, we will embark upon a closer study and analysis of the following cases and the last section will analyze how the media has reported the cases. The Queen v M. Sathasivam The Royal Park Murder: Media on the Murders. Sathasivam The Sathasivam murder trial rivals modern Sri Lankan cases for notoriety and fame – involving a famous cricketer standing trial for the murder of his wife. With a unanimous verdict passed by the special jury, the defendant walked out a free man after a flawless and watertight appeal by the famous Dr. De Silva and the defense flying down a forensics expert from England. The reason for the trial receiving the fame and media attention it enjoyed were a combination of the two common reasons. The case was complex and fraught with contradictions – closely reported by the newspapers. Finally the defendant was acquitted – but the negative publicity and went on to marry the woman he had allegedly been having an affair with during his first marriage. This case has spent nearly 60 years under the scrutiny of lawyers, journalists and writers alike – time has done little to tarnish its reputation as one of the most sensational cases in the history of the Sri Lankan legal system. The forensics expert who was flown in by the defense - Sir Sydney Smith dedicated several pages in his book-cum-memoir to the case , Justice A. C Alles has written about this case; Professor Ravindra Fernando wrote about the conflicting views and contradictions in the case ; and after 60 years the Island newspaper ran a special editorial recounting the facts and contradictions of the case. The debate still runs hot to this very day – did Sathasivam kill his wife with the aid of the domestic and purchase justice? Or was it the servant boy who was guilty of the brutal murder? The case has become a standpoint over decades for questions on the purchase of justice, the rights of the lower-class and the administration of justice. The Royal Park Murder The Royal Park Murder is the most modern case to arguably reach the same levels of notoriety as the previously discussed cases. The murder took place at the Royal Park luxury condominiums where the victim lived, after the defendant; victim and her sister had spent an evening clubbing; allegedly while the defendant was under the heavy influence of narcotics. The defendant was arrested two days after the discovery of the body the next morning, and convicted for the crime of manslaughter the court ruling that he lacked the pre-meditation to be convicted of murder and receiving 12 years imprisonment. The sentence was increased to the death penalty in after an appeal by the Attorney General. Similarly to the previously discussed cases – the societal standing of the parties involved, coupled with the nature of the crime resulted in fame being gained. Every editorial ran features based on the issue – the case becoming an oft quoted example of the dangers of clubs, nightlife and young children being given freedom. Media on the Murders It is important to note that all the discussed cases hold common characteristics i. In all the cases discussed – the media have extensively and widely reported the cases – indeed to a large extent coloring and representing public opinion. Five star hotels and specially assigned night clubs readily provided rooms for the teenagers to consume liquor, drugs and engage in extra marital or pre-marital sex. It is arguable that media in Sri Lanka in the case of sensational cases oft choose to judge and vilify as opposed to presenting an unbiased and ethical view point from which the public draw their own conclusions.

**Chapter 6 : Famous criminal cases of Sri Lanka / by A. C. Alles. - Franklin**

*Famous Criminal Cases of Sri Lanka: The Sathasivam murder case. The Kularatne poisoning case. Pauline de Croos-a verdict in dispute. Tragedy at Tismada.*

Posted on 05 August by admin According to the doctor He was only an intern at the time He was upset and perturbed. Even in his limited experience as an intern house officer, the injection should have had an impact. But there was no response and getting back to his quarters for a hurried bite of lunch, he casually mentioned to his peers the coma case he was struggling with that morning. Usually, he would have referred the medical notes that he was wont to do when a tricky case bothered him. Mathew Peiris brought his wife, Eunice. That scene is imprinted on his memory. It was January 31, Having passed out from the Colombo Medical Faculty, Dr. Siriwardene and was on the final six months in the medical ward under Senior Physician Dr. Detailing the hierarchy of the late s, he says, the Medical Ward was headed by Dr. Wickremasinghe and Intern HOs Dr. Kanthi Pinto and himself. He had already completed his stint in the Female Ward but as was customary was on-call for emergencies whenever his colleague was either off or at lunch. Their working hours were from 8 a. On January 31, , he was on-call during the lunch break. He was upset and perturbed. Terrence, explaining that when he went to Ward 47, he saw an unconscious patient being brought in by two priests. One was bespectacled and bearded and the other was crying. Having to take the history of the patient, it was her husband, Fr. Mathew, who spoke on her behalf as she was unconscious. The other priest, Dr. Terrence got to know later, was a close relative. The history indicated that the patient had returned from England in December Subsequently she began complaining of body pains, excessive thirst and loss of appetite. She was also depressed and had been treated by a Psychiatrist. The patient had felt giddy two-three hours after meals and was under the care of a General Practitioner. She had developed slurring of speech and been in and out of consciousness since 6 p. There was a letter from the GP advising hospitalization but, says Dr. Terrence, the patient was brought in only at noon the next day. He then went through the medical routine of asking whether the patient had a headache, chest pain, high blood pressure, was an asthmatic or diabetic. Categorical that she was not on any medication, Fr. Mathew had also produced the letter requesting admission by GP Lakshman Weerasena, a photocopy of a letter from another doctor and some laboratory reports. Terrence, pointing out that in those days while taking into consideration those results, the tests would be repeated at the General Hospital labs. Terrence a glucose tolerance test done two days before, Fr. When asked whether she had been taking anti-diabetic drugs, the answer had been negative. There were no external injuries. There was a needle puncture on her right hand, he recalls, adding that he put it down to blood being drawn for the tests carried out earlier. The detailed notes of Dr. For, the reports of the blood test he carried out would come only several hours later. He was troubled, caught up in a storm of doubts whether his diagnosis was wrong or the patient had permanent brain damage. The case history I would write in blue on the BHT and at the end in red would be the diagnosis. Hypoglycaemic coma, he wrote, followed by a small arrow, pancreatic tumour, another arrow and then overdose of hypoglycaemic agents and another arrow. Mathew who would later be convicted of murder by the High Court. As his second diagnosis, he jotted down cerebro-vascular accident stroke , for the patient was a year-old woman. Terrence did inform Fr. Mathew was asking him that, he had told him that he wished to inform their children. He relives that day once again. Many interns were attempting to contact their senior doctors. He, however, knew that his seniors would be in the ward at 2. Concerned that he may have done the wrong thing by giving dextrose, he ran it past his peers at lunch who affirmed the treatment. It was then that a casual reference came about a similar case several months before, that patient too being brought by a priest. The person later to be identified as Russel Ingram, husband of Delrene, the lover of Fr. Mathew had died, and suspecting that it may have been due to an insulin-secreting tumour, a post-mortem had been performed but no tumour had been found. Immediately seeing the light, Dr. Terrence had got back to the ward and told not only Dr. Kanthi but also the SHO, with events occurring quickly thereafter. It was high drama at the General Hospital “ an entry on the BHT, onto the Police Post and no one, other than medical and nursing staff, being allowed at the bedside of the patient. The irony is that Eunice Peiris was in Ward 47

for 47 days before her death, says Dr. Now he is retired. Terrence, the young intern who saw Eunice and was instrumental in changing the course of events, unlike in the case of Russel Ingram, would spend many a day in court giving evidence. The rest, of course, is history. The Vicarage double murders are back in the public domain many decades later, lifted from the dusty court records and newspaper archives, to the big screen by reputed film-maker Chandran Rutnam Share this:

**Chapter 7 : Courts and cases Sri Lanka (Lexadin)**

*Famous criminal cases of Sri Lanka vol. v Alfred de Zoysa and the Kalattawa murders by Alles, A. C. Material type: Book Series: Famous Criminal Cases of Sri Lanka.*

History by Scott Grabel Criminal law encompasses a body of rules that define unacceptable conduct that threatens, harms, or endangers the safety and welfare of the public. Criminal law also imposes punishment on people who do not obey these laws. The United States has a dark history involving some of the most heinous criminal cases in the world. Some of these criminal cases involved people who gained public notoriety for their unscrupulous acts. In fact, some gained notoriety and became public icons, whereby many have idolized their transgressions for terrorizing innocent individuals. One of the most notorious criminal law cases came in Salem, Massachusetts. The Salem Witchcraft Trials involved the public execution of 19 men and women by hanging at the gallows. One man was crushed under the weight of heavy stones. Hundreds of others faced countless trials until the hysteria subsided throughout Puritan Massachusetts. This does not mark the only tragic event in U. Successful assassination attempts have sparked public uproar, especially in the criminal justice system. Nobody should ever forget about the tragic assassination of President Abraham Lincoln by John Wilkes Booth; however, many have forgotten about the four convicted conspirators that faced trial for his assassination. In addition, John Hinckley attempted to assassinate former U. Lastly, James Earl Ray was the man who shot and killed Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee. He was located and arrested. To this day, the public media has given praise to these fallen leaders and the criminal justice system that put their killers behind bars. John Hinckley, the lone gunman who attempted to assassinate President Ronald Reagan, prompted attempts by the courts to pass handgun legislation. Four other conspirators were convicted in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. The criminal justice system faced some of the hardest criminal cases involving Mafioso members, especially during the Prohibition Era. In , Joseph Adonis formed the Seven Group, an elite squad of underworld mobsters, to control the alcohol trade during the height of Prohibition. Adonis accepted deportation back to Milan, Italy after the federal government sought indictment of perjury charges concerning his citizenship. In addition, Albert Anastasia committed violent and victimless acts in the underworld of drug trade, gambling, and prostitution. Anastasia appeared before the United States Crime Investigating Committee and plead innocent in regards to these allegations before he was assassinated. Organized crime did not confine itself to the northeastern half of the United States. Capone terrorized Chicago with violence, murder, and mayhem. He served 8 years in a federal penitentiary before dying from syphilis and other causes. Dillinger was noted for carving a wooden pistol and then turning it on his jailer for a historical escape. He was waiting for trial at Crown Point Prison. The criminal justice system figured out that deportation would not stop Mafioso members from continuing their organized crime enterprise. In fact, they planned to bring it to other countries. During the s, Luciano ran a New York City prostitution and drug trafficking ring. Luciano was found guilty of these charges and sentenced to New York State Prison. Organized crime took on a new face with John Gotti. After serving two years, Gotti started his racketeering, usury, and gambling organized crime ring. Federal prosecutors made three failed attempts to indict Gotti. In , Gotti was finally found guilty of racketeering and the murder of Paul Castellano. Racketeering would not stop with organized criminal organizations ready to smuggle the loot. Keating, a white collar criminal, gained national notoriety for his insider trading of securities and his contribution towards the fall of many savings and loans associations during the early s. Federal prosecutors attempted to convict John Gotti three times before succeeding. Keating is responsible for the downfall of multiple savings and loans associations during the early s. The criminal justice system has seen many psychopathic serial killers enter their courtrooms. One of the strangest criminal law cases involved the trial and acquittal of Lizzie Andrew Borden for the ax murders of her stepmother and father in Unfortunately, the escalation of brutal murders would continue throughout the 20th century. Some of these murders involved sexual perversion of unimaginable proportions. For instance, Ted Bundy gained public notoriety for his sexual assault and strangulation of women. He was convicted and sentence to life in prison. His killings occurred between and He was found guilty on November 26, He died

of 16 stab wounds inflicted by Walpole State Prison inmates. Jeffrey Dahmer became famous for his sadistic crimes involving the murder, mutilation, and cannibalization of male victims in his apartment. The defense claimed insanity; however, the jury found him guilty. He was sentenced to 15 life term sentences. He was clubbed to death in a prison bathroom. Not every serial killer gives off a creepy vibe to the community. In fact, some had an upstanding reputation in the community that led to a delay of investigation. Unfortunately, John Wayne Gacy raped and murdered at least 33 teenage boys and young men. In addition, he discarded some of his victims at a nearby river. The media purported Gacy as a mass murderer, which gained him national attention. He was finally executed by lethal injection in John Wayne Gacy was an upstanding citizen that lived a dual life of killing innocent teenage boys and young adult males. Jeffrey Dahmer murdered, mutilated, and ate the remains of his victims. His case became famous, because the defense claimed insanity for his heinous acts. The courts sentenced him to 15 life term sentences. The criminal justice system has seen their share of psychopathic criminals who simply wished to kill for the notoriety. Charles Manson, a brutal killer and cult leader, became known for the Sharon Tate murders. The Manson Family trial became popularized for the violent perversity of his acts. His followers were tried and found guilty in the same manner. Charles Starkweather became famous for killing and mutilating 11 victims, including motion picture actor, James Dean. He confessed to the murders and claimed that a demon dog instructed him to kill. While not a serial killer in the grotesque sense of the word, Gary Gilmore gained notoriety by blatantly telling the state that he would return to a life of crime if the prison released him. Other famous criminal law cases.

### Chapter 8 : Welcome to Court of Appeal of Sri Lanka

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### Chapter 9 : Talduwe Somarama - Wikipedia

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