

University Teachers for Human Rights (Jaffna)

# **Palmyra Fallen**

## **From Rajani to War's End**

**by**

**Rajan Hoole**

"Dr. Rajani Thiranagama was killed on 21st September 1989 after three years of intense activity in Jaffna. During this time she played a leading role in the University Teachers for Human Rights, Jaffna - UTHR(J) - and co-authored *The Broken Palmyra*. In *Palmyra Fallen*, Rajan Hoole - a fellow member of the UTHR(J) and the author of *Arrogance of Power* - deals with the painful experience of ordinary people and the initiatives Rajani and her colleagues undertook to give hope to a benumbed, betrayed and bruised community in a period beset by terror and counter-terror. The Introduction identifies the country's plunge into communalism, violence and war with the Citizenship Act of 1948. Other key concerns of the book are how the Tamil community lost its way into caste and sectarianism, the country's road to impunity, the political and economic costs of colonisation and the searing final months of the war concluded in 2009."

University Teachers for Human Rights (Jaffna)

Palmyra Fallen

From Rajani to War's End Rajan Hoole

University Teachers for Human Rights (Jaffna)

Copyright © 2015 by Rajan Hoole

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the author.

Front cover image: Amarathas Back cover image: Bhagi Siva

Cover design: Nishika Fonseka ISBN 978-955-9447-05-4

Printed and bound by

Global Printing Works, 5 Stork Place, Colombo 10

25th Anniversary of the Assassination of Dr. Rajani Thiranagama

Let this life of struggle take from us what it will; Would it but rupture the springs, whence flow the lifeblood of human ties, of what avail is the crown of

victory?

– from Puthiyathor Ulakam (A Strange New World), p.107, whose principal author, Soosaipillai Nobert disappeared in an LTTE concentration camp circa 1992

Come, thine eyes beaming brightness of Truth heart steeled in firm endeavour...

Fondly revere as scripture

all writings fostering Truth

Fear thou to utter a Lie

– Oli padaittha kanninai, Subramanya Bharathi's vision for Free India

To the memory of our late students

Miss. Chelvi Thiagarajah &

Mr. George Manoharan

Who paid with their lives for their unswerving commitment to justice and a future with dignity for their people.