

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University

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### **Founder of Mothers of the Disappeared to speak at Laurier**

**Waterloo, Ont. (Oct. 14, 1992)** — Manorani Saravanamuttu of Sri Lanka, a human rights activist and founder of the Mothers of the Disappeared, will speak at Wilfrid Laurier University on Monday, Oct. 19.

Saravanamuttu will speak on the topic of "Women of the World: The Real Victims."

A physician, Saravanamuttu founded Mothers of the Disappeared after her own son, journalist Richard de Zoysa, was taken from his home and killed in 1990.

It is estimated that the three death squads operating in Sri Lanka have killed more than 100,000.

While the main objective of Saravanamuttu's group is to stop the killings and political repression in the country, it also provides grief counselling and social rehabilitation for the women left behind, and works to ensure a means for them to make a living.

Saravanamuttu's lecture, which is open to the public, will begin at 4 p.m. in the Paul Martin Centre.

Her address is sponsored by the Office of the President at WLU in co-operation with the university's Interdisciplinary Research Committee and women's studies program.

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***Note: Telephone interviews can be arranged for Friday, Oct. 16.***