

New leader inherits old war. (1994, November 13). *The Ottawa Sunday*.

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■ KUMARATUNGA
Political family

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COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — With conch shells blowing and drums beating, Chandrika Kumaratunga was sworn in yesterday as Sri Lanka's first female president.

"We will continue our quest for peace, recognizing that the path is a difficult and tortuous one," Kumaratunga said in a TV address after being sworn in.

She won Wednesday's election with

62% of the vote on a pledge to end the 11-year ethnic war with Tamil rebels.

The war has killed more than 34,000 people in the Indian Ocean island country. Hindu Tamils make up about three million of the country's 17 million people and accuse the majority Buddhist Sinhalese of discrimination.

The campaign was torn by the assassination of Kumaratunga's main oppo-

nent, Gamini Dissanayake, who was killed along with 56 others by a suicide bomber suspected of being a rebel.

The new president, 47, comes from a political family. Her father, Solomon Bandaranaike, was PM until his assassination by a Buddhist monk in 1959. Her mother, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, became the first woman in the world to be elected a national leader in 1960.