Highly recommended. [Note: *New Muslim Cool* is also being sold for \$19.95 to individuals at www.newmuslimcool.com.] Aud: C, P. (K. Fennessy)

### Scarred Lands & Wounded Lives: The Environmental Footprint of War

★★★1/2

(2008) 56 min. DVD: \$125: public libraries; \$195: colleges & universities. The Video Project. PPR.

The euphemism "collateral damage" takes on new meaning in Scarred Lands & Wounded Lives, a powerful documentary on the ecological consequences of warfare from filmmakers Alice and Lincoln Day, which traces how military forces have intentionally destroyed ecosystems as a means to win battles. Whether the campaigns caused deforestation in countries fighting a civil war or the wreckage of the desert when Saddam Hussein's troops set fire to the Kuwaiti oil fields in 1991, the catastrophic violence enacted upon the flora and fauna during wartime has been incalculable. Not only have military planners seldom taken the preservation of ecosystems into consideration when planning attacks, they have often adopted precisely the opposite approach: removing a foe's tree cover and destroying their food and

water supplies are seen as paths to victory. The filmmakers point a finger at the U.S. campaign in the Vietnam War as being the most cruelly deliberate act of destruction, spraying toxic deforestation chemicals across vast stretches of enemy territories. (U.S. fighter jets dropped an estimated 19 million tons of herbicide, poisoning Vietnamese land and water supplies; an even greater tragedy unfolded later when a wave of horribly deformed babies were born to those in the chemically-ravaged regions.) Combining expert interviews with archival footage, Scarred Lands & Wounded Lives also surveys the environmental damage of more recent conflicts in Bosnia, Sudan, and Iraq. Although it features very disturbing images of slain animals and severely injured people, this thought-provoking film is highly recommended. [Note: Scarred Lands & Wounded Lives is also being sold for \$19.95 to individuals at www.scarredlandsfilm. org.] Aud: C, P. (P. Hall)

Tiger Spirit ★★★1/2

(2008) 78 min. In English & Korean w/English subtitles. DVD or VHS: \$89: public libraries; \$295: colleges & universities. Women Make Movies. PPR.

Writer-director Min Sook Lee, who was only three when her family left Korea for Canada, grew up knowing little of her parents' homeland. Now pregnant with her first child, Lee travels back to Korea to learn more about the country in Tiger Spirit, which profiles South Korean families hoping to be reunited with relatives they left behind in the North more than 50 years before. Elderly interviewees recall their perilous journeys to the South, talk about relatives not heard from since the 1950s, and review letters from the Red Cross detailing who among their kin still survives in North Korea. The stories of deceased relations and canceled reunions are poignant (one family is finally allowed to meet with their remaining sibling in North Korea, an elderly brother, only to discover that he is growing senile and hardly knows them). Viewers will meet a man seeking evidence that tigers still live in the South Korean mountains (hence the title); defectors from North Korea who are struggling with discrimination and questions of identity; and a woman who escorts busloads of South Korean factory workers into North Korea every day. Tiger Spirit serves up a compelling portrait of people coping with life in a divided country, seeking symbols of national independence and strength, while continuing to harbor hopes for eventual reunification. Highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (M. Puffer-Rothenberg)

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