

# CENTRE FOR MONITORING ELECTION VIOLENCE

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## ***Southern Provincial Council Election – 2009***

### **Election Day**

### **Media Communiqué No. 01**

October 10, 2009

**As at 12.00 noon 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 Colombo Sri Lanka:** Voting for the Southern Provincial Council elections commenced at 7.00 a.m. today with relatively low incidents of election related violence. According to the CMEV monitors, a total of 20 election-related incidents have been recorded since polls opened from all three districts. 07 of these incidents have been categorized as major and 13 as minor. 10 incidents have been reported from Galle, 05 incidents have been reported from Matara and 05 incidents from Hambantota district.

Hambantota and Matara Districts reported relatively high voter turnout of 40% as at 12.00 noon while Galle District reported 38%.

CMEV has deployed 20 monitors for electorates in the province and also 10 mobile teams for special observations. 320 Election Day Monitors have been stationed in selected polling stations in the province throughout the day while representatives have been located in the coordinating centre of the Election Commissioners office.

**Violations:** Some of the main violations include campaigning during polling and the prevention of party polling agents and election monitors into the polling stations.

It was reported to CMEV that at around 8.20 a.m., two UPFA supporters had been arrested by the Matara Police while they were distributing handbills of UPFA candidate Mr. H.S. Nandana (Candidate No. 21) in the vicinity of St. Thomas High School for Girls Dharmarathna Mawatha polling station (Center No. 12), Matara polling division in Matara. When contacted, Mr. Saman Jayasekara, the HQI of Matara police confirmed the incident and noted that they were released on police bail. When CMEV contacted UPFA candidate Mr. H.S. Nandana, he stated that he was not aware of the said incident.

CMEV monitor reported that at around 9.15 a.m., a person had been distributing handbills of UPFA candidate Mr. W.D. Chamil Padmalal (Candidate No. 24) to the voters inside the polling station of G / Walgambagala Kanishta Vidyalaya (Centre No. 51) of Benthara Elpitiya polling division in Galle district without objections from SPO. Another

group of 60-80 people were distributing hand bills of the said candidate in the vicinity of the same polling station.

An election related violation was reported from Walukarama Maha Wiharaya Kottegoda polling centre (Centre No. 33) in Devinuwara Polling Division in Matara District, where Mr. S.K. Ajith, a polling agent of JVP was not been allowed to enter the polling station by the SPO at approximately at 7.40 a.m.

An incident was reported at around 8.10 a.m. at Devagiri Viharaya-Puwakwatta polling station (Centre No. 41), Weligama Polling Division in Matara District where the CMEV mobile monitor has not been allowed into the polling station by the ARO despite the relevant permission letters were produced.

CMEV was formed in 1997 by the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA), the Free Media Movement (FMM) and the Coalition against Political Violence as an independent and nonpartisan organization to monitor the incidence of election related violence. Currently, CMEV is made up of CPA, FMM and INFORM Human Rights Documentation Centre.



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