

# CENTRE FOR MONITORING ELECTION VIOLENCE

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*Southern Provincial Council Election – 2009*

**Media Communiqué No. 05**

October 06, 2009

**6<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 Colombo Sri Lanka:** According to the reports received by CMEV from its monitors in the field, a total of 73 incidents of election related violence have been reported from the Southern province. Out of the total 73 incidents, 19 have been categorized as Major and 54 as Minor. Eleven (11) out of 19 Major incidents have been reported from the Galle District and most of the incidents - 29 out of 73 have been recorded from the same district. The largest number of major incidents are reported from the Hiniduma electorate in the Galle district while 2 major cases have been reported respectively from Deniyaya and Kamburupitiya electorates in Matara district. CMEV has recorded a total of 28 and 16 incidents respectively from the Hambatota and Matara districts.

## **Assault on UNP candidate in Kamburupitiya, Matara**

On 06<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at around 01.00 a.m. UNP candidate, Mr. Udaya Dissanayake (candidate no 09) was assaulted near the Dalugoda Bridge, Matara by an unknown group traveling in two defenders. Subsequently, he was admitted to ward No. 03 of the Matara General Hospital.

CMEV contacted Mr. Dissanayake and he informed that when he was going to a relative's house in Thihagoda, in his three-wheeler (200-2429), he had been obstructed by an unknown group in two Defenders. The group had assaulted him with wooden batons. He noted that the attackers damaged his three-wheeler as well. He further told CMEV that the perpetrators brandishing a pistol had threatened him against engaging in further campaigning. The victim has identified the registration number of one Defender as (WP KB 1927).

SI D. Chandana Amararatne of Thihagoda Police confirmed the incident and stated that the Police had recorded statements (EIB/31/51) from Mr. Dissanayake and his driver. According the police records, the windscreen of the three-wheeler and three cut outs

displayed on it had been damaged by the perpetrators. He further stated to CMEV that the identified vehicle number has been given to the Department of Motor Traffic for verification and that further investigations are being carried out by the Thihagoda Police.

On 06<sup>th</sup> October CMEV field monitor visited to the Matara General Hospital and recorded a statement from the victim. He has been discharged from the hospital after treatment, this afternoon.

### **Attack on JVP party office – Tissamaharamaya, Hambantota**

It was reported to CMEV that the party office Mr. L.K. Sujeewa Priyanka, a JVP candidate (Candidate No. 03) had been attacked allegedly by UPFA supporters at, around 3.30 a.m. October 05, 2009 at Debarawewa, Tissamaharamaya. CMEV field monitor had visited the place and when contacted, Mr. L.K. Sujeewa Priyanka noted that a complaint had been lodged at the Tissamaharamaya Police station (EIB 96/6). Mr. G. Wijesekara (Sergeant – Tissamaharaya police) informed CMEV that the case is ready to be produced before the court under BR 755/2009 and that investigations are underway.

CMEV field monitors' reports reflect the increase in election related violence in all three districts of the Southern province. CMEV is deeply concerned about the prevailing situation in the province and the impact it could have on polling. CMEV therefore urges all political parties, the Election Commissioner and particularly the Police to take immediate action to ensure law and order in the province and unhindered polling on Election Day.

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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