

CENTRE FOR MONITORING ELECTION VIOLENCE

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தேர்தல் வன்முறைகளைக் கண்காணிப்பதற்கான நிலையம்

24/2, 28th Lane, Off Flower Road, Colombo 07
Tel: 011 7920950, 0117920951 Fax: 011 7920949
E-mail: cmev@cpalanka.org Website: www.cpalanka.org

Presidential Election - 2010

Media Communiqué No. 08

1500Hrs

12th January 2010 Colombo Sri Lanka Two major incidents were reported to CMEV as at 1.00pm this afternoon. They are as follows:

Southern Province

Thangalla

At 12.20 pm today, a bus containing UNP supporters was shot at on the Thalunna road in the Hungama area in Thangalle. Ms. Kusumawathie Kuruppuarachchi who suffered gunshot wounds to the stomach was initially admitted to the Thangalla hospital. She was subsequently transferred to the Matara hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries and was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital, as confirmed by ward 6 staff of the Matara hospital. 2 other persons with injuries were admitted to the Thangalle hospital.

Two persons who arrived on two motor bikes first fired at the tyres of the bus, followed by the rear windows, and then proceeded to shoot the passengers through the windows along the sides.

When contacted the Hungama police informed CMEV that one of the suspects was identified as Sampath during the initial 119 call made at the time of the shooting, and that a T56 was used in the shooting. Investigations are currently underway.

The bus was carrying supporters to the Sajith Premadasa's rally that was due to be held at 2.00pm at Thissamaharama this afternoon.

**Eastern Province
Batticaloa**

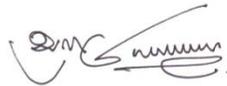
At 1.00am this morning an unknown group lobbed a grenade at the house of SLMC supporter Mr. M.B.S. Hussein's located in Ottamawadi, Valachchenai. Mr. Hussein called the police at the time of the incident and the police arrived at the scene shortly after. No persons were injured, however windows, doors, and furniture of the house were damaged. The CMEV monitor was informed of this incident by Mr. L.T.M. Furkhan Pradeshiya Sabha member Valachchenai.

When contacted, Chief Inspect Kodisinghe of the Valachchenai police station told CMEV that the attack was personal and not politically motivated. However Mr. Hussein suspects that he was attacked as a result of the fact that he is in the process of coordinating an SLMC rally in the near future and suspect UPFA supporters of the attack.

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.



DR. P. Saravanamuttu
Co - Convenor



Mr. Sunil Jayasekara
Co-Convenor



Mr. Udaya Kalupathirana
Co-Convenor