



# CENTRE FOR MONITORING ELECTION VIOLENCE

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தேர்தல் வன்முறைகளைக் கண்காணிப்பதற்கான நிலையம்

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H.E. Maithripala Sirisena,  
His Excellency the President,  
Presidential Secretariat,  
Colombo 01.

25/09/2017.

His Excellency the President,

## **Requesting to Obtain the Support of National Delimitation Commission for the Delimitation Process Regarding The Provincial Councils**

We intend to draw your attention towards several significant points in relation to the provincial council amendment bill that was passed in the parliament recently, which was aimed at commencing the upcoming provincial council election in accordance with the newly introduced system of elections and to increase the women's representation in nominations.

First and foremost, we would like to express our great pleasure as Election Observing Organizations over the aforementioned points with the intent of which, the said amendment bill was introduced. At the same time, we observed that the traditions followed by the parliament so far, were disregarded in the process of passing the said bill. Therefore, we would like to kindly inform you our displeasure with that regard.

Moreover, we would like to draw your attention towards yet another important matter regarding the above mentioned bill which has already been approved and that is regarding the appointment of a delimitation committee.

Hence the provision included in the said bill with regard to setting up a delimitation committee to identify and determine the provincial council electorates. In the light of the regulations set out in the relevant provision, we would like to request that the services of the delimitation commission that has already been established as a statutory institution at the national level, be obtained for this purpose. The observation of our organization with this regard is that, appointing separate committees for this purpose sans obtaining the services of a commission with the relevant expertise that has been already established for that very purpose will be to no avail.

The best instance for the futility of such an appointment of a separate commission could be understood when looking at the way in which the delimitation task was undertaken by the delimitation committee that was previously appointed, and the next committee that was appointed to

review its report. Both those committees consumed an unusually long period of time to conduct their task and when considering that fact with the other technical issues which were arisen, it is possible to conclude that accomplishing the intended outcomes would be difficult through the establishment of such committees.

Furthermore, a suspicion has been emerging in the society owing to the fact that, appointing such committee is being used to prolong the commencement of elections as well. Apart from that, the delimitation commission could serve as an instrumental mechanism in the process of electoral reforms which will be taking place in the future. Hence we would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that obtaining its services can be considered fruitful in regards to every aspect related to electoral process.

We would greatly appreciate your kind cooperation concerning the above matter.

Thank you



Manjula Gajanayake  
National Coordinator

Copies: Mr. Ranil Wickramasinghe, Hon. Prime minister,  
Mr. Karu Jayasooriya, Hon. Speaker,  
Mr. R. Sampanthan, Hon, leader of the opposition,  
Mr. Faiszer Musthapha, Hon. Minister of provincial councils and local government,  
Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya, Hon. Chairman, Election Commission of Sri Lanka,  
Mr. K. Thavalingam, Chairman, Delimitation Commission,  
Mr. Kamal Pathmasiri, Secretary, Ministry of provincial councils and Local government

And all the political party leaders representing the parliament

(This letter will be made available for the press and mass media due to the importance of its contents)