



# CENTRE FOR MONITORING ELECTION VIOLENCE

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## Local Authorities Election 2018

### Election Day Communiqué 01

Polling in the Local Authorities Election 2018 commenced at 7.00 am. According to the reports received by CMEV, as at 10.00 a.m. on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018, polling has been steady and without hindrance in most areas of the country.

As at 10.00am, CMEV recorded a total of 39 incidents. Of these, 04 have been categorised as Major incidents and 35 as Minor incidents.

CMEV received some complaints regarding attacks and threats close to polling stations. In the Eastern Province, CMEV received a complaint at 8.10 am that United National Party candidate A. M. Rakeeb and his supporters attacked supporters of other political parties at the Pulabarmani Sharfudeen Maha Vidyalaya polling station in the Periyaneelavanai ward in the Kalmunai Municipal Council area, Ampara District.

MSD personnel of former Eastern Province Chief Minister Naseer Ahmed had threatened people close to the Al-Jiffriya School polling station.

From the Western Province, it was reported that that Royce Fernando, a candidate from the United National Party had verbally assaulted a candidate from the United National Freedom Front and had made death threats as well. This incident took place in the Negombo Municipal Council area around 7.05 am.

At 7.35 am, CMEV district co-ordinator in Kandy reported that all 4 voting booths at the Halloluwa Navodya M.V. polling station in the Halloluwa ward were positioned in manner that compromised the secrecy of the vote.

Majority of the complaints received so far from every Province are in relation to canvassing, , attempts to influence voters, distribution and display of campaign material. This includes leaflets with party symbols with 'X' marked on them displayed around polling stations or on the ground in the vicinity of the polling stations.

A vehicle displaying stickers with the United National Party symbol and to mark 'X' for the UNP had been parked about 100 metres from the Hunuputiya Bandaranayake Primary School polling station in the Watta Pradeshiya Sabha area, Gampaha District. The vehicle was an Alto car, license plate number CAM 4179.

Around 9:00 am, Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna candidates were canvassing for votes in Dompe, Gampaha district.

UNP Candidate Gunasila Silva from Meethotamulla Municipal Council was seen canvassing for votes this morning.

UNP candidate Suranga Rathnayake from the Palagala Pradeshiya Sabha was distributing leaflets asking for votes for the UNP around 10 metres from Theladinna Wewa in Halmilla, Anuradhapura District.

UNP candidate Ajith from the Monaragala Pradeshiya Sabha and his supporters were loitering around the polling station at Subhagya Vidyalaya and influencing voters to vote for him. Also from the same Pradeshiya Sabha area, husband of SLPP candidate Sriyalatha was attempting to influence voters near the Vipulananda Tamil Vidyalaya polling station.

UNP candidate K. Sekkachanar from the Pottuvil Pradeshiya Sabha, and his supporters were telling people to vote for the UNP, close to the Charul Falla Vidyalaya polling station.

Supporters of the UPFA were attempting to influence voters to vote for the UPFA on the road leading to the polling station at Charul Falla Vidyalaya, Pottuvil Pradeshiya Sabha area, Mathuranchenai ward.

CMEV monitors reported that SLPP candidates were seen threatening and influencing voters near several polling stations in the Ratnapura District, Ambilipitiya Pradeshiya Sabha area, Kolonna/Liyanapota Ward. SLPP candidate Jayaweera Mathara Arachchi near the Inginigahagoda Vidyalaya, Mulandiyawaa Maha Vidyalaya and Buruthakanda Praja Shala polling stations, and SLPP candidate Indunil Rajapaksa near the Dorapane, Katapane and Bimalpe polling stations.

In the Puttalam District around 8.30 am, SLMC candidate Fathim observed UNP candidate M.N.M. Rifaz distributing leaflets and campaigning near the Rathmmal Yaya Kasim Nagara Vidyalaya polling station. Fathim was also threatened by Rifaz and the Police was observed supporting Rifaz.

It was reported that UNP candidate Piyal Ashoka Ranasinghe from the Pannala Pradeshiya Sabha in the Kurunegala District had organised a dana for 158 women. The dana was stopped by the Police after being reported.

## **CMEV Monitoring**

CMEV deployed a total of approximately 2000 monitors (including static observers) in the field and in polling stations for the purpose of monitoring incidents of violence and malpractice on Election Day. Further, CMEV has deployed 90 mobile teams in selected areas across the country.

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 non-partisan organisation to monitor the incidence of election related violence. Currently, CMEV is made up of CPA, FMM and INFORM Human Rights Documentation Centre.

All CMEV reports and communiqués can be accessed online at [www.cmev.org](http://www.cmev.org).



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