

Summary Report

Of

Pre-Election Violence Monitoring

By

IMADR Asia Committee and Women's Political Academy Sri Lanka

Introduction

International Movement Against all forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR) is an international Non-Governmental Organization devoted to eliminating discrimination and racism, forging international solidarity among discriminated minorities and advancing the international human rights system with ECOSOC status in UN. Women's Political Academy Sri Lanka (WPASL) is an initiative in improving capacity of women politicians/ aspirants in Sri Lanka. Both IMADR and WPASL are actively promoting good governance in socio political institutions in Sri Lanka, hence, they are closely observing election related violence during the run up to the parliamentary election in Aug 17, 2015.

This summary explains the behaviour of election violence in Sri Lanka as reported in newspapers and relevant organizations such as the Election Commission Office, CaFFE, and PAFFREL.

Election violence can be defined as "any random or organized act or threat to intimidate, physically harm, blackmail or abuse a political stakeholder in seeking to determine, delay or to otherwise influence an electoral process" (Source: Jeff Fischer, 2009). Electoral violence involves use of power with an intent to harm, damage persons or property involved in the electoral process. Forms of violence has designed to coerce participation or change votes choices, eliminate candidates, disrupt the process or negate votes in certain locations, seek retribution for political support or votes cast. Victims of electoral violence can be the candidates, journalists, election officials and observers, activists etc.

In this report, types of election violence such as assaults, damage properties, arson, threats, abductions, bribery, murder, shooting, breach of election laws, and misuse of state resources could be seen. These reports are recorded from 29th June to 14th Aug 2015.

Type of incidents	Date	Districts	Area	Incidents	Source
Assaults	29/6/2015	Badulla	Mahiyanganaya	U.N.P. supporters of Mahiyanganaya were attacked by group of men who are suspicious to have connection with U.P.F.A. m.p. Thenuka Widanagamage .Mahiyanganaya Magistrate judge has ordered to arrest them till 14th of July.	CaFFE
	30/6/2015	Matara	Waligama	A group supporters to the southern provincial council m.p. Gayan Sanjeewa were attacked by group of men who came in a double-cab and motor car. The incident occurred during the mid-night.	CaFFE
	3/7/2015	Matara	Kuburupitiya	A clash had been arouse between U.N.P. and U.P.F.A. Supporters around 11.30 p.m. 5 people have been hospitalized due body injuries.	CaFFE
	13/7/2015	puttamala	Maravilla	Members and Election activists of J.V.P. were assaulted by group of men who were later arrested by police and identified as supporters of U.P.F.A. candidate who is contesting from Puttalam district.	CaFFE

	13/7/2015	kegalle		Former m.p. Mr. Kanaka Herath's supporters had been attacked by group supporters of U.N.P. one person was has been hospitalized and 3 were arrested by police.	CaFFE
	14/7/2015	Rathnapu ra	kalawana	Former vice president of Kalawana Pradeshiya Saba Mr.Piyantha athukorala was assaulted by U.N.P. supporters for accusing them for damaging cut-outs of U.P.F.A. Leader former M.P. Janaka Waakubura.	CaFFE
	14/7/2015	Kurunegal le		Mr.P.B. Herath who was returning home after participating for a meeting of Mr. Ashok Abesingh and he was ambushed by group of U.P.F.A. supporters .Mr.Herath was hospitalized but he was forced to leave the hospital by supporters of U.P.F.A. This incident happened around 4 p.m.	CaFFE
		Kurunegal le		A violent incident was reported between the supporters of the following candidates, who are contesting from Kurunegalle (Akilawiraj kariyawasam and Ashok Abesinghe)	CaFFE
	22/7/2015	Kandy		A group of youngsters who are supporting to Mr.Rauwf Hakeem had been attacked by an unidentified men. According to police information. Further investigations to be carried out according to police information.	CaFFE
	22/7/2015	Kandy	Ilukkawatta	A group of men had attacked the district team leader of democratic party Mr.Rajeev Ramanayake, around 11.30p.m. He was admitted to the peradeniya hospital.	CaFFE
	26/7/2015	Hambant ota	Veerakatiya	U.P.F.A. candidate Mr.Namal Rajapaksh's supporter had attacked a supporter of a candidate contesting from same party.	CaFFE
	31/7/2015	Matale	Dambulla	Assaulted 3 UNP supporters by the central province's rural development sports and youth affairs minister Pramitha Bandara Thennakoon and another suspect. They were arrested by Dambulla police and later released on personal bail of Rs.100, 000 each by Dambulla Magistrate.	Rivira
	3/8/2015	Kandy	Gampola	A group of men have assaulted the Gampola S.L.T.B. (DIPO) director and his assistant. This has been done with the intention to intimidate voters and civilians. No one has taken the responsibility for the incident.	Sirasa Tv.
	3/8/2015	Vauniya		A clash aroused between the participants of an election meeting and police who intervened to stop the event as it was accused to be an illegal gathering.	Sirasa TV
	3/8/2015		Galwela	A clash occurred between two groups of supporters from UPFA and UNP.UPFA supporters are to be in connection with Janaka Bandara and UNP supporters are to be related to Priyan Wijewardana.	Rivira
Damage Property	29/6/2015	Anuradha pura		An organized group of men have destroyed massive cut-outs belong to M.P. Mrs. Chandrani Bandara who's contesting from Anuradhpura district. A leader of opposition party leader is claimed to be accused of incident.	CaFFE
	2/7/2015	Kurunegal a		A group supporters in connection with U.N.P. district leader had torn and destroyed cut-outs of	CaFFE

				Mr. Ashok Abesinghe and Ranil Wickramasinghe.	
	3/7/2015	Hambantota	Lunugamwehera	Fire-crackers were thrown at 2 houses belonging to the supporters of Mr. Sajith Premadasa.	CaFFE
		Hambantota	Ellagala	A group of men have destroyed cut-outs of U.N.P. people's representative Mr. Saman	CaFFE
	3/7/2015	Hambantota	Lunugamwehera	A group of men have destroyed the banners of U.N.P.	CaFFE
	3/7/2015	Hambantota	Lunugamwehera	second incident- A group of men have destroyed the banners of U.N.P.	CaFFE
	3/7/2015	Hambantota	Lunugamwehera	Decorations of U.N.P had been destroyed by a group of men	CaFFE
	3/7/2015	Hambantota	Tangalle	Cut-outs of U.N.P. candidates name , Mr. Ranil Wickramasinghe and Sajith Premadasa in Tangalle city had been destroyed by a group of men	CaFFE
	15/7/2015	Kaluthara		A U.N.P. supporter was hit by a U.P.F.A. member for damaging their cut-outs in Galapatha Alamodara area.	CaFFE
	15/7/2015	Kaluthara	Maha Heenatigala	An election office was damaged by an unidentified group in Maha Heenatigala. Officials said that the damaged property was under the supervision of U.N.P. candidate Mr. Rajitha Senarathne.	CaFFE
	22/7/2015	Anuradhapura	Hidogama	Black oil was thrown at a house which was used as an office to hold election meetings of UPFA leader former m.p. Asanka Semasinghe. The property was considerably damaged Hidogama police and also the incident occurred during the midnight and further investigations to be carried out by	CaFFE
	22/7/2015	Kandy		An election office of Muslim Congress was damaged by a group and they had destroyed cut-outs of Mr.Rauwf Hakeem.	CaFFE
	25/7/2015	Kandy	Nawalapitiya	U.N.P. candidate Mr. Annanda Aluthgamage's election office was damaged and robbed by a group .Election office address -(no.211/7 ,Gampola Road,Nawalapitiya,Kandy)	CaFFE
	25/7/2015	Gampaha	Kalagedihena	An unidentified group had set fire to the furniture of an election office of U.N.P. candidate Chandrasoma Lal.	CaFFE
	25/7/2015	Anuradhapura		An organized group of men have set fire to a house which was used as an election office of Frontline Socialist Party candidate name Mr. W.H.K Ranjan .The incident has happened around 1 AM.	CaFFE
	26/7/2015	Kaluthara	Baduruliya	A group of supporters who were decorating a U.N.P. stage had been attacked by an unidentified group .The injured persons were hospitalized to Baduruliya hospital. The incident occurred around 7.26a.m.	CaFFE
	2/8/2015		Dabagalla	A UPFA election office established under the permission of legal authorities had been damaged by a group and the complaint was made by UPFA area vice president Y.G. Kularathne.	- Lakbima

	3/8/2015	Anuradhapura	Madvachchi	A group of men have attacked a house which was used as a UPFA office. Police have arrested the UNP Madavachchi organizer. 7 individuals have been hospitalized to Anuradhapura hospital. This incident had took place around 9 p.m. according to police media.	- Dinamina
	3/8/2015	Polonnaruwa		A unidentified group has set fire to an election office of a Wasantha Senanayake who is	-Sirasa Tv.
	12/8/2015	Colombo	Nugegoda	An unidentified group has damaged to the election office of Colombo district candidate Mr. Ranil Wickramasinghe.	Lankadeepa
	13/8/2015	Badulla	Mahiyanganaya	With the intention to damage the election office of U.N.P, an unidentified individuals have thrown two petrol bombs which were unexploded during the incident.	CaFFE
	14/8/2015	Colombo	Kaluthara	2 Unidentified men have damaged to a computer device used in an election office of UNP Kaluthara District candidate Mr.Hemanth Wickramaratthi.	Dinamina & Lankadeepa
Arson	1/8/2015	Colombo	Kotte	A fire broke out at the three storied house of former public transport services minister and parliamentarian C.B. Ranayake. Crimes division is conducting investigations under the guidance of the Mirihana police H.Q.I to find out whether it was a destructive act or by an electrical short circuit.	Dinamina
Threats	11/7/2015	Trincomalee		Janasatha Peramuna leader Baththaramulle Seelarathana there was threatened to murder. And there had made an inquiry in police	CaFFE
	13/7/2015	Matara		Former minister Mr.Dalus Alahaperuma was threatened by a supporter of former minister Mr. Mangala samaraweera. Mr. Alahaperuma met with this incident while he was returning from Matara District Secretariat office.	CaFFE
	15/7/2015	Hambantota	Lunugamwehera	UPFA member Mr. Liyana Pathirage Nimal was threatened to kill by U.N.P candidate Dilip Wedarachchi. The incident happened around 1.35 p.m. Further Dilip Wedarachchi had warned not to damage his cut-outs.	CaFFE
	18/7/2015	Matale	Dabulla	A business man has been forced to provide vehicles and lend money in to election campaign of Rohana Bandara who's known to be the secretary of Dabulla economic center.	CaFFE
			Jaffna	Jaffna technical college students were threatened by a candidate and the principal of the college for protesting against an election campaign which was plan to be held in college premises	CaFFE
	21/7/2015	Puttalama	Madampe	A person name, Mr. Nimesh De Silva, a resident of Jayarathgama was threatened through a phone call. The person who made this call was known as Abesinghe Herath from Madampe.	CaFFE
	30/7/2015	Colombo	Athurugiriya	Colombo District candidate Sujeewa Senasinghe had forced a policeman to leave and not to stop his road show, (musical show) when the officer said it's illegal to carry out an event blocking the road and disturbing the residents.	Rivira

Abductions	7/26/2015	Matale	Raththota	An election supporter to U.N.P Raththota area organizer Mrs. Rohini Kavratthna, was abducted on 26th of July by the supporters of former minister Lakshman Perera. Later a case was filed by the victim in police reports.	CaFFE
	3/8/2015			UNP supporter Mr. Nawula Piyal Dassanayake was abducted and assaulted by former commerce and industries development minister who is contesting from Matale district Lakshman Wasanth Perera was arrested till Aug 6th.	Lakbima
Bribery		Puththalam Badulla Nuwaraeliya		Alcohol and Drugs were distributed among voters and supporters of above mention district candidates who are contesting for the upcoming General Election.	CaFFE
		Rathnapura		Lending housing loans worth of Rs.20, 000 among residents through state banks. Complaint was made against UNP by former state Administrative minister W.D.J. Senavirathne.	Lanka Deepa
Murder	29/6/2015	Raththnapura	Nivithugala	Former parliamentarian Mrs. Thalata Athukorala's supporter Mr. Thushara Dewalagama was murdered in Deiyangedaal area. Three suspects were arrested by police in relation with the crime.	CaFFE
Murder and Shooting	31/7/2015	Colombo	Kotahena	Some unidentified gunmen fired at hundreds of people led by minister Ravi Karunanaya on election campaigning along Bloemendhal road, Kotahena. Incident occurred around 11.25 a.m.	Dinamina
				42 year old woman was shot dead and 13 others injured .later a severely wounded victim died in the hospital on Aug 3rd .Preliminary police investigations had revealed, the shooting might be related to a longstanding clash between two underworld factions in the area.	Maw Bima
Breach of Election Laws	1/8/2015	Colombo		Some of the candidates contesting from Colombo district have setup election campaign stages blocking the main roads of the area. As a result residents have made complaints against the disturbance they faced.	Maw Bima
	1/8/2015	Nuwara Eliya	Hatton	Stock of posters and a van has been took under the custody of Hatton police which belongs to a labor congress candidate contesting to UPFA (100 posters)	Lakbima
	1/8/2015	Nuwara Eliya	Hatton	A jeep belongs to C.B. Rathnayake a UPFA leader, had run with the preference number pasted on it without the candidate, violating of election regulations. The jeep is under the Hatton police custody.	Daily Miraror
	1/8/2015	Puttalam		Candidate Warnakulasooriya Priyantha Fernando and supporters were arrested by police while they were on an election propaganda. They were accused for used of loud speakers on a vehicle.	
	1/8/2015			A group has edited the JVP election mandate with wrong Information and distributed among University Students.	Maw Bima
	2/8/2015	Matale	Laggala	3 supporters of Matale UPFA candidate, have been arrested by police while they were pasting posters of their leader.	Lakbima

	2/8/2015	Colombo	Maligawatta	6 individuals were arrested by maligawatta police for keeping and transporting of swords, cables arms in possession and also a defender jeep.	Lakbima
	2/8/2015	Gampaha		Posters,Caps,T-shirts,Hand bills and 2 vehicles were taken under the police custody. Those were belongings of 2 candidates from UNP and UPFA.	Lakbima
	3/8/2015	Kandy		UPFA candidate S.B. Dissanayaka's illegally printed hand bills, posters and pocket size calendars were captured by police with a van and have arrested a one suspect. He was later released on bail after producing to the Theldeniya Magistrate court.	Lakbima
	3/8/2015	Puttalam		Campaign vehicles, Loud speakers, posters and handbills of 2 candidates and team leaders of Frontline Socialist Party have been captured and arrested by police. Accused have been produced before Puttalam Magistrate court.	Dinamin a
				UNP-Chathura Senarathne, posters-1622,hand bills-712,caps-29,T-shirts-26	Lakbima
				UPFA-Ruwan Ranathunge,Posters-870,han bills-150,Pocket size religious books-132	Lakbima
	3/8/2015	Matale		69 candidates contesting from Matale district still have not produced their income, value of property statements. It is mandatory to hand over those documents by every candidate according to the rules and regulations of the election.	Lakbima
	13/8/2015	Nikawawe		A luxury jeep has been seized with 1330 posters, 510 handbills of Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksha by Polpithigama Police.	Dinamin a
	12/8/2015	Beruwala		Kaluthara District candidate Mr.lfthiqar jamil's supporters (18Individuals) were arrested Election Department Monitoring Team with 8 motor bikes for violating election laws by illegal parades. They were later taken under the custody of Beruwala Police.	Dinamin a
	13/8/2015			Higher ranked officers of Lanka Mineral Sands ltd. Have granted 55 promotions to its employees with political intentions .Election Commissioner has ordered to take necessary actions against those officials for the violation of Election laws.	Lankade epa
	12/8/2015		Bulugaha Junction (Colombo-Kandy road)	Rs.200, 000 worth of text books with a picture of Mr. Namal Rajapaksa, had been seized by police.	Lankade epa
	12/8/2015		Negambo	Negambo Police has arrested a supporter of JVP while he was drawing the JVP logo on the road. He was later charged with a fine of Rs.100 by Negambo Magistrate.	Lakbima
	14/8/2015	Colombo	Kaluthara	2 University Students of Moratuwa University, were arrested by police (Kaluthara-North) while they were pasting posters of JVP in Kaluthara Area on 14 th of Friday.	Dinamin a
Misusing State	12/8/2015			Both UPFA and UNP have misused 600 State Sector employees for the election propogandas	Lankade epa

Sector Employees				and meetings etc. This is according to the Transparency International organization reports of General Election 2015.	
Abuse of State Power and Resources	13/8/2015			The Transparency International Sri Lanka had received 266 complaints against abuse of state property and power for the election activities. The numbers of complaints are as follows; 127-UPFA, 115-UNP, 15-JVP. 300 Government vehicles haven't been returned by some candidates. The uses of Government busses in Anuradhapura District have affected the transportation of A/L students to the examination centres.	Dinamina
Other	1/8/2015	Anuradhapura		A van rammed into a group of supporters of UPFA candidate minister Duminda Dissanayake in Anuradhapura. The van was drive by a policeman, four people were injured in the incident.	Sunday Leader
Special Notes	1/8/2015			CaFFE has launched island wide program series to make aware the voters how to use their vote accurately.	CaFFE
	4/8/2015			CMEV (Centre for Monitoring Election Violence) striving for the rights of disabled voters.	Sunday Leader
				Election Commissioner Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya has asked candidates of the upcoming parliamentary polls and their supporters to refrain from any activity, expression or behavior that could aggravate differences, races, customs and caste in the country.	Sunday Times
				Exams commissioner Mr.W.M.N.J. Pushpakumara has announced that it is prohibited to carryout election meetings, parades, campaigns or any act which could disturb the students in examination centers.	Lakbima
				Most number of incidents reported Province-Western province Most number of incidents reported district-Colombo District the number of act of violence and breach of election laws have been increased during last 3 to 4 days according to the statistics PAFFERAL and CaFFE.	PAFFA REL
	13/8/2015			Minister of Labor Mr. Yapa Abegunawardana has ordered the private sector to give a holiday on 17 th August for the private sector Employees	Maw Bima
	13/8/2015			Election Commissioner has banned all forms of religious functions with the participation of political party candidates till 18 th August.	Maw Bima
	13/8/2015			'PAFFREL' is to deploy 13,754 monitors on the election day.25 mobile monitoring units with 2 monitors.25 mobile monitoring units with 4 monitors.	Daily Mirror
	13/8/2015			All Wine stores in island wide are to be closed on 17 th August.	Maw Bima

	13/8/2015			The Election Commissioner has announced to end all forms of election activities before 14 th August midnight.	Daily Mirror
	13/8/2015			There had been fewer violations of electoral Laws so far and the poll seems to be cleaner than the presidential election, the commonwealth Election observers said in a media conference.	Daily Mirror
	13/8/2015			The ruling party and the opposition have, both used state resources and powers to get an advantageous situation during the forthcoming Elections.	PAFFR EL

Some Observations:

- ◇ There has been a significant reduction in election violence in this year's General Election when compared to the election violence reports of Previous years. (This has been ensured by the analysis' reports of CaFFE and PAFFREL).
- ◇ The role played by police and the Election commissioner and the staff is impressive and effective when comparing to past years. It can be witnessed through the newspaper articles, Tv presentations etc.
- ◇ Planning are essential for developing programs to manage or prevent violence. It could help to mitigate the disadvantages of election violence and will ensure the equality, justice and human rights.
- ◇ The perpetrators for most number of election violence are to be the candidates and supporters of the two main parties of the country.
- ◇ To improve peace building around election times, it is important ensure the internal and external security and awareness of all related factors.
- ◇ Based on information we have collected it seems to be that more rules and regulations have to be implemented; in order to prevent abuse of state power and resources.