

# CENTRE FOR MONITORING ELECTION VIOLENCE

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தேர்தல் வன்முறைகளைக் கண்காணிப்பதற்கான நிலையம்

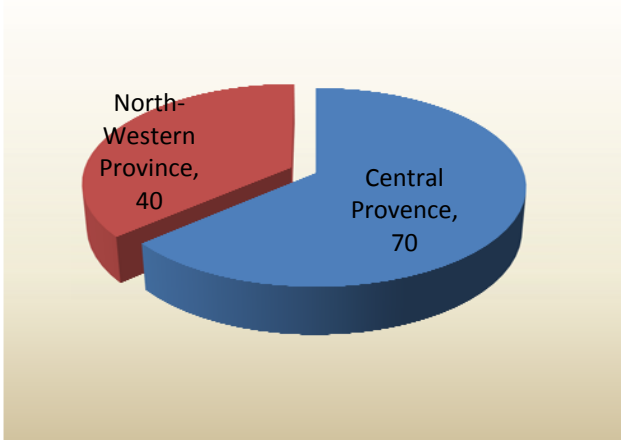
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## Central and North – Western Provincial Council Elections

13<sup>th</sup> February 2009

### Media Communiqué No 04

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009, Colombo, Sri Lanka: As the provincial council election campaign draws to an end, at 12.00 hrs. On February 13, CMEV received 110 incidents of election related violence.



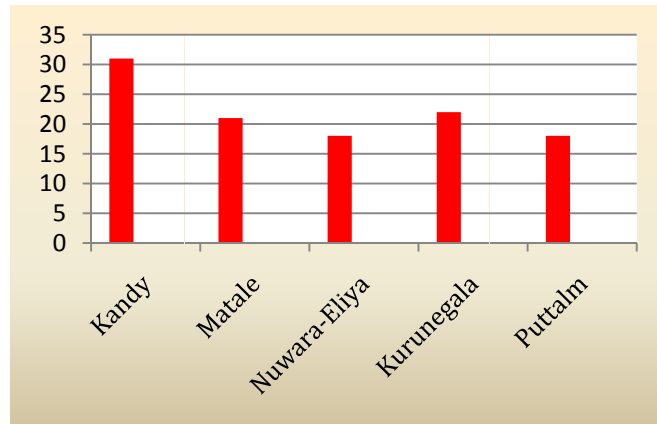
Of the total number of incidents reported 70 are from the Central province. North Western reported 40 cases. On district basis 31 incidents are reported from Kandy, 21 from Matale, 18 from Nuwara Eliya, 22 from Kurunegala and 18 from Puttalam.

CMEV observes that the relatively peaceful situation prevailed at the beginning of the election campaign

deteriorated into violence which may not conducive to hold free and fair election on February 14.

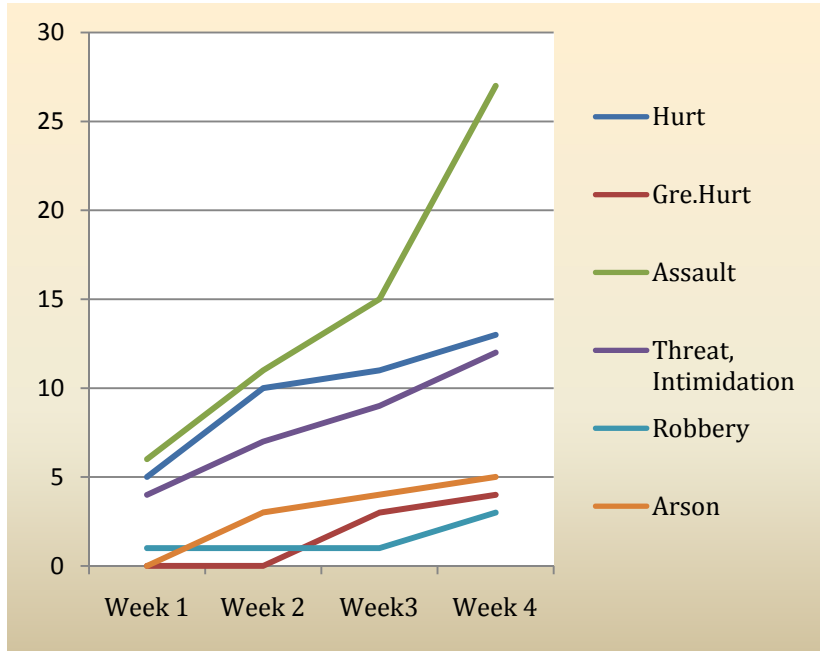
There is a noticeable increase of assaults, grievous hurts, threats and intimidations, robberies and arsons. CMEV firmly believes that the emerging situation will not be helpful in any way to conduct the election in a free and fair manner.

Of the 110 complaints received by CMEV 73 are against UPFA, 6



against UNP and 2 against JVP and 29 complaints are against unidentified political parties or individuals.

It is interesting to note that there are 14 complaints made by UPFA candidates against their own group. UPFA made 5 complaints against UNP, 2 against JVP and 10 against unidentified groups. Serious competition among UPFA candidates for preference votes contributes to the increase of complaints against their own party members.



UNP made 36 complaints against UPFA and one against their own candidates. There are 8 more complaints against unidentified groups.

JVP made 20 complaints against UPFA and 8 against unidentified groups.

Therefore CMEV requests all political parties and independent groups to take immediate steps to arrest this situation. CMEV also believes that the Police and other concern institutions will take necessary actions to strictly implement the election law.

CMEV received confirmation from Assistance Election commissioners that they are processing to issue temporary identity cards and already issued 59010 temporary identity cards. Of the temporary identity cards issued 15,653 in Kandy district, 5,000 in Matale district, 11,577 in Nuwara Eliya 20,750 in Kurunegala, 6,030 in Putlam district.

CMEV emphasize that the manipulation of the media during the election campaign by the ruling party to its advantage is a clear violation of election laws.

We have already completed preparatory arrangements to monitor the election and will deploy 645 one day monitors to cover the election. In addition we will appoint 32 mobile monitors and 45 field monitors to cover at least 70% of polling booths.

We request all parties concern to extend their cooperation and support to our monitors to carry out their duties without any obstacle.

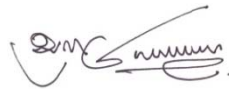
Following telephone numbers at CMEV are available throughout the Election Day for voters, political parties and independent groups to report any information of election related violence.

General: 011 2564404  
Emergency: 077 3273278  
Central Province: 060 2030462  
North Western Pr: 060 2030463  
Fax: 011 4722632

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 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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CO - CONVENOR.



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