

CENTRE FOR MONITORING ELECTION VIOLENCE

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Presidential Election – 2010

Media Communiqué No. 16

19th January 2010

As of 19th January 2010, CMEV has confirmed a cumulative total of 658 incidents of election related violence of which 295 incidents have been categorized as Major. Of these, 5 incidents are Murders, 5 are Attempted Murders, 78 are Assault, 81 are Threat and Intimidation, 30 are Grievous Hurts, 35 are Hurts, 36 are cases of Misuse of State Resources and 12 are Robberies and 13 are Arsons. The total number of incidents involving the use of firearms is 95. In addition, 363 incidents have been categorized as Minor.

Central Province

Murder in Matale

When contacted regarding a fax received from Sirikotha, a Duty Officer of the Kandy Police Crime Branch told CMEV that the body of Mr. Lingeswaran of Warapitiya, Matale had been found by the Kandy - Matale railroad yesterday. He added that the victim's sister had identified the body to be that of Mr. Lingeswaran. However, he stated that no action will be taken until Mr. Lingeswaran's wife also identifies the body. The body currently remains at the Kandy Hospital Mortuary. According to Mr. Lingeswaran's neighbour Mr. Jayathilake, Mr. Lingeswaran's wife has been asked to come to the Kandy Police at 8.00am tomorrow morning.

According to Matale Police OIC Crimes Branch IP Jayampathi, Mr. Lingeswaran was a minor staff member at the Matale Municipal Council. He added that on the 17th of January, Mr. Lingeswaran's wife had lodged a complaint bearing the number CIB I - 229/329, that Mr. Lingeswaran was missing since the 15th of January. He stated that the initial complaint was not lodged as election related, adding that any further details regarding the death can only be known following the Magistrate inquiry, which is due to take place tomorrow.

When contacted, a staff member of the Kamagawa Holiday Circuit which belongs to the Matale Municipal Council, confirmed to CMEV that Mr. Lingeswaran was an employee there, and that he had obtained leave on the 15th of January. Mr. Lingeswaran's

neighbour Mr. Jayathilake and several other residents of the area confirmed to CMEV that Mr. Lingeswaran was amongst those who traveled around Warapitiya on the 15th, in a vehicle bearing a loudspeaker, announcing General Fonseka's rally.

When contacted, Member of Parliament Mr. Ranjith Aluvihare told CMEV that during General Fonseka's rally held on the 15th in Matale, Mr. Lingeswaran had been drunk and screamed derogatory statements against President Rajapaksa. He added that when Mr. Lingeswaran returned to the Matale Municipal Council after the rally, he had been assaulted by Deputy Mayor of the Matale Municipal Council Mr. Palitha Jayasekera making reference to Mr. Lingeswaran behaviour at the rally earlier. Mr. Lingeswaran had not returned home that night, at which point his wife lodged the complaint.

When contacted, Deputy Mayor Mr. Jayasekera told CMEV that he had received information that the body has been identified as that of Mr. Lingeswaran. He denied the allegations of assault and also categorically denied any involvement in Mr. Lingeswaran death.

Eastern Province

Attempted Murder in Ampara

According to SLMC Akkaraipattu Organizer Mr. Uvais, at approximately 3.10am this morning, a shooting had taken place at the NDF party office located on Anbu Street, Akkaraipattu, during which SLMC supporter Mr. M.G.M.S. Rifaz suffered gunshot wounds to his upper left thigh. Mr. Rifaz is presently receiving treatment in ward number 5 of the Akkaraipattu Base Hospital as confirmed by an Officer of the Akkaraipattu Hospital Police, who refused provide his name, but confirmed Mr. Rifaz's injuries.

According to a staff member at the SLMC office Mr. K.L. Ibrahim, the attackers had been identified as Mr. Thaufeeq, Mr. Raja, Mr. Khalith and Mr. Rizwan, who are NC supporters. He added that a complaint was lodged at the Akkaraipattu Police by Mr. Rifaz's brother Mr. Irfan, bearing the number 39210, and the complaint was taken by an Officer with the identification number PC15865.

CMEV has often tried to obtain information form the Akkaraipattu Police but was refused information on several previous occasions, this occasion being no different.

When contacted, the Media Spokesperson of the Police I.M. Karunarathne confirmed to CMEV that a complaint regarding the incident has been lodged at the Akkaraipattu Police, but refused to confirm if it was recorded as CIB (Crimes Information Book) or EIB (Elections Information Book).

When contacted, Akkaraipattu National Congress Organizer Mr. Amanullah and Akkaraipattu Provincial Councilor Mr. Uthumalebbe told CMEV that they were at a meeting and were therefore unable to provide any information.

Southern Province

2 Attempted Murders in Hambantota

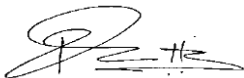
According to Hambantota Pradeshiya Sabha Opposition Leader Mr. Kamal Samararatne (UNP), at approximately 10.30pm last night, UNP supporters Mr. K.A. Cyril and Mr. W. Indrapala were shot at using a Muzzle Loading Gun (Cap Gun) in the Pahala Andaraweve area by unknown persons. According to the CMEV monitor, the two victims are presently receiving treatment in ward 4 of the Hambantota Hospital. Mr. K.A. Cyril has been grazed by a bullet at the back of his neck, while Mr. W. Indrapala was shot in the calf of his leg. According to a nurse at the hospital, Mr. Indrapala was due to undergo surgery this morning, in order to remove the bullet lodged in his calf. Mr. Cyril, Mr. Indrapala, and 6 others were returning from General Fonseka's rally at the time. The others have not suffered any injuries.

According to OIC of the Hambantota Police L.A.D. Rathnaweera, the weapon has been identified as a Cap Gun based on the pellets located at the scene. OIC Rathnaweera added that the incident had taken place in a sparsely populated area that was frequented by hunters, and that the shooting may have been accidental. A complaint has been lodged at 11.45pm by Mr. H.I. Saman Priyankara, bearing the number EIB 2/10 with regards to the above incident.

When contacted, Mr. Priyankara told CMEV that the shooting had taken place in a dark and sparsely populated area, that they did not see the attackers, and that they did not have anyone they suspected of the attack.

All CMEV reports and communiqués and the CMEV Incidents Google Map can be accessed online at <http://cmev.wordpress.com>

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.



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