

Provincial Council Elections
North-Central and Sabaragamuwa Provincial Councils
23rd August, 2008

THIRD INTERIM REPORT
21st August, 2008

It is only a short period of two days left for the election of Provincial Council Members for two provinces of North-central and Sabaragamuwa. In the introduction of the report that we had released three days back on this particular election, we had stated that severe stress, uneasiness and antagonism that is evident only in a General Elections or in a Presidential Elections prevail in entire two provinces. This stress and antagonism could be seen as getting exploded. There is a tendency that this situation may become aggravated by the election day. In this manner, a background has been created to compel us to release another interim report within three days.

As stated in our report dated 19th August, 2008, total number of reported cases of violation of the law was 128. But that figure has risen all of a sudden to 158. In other words, number of election violation activities has risen by 35, within three days. It is not necessary to mention specifically here that this is an evil situation. What are the reasons that have caused this situation? During last three days, a clearly visible change has taken place in two provinces where the election is taken place. That is, the release of violence also by the opposition political parties including the United National Party, which is the main opposition and the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna. Accordingly, it is to the United National Party that the allegations are directed on shooting at and seriously injuring the

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Coordinating Officer of a Minister of the UPFA and damaging and blazing his vehicle. During last three days, we received reports on number of violent acts done by the supporters of the United National Party and reciprocal acts done by the supporters of the U.P.F.A. One such an example is the burning of a house of a doctor, which was the Anuradhapura town party office of the United National party, and destruction of vehicles which were parked there, as reciprocal to a shooting done by the supporters of the United National Party at the people who attended the meeting of the U.P.F.A., which was held at Kada Panaha area. Details of similar incidents are given below.

- It is reported that attacking and shooting were done by the supporters of the United National Party at a group of people of the U. P. F. A. at the Karandupotha area of Kegalle.
- It is revealed by Police reports that the vehicle in which the former Minister of Health of the North-central Provincial Council was travelling, was shot at by the supporters of the United National Party, at Kekirawa bus stand.
- An office of the United Peoples' Freedom Alliance at Maradankadawala, Kekirawa, was burned down on 20th August. Rowdy group of about 50 armed persons had come for this act.
- Some group of persons had shot at and attacked the house located at Kumbichchankulam, of a U. N. P. candidate of the Anuradhapura District and had damaged 5 houses nearby.
- It is reported to us that number of election offices of the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna at Anuradhapura District had been destroyed in the night of 20.08..2008. Reports are being received that these attacks directed at the offices of Nochchiyagama, Vilachchiya Junction,

Thambuththegama and 8th Mile Post, Saliyapura, Anuradhapura were done by the supporters of the United National Party.

- A brother of the Minister of Mahaweli Developmet, who was seriously injured at a clash between the supporters of the U. N. P. and United Peoples' Freedom Alliance, which had taken place at Bandiwewa area of Polonnaruwa, at around 10.30 pm. on 20.08.2008, has been admitted to the General Hospital, Colombo.
- As observable from these incidents, the opposition led by the U.N.P. also had started attacking the supporters of the government. Accordingly, these both parties are now involved in a frantic struggle to win the election.

It may not be necessary to repeat that the main responsibility of taking steps to prevent the heightening of this situation and to appease the situation is rested ion the Police. But, we observe that the intervention of the Police is not sufficient. Therefore, we request the Department of Police to take fruitful action to control political conflicts that are being taken place in these two provinces. At this eleventh hour, we appeal to all political parties not to turn this provincial council election in to an election in which only the violence rules, and shrug justice and law off in fear, as taken place at infamous Mahara by-election, Anamaduwa by-election and North-western Provincial Election. It is an appeal on behalf of the democracy of this country and to protect a decent country for the future young generation. If coercion in place of the free will and the use of bullet in place of the ballot persist, the election day will dawn and end as a day of very bleak and with brutality. We request all political parties to act in exemplar manner, with controlling their own supporters, to avoid such a dirty and stained environment.

(A note with analytical data on incidents that have taken place up to now is annexed.)

Provincial Council Elections - 2008
Complaints received
from the nomination date of North-east and Sabaragamuwa Provincial
Councils
Up to 21/08/2008

Nature of Incidents	Anuradhapura	Polonnaruwa	North-Central (Total)	Rathnapura	Kegalle	Sabaragamuwa (Total)	GRAND TOTAL
Attend to Murder				1		1	1
Beating	14	13	27	11	11	22	49
Threatening and Frightening	6	8	14	1	4	5	19
Damages to immovable Properties (including the Shooting)	1		1	1	1	2	3
Damages to movable properties	14		14		1	1	15
Destruction and arson of political party offices	23	3	26	2	3	5	31

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Destroying decorations	0	10	10	1		1	11
Disturbances to political campaigns	1	1	2				2
Misuse of Government properties	3	8	11	10	1	11	22
Misuse of government authority	1	2	3	2		2	5
Entertaining the Voters with Political Aims				1		1	1
Other	1	1	2	2		2	4
TOTAL	64	46	110	32	21	53	163