



PAFFREL

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PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR FREE & FAIR ELECTIONS

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PAFFREL REPORT ON THE RE-POLLING IN NAWALAPITIYA AND TRINCOMALEE ELECTORATES, April 20, 2010

The election results in the in 37 polling stations in the Nawalapitiya electorate and in one polling station in the Trincomalee electorate were annulled by the Elections Commissioner immediately following the conduct of the General Elections on April 8, 2010. This was on account of the serious irregularities that took place in the course of polling on that day and which were reported by elections officials and independent election observers. In its Election Day report, PAFFREL too pointed out to the serious violations in the Nawalapitiya electorate based on reports from its observers.

At the re-poll that took place on April 20 in accordance with the decision of the Election Commissioner, an electorate of 50,948 in Nawalapitiya and 977 in Trincomalee were entitled to cast their votes. Approximately 55-60 percent of eligible voters in Nawalapitiya and 46 percent in Trincomalee cast their votes.

During the re-poll PAFFREL deployed five mobile vehicle teams and 37 stationary observers in Nawalapitiya and one mobile vehicle team and 1 stationary observer in Trincomalee.

The overall observation was of a relatively peaceful, uneventful election. It was conducted under the strong presence of Police and police officers from the Special Task Force who were deployed in large numbers in the vicinity of the polling booths set up in the 38 areas where a re-poll was called for today 20 April 2010. Police in strong numbers was also observed in Nawalapitiya town, and along the main and side roads leading to polling stations. The presence of the Special Task Force was also heavy in the estates in this electoral area. The vote was peaceful, with no events of irregularities witnessed by our observers.

PAFFREL is gratified at the Election Commissioner's decision to annul the polls in these two electorates due to the scale of violations that took place on the day of the General Elections. In addition, we appreciate that he ensured a strong presence of senior election officers to conduct the elections. The police too deployed senior officers in large numbers to ensure that law and order was maintained. We believe that similar actions in the future will act as a deterrent on those who seek to use violence and unfair means to further their electoral prospects.

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