



## Presidential Election 2015:

### **Analysis of Violations and Violence from 7 am to 4 pm on Election Day**

Voting on the 2015 Presidential Election ended today at 4.00 pm. News reports suggest that the voter turnout was high. The Election Commissioner's official statement on the total voter turnout has yet to be announced.

There were 82 confirmed electoral violations reported at the end of voting today. There were also 74 unconfirmed violations recorded by PAFFREL as at 4 pm. These were related to 150 incidents. Due to the high volume violations recorded (on Election Day), PAFFREL is currently in the process of confirming some of the incidents that have been reported. The actual examples of violations recorded at the end of this report are those confirmed as at 4.00 pm today.

There were nine cases of assault, including three serious cases, one in Ratnapura involving a Minister that required the hospitalisation of several persons. Many incidents indicate continuing campaigning in violation of electoral laws and inducements to vote. A hand grenade exploded near a polling station in Jaffna and another explosion in Vavuniya, with no casualties was reported. There was one incident of damage to property reported from Galle. The presence of Samurdhi officers in illegal campaigning efforts was also notable.

A total of 43 incidents of voter intimidation were reported during the day. Of them, 20 violations were confirmed as at 4.00pm. In this category the Western Province had 10 violations of which 5 were confirmed. The Central Province came in second place with a total of 9 complaints, of which 5 violations could be confirmed by the end of the voting period. The North Western Province reported a total of 5 violations, of which 2 were confirmed. Sabaragamuwa and Northern Provinces had 4 violations each. Illegal campaign activities amounted to 31 violations of which 19 were confirmed. The Western Province had 6 violations in this category, of which 4 were confirmed. Of that, Colombo had 2 violations. The Southern, Central, Uva and North Western Provinces reported 3 violations each in this category (this includes both confirmed and unconfirmed violations).

In terms of violations reported from provinces, the Western Province had the most number of violations at 37. This include 14 confirmed and 23 unconfirmed violations. At the district level, Gampaha had 18 violations (5 confirmed, 13 unconfirmed), Colombo had a total of 11 violations (6 confirmed, 5 unconfirmed) and Kalutara 8 (3 confirmed, 5 unconfirmed). The Central Province had a total of 21 violations, 13 confirmed, 8 unconfirmed with Kandy coming into first place at the district level with 15 violations (7 confirmed, 8 unconfirmed). The Southern Province followed closely with 20 violations, 12 confirmed and 8 unconfirmed. In



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the South, Galle and Matara have 9 violations each (6 confirmed in Galle and 5 confirmed in Matara). The North Western Province has 18 violations reported, with 6 confirmed. In both Puttlam and Kurunagala, 3 violations have been confirmed whilst 6 are yet to be confirmed. The Sabaragamuwa and Northern Provinces have 11 violations each reported (both confirmed and unconfirmed) followed by Uva with 10.

**Actual examples of violations recorded under separate categories as at 4.00 pm on Election Day:**

**Assault**

Ratnapura, Kahawatta – UPFA parliamentarian Ranjith Soysa, Godakawela PS member and a group of supporters assaulted supporters of NDF candidate. Eight hospitalised.

Anuradhapura, Mihintale, Narajagalagama – Chief Minister S.M. Chandrasena assaulted a group of persons near the polling centre. One person hospitalised.

Digamadulla, Thirukovil – Member of TNA, Vijayaraja, was assaulted outside Thirukovil People’s Bank.

Moneragala, Bibile – Minister Wijemuni Soysa and supporters assaulted supporters of NDF candidate and fired into the air with a weapon.

Galle, Hiniduma – Samurdhi officer and PS member assaulted supporters of NDF candidate.

Puttalam, Anamaduwa – Resident of Mundalama supporting NDF candidate assaulted by a group calling itself Kivila Youth Group along with others at his residence. This same person was assaulted by the same group on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Matale, Yatawatta – Attack on UNP member Wasantha Aluvihare’s vehicle in which one of the occupants suffered injury and was admitted to hospital. Attack carried out by Pradeshiya Sabha member, Lal Attanayake and his supporters.

**Use of Explosives to Intimidate**

Jaffna, Point Pedro – An explosion near a polling centre in Point Pedro.

Nelunkulam, Vavuniya – Explosion near Kalaimagal Vidyalaya.

**Damage to Property**

Galle, Habaraduwa, Wetaramba – People in six defenders damaged the house of former UNP PS member.



Ampara, Pottuvil – Vehicle of SLMC member attacked by UPFA supporters in Akkaraipattu.

### **Voter Influencing**

Colombo, Kesbewa, Mahakandana West Grama Niladari division – Samurdhi bank employees were inside the polling centre, not on official duty.

Galle, Ambalangoda – Deputy Mayor Amal stopped his vehicle near the polling centre and told people to vote for Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Hambantota, Meedeniya – UPFA campaign office near Galpothayaya Bodiya voters given kiribath from morning.

Matara, Dickwella – Samurdhi recipients of Maliedda given money at Dickwella Samurdhi Zonal Office.

Anuradhapura – Mayor of Anuradhapura went round to polling stations in the area intimidating and chasing voters.

Gampaha, Attanagalla – Voters registered at the Eluwapitiya Polling centre were urged to vote for the UPFA candidate by supporters stationed near the centre.

Monaragala, Monaragala – Two persons near the co-op council building polling centre near Hulandawa junction urged voters to vote for a particular candidate.

Monaragala, Buttala – Supporters of the UPFA candidate canvassed voters to vote in favour of the UPFA candidate.

### **Inducements**

Ratnapura, Kuruwita – Samurdhi officers in three-wheelers displaying a sticker saying Suba Anagathayak transporting voters to the polling centre where they have been given Rs 1,000.

Kilinochchi, Kilinochchi – Alcohol distributed at 57 (1) Polling Centre.

### **Violations Related to Voting Process**

Galle, Ambalawatha, Welipotha Vihare – Distributing replicas of the ballot papers.

Ratnapura, Godakawela – Persons distributing forged ballot papers near Pallebedda Ambavilla polling centre. Police have arrested one person.

Matara, Matara – Voter at Heketiya Rajamaha Vihare polling centre found his vote had already been cast.

Kalutara, Matugama – Police took into custody a double cab and its occupants carrying forged ballot papers.



### **Intimidation**

Talaimannar, Mannar – People in a three-wheeler threatened voters saying they should vote for Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Jaffna, Jaffna, Kandarmadam – Three suspicious people hanging around outside the Hindu Balika Vidyalaya polling centre.

Nuwara Eliya, Nawalapitiya, Nawalapitiya Junior Girls School – Supporters of Government Minister Mahindanada Aluthgamage preventing voters from going to vote.

Galle, Ratgama – A voter going to vote at the Dodamduwa Ratgama Rohana Balika Vidyalaya was threatened by the Grama Sevaka and another.

Kilinochchi, Kandavalai – Samurdhi officer stationed himself 50 metres away from the Kandavalai-Punnai-Thiravi school polling centre with a group of people and threatened voters urging them to vote for the UPFA candidate. He also distributed alcohol. Police officers failed to take action.

### **Voter Harassment**

Polonnaruwa, Polonnaruwa – Harassment of voters outside Welikanda, Bowathagama, Susirigama polling centre

### **Obstruction of Voters**

Mahanuwara, Gampola – A person by the name of Gamini obstructed roads to polling stations to stop voters from voting.

Kandy, Labumdeniya – UPFA supporters obstructed access to polling centres. Groups place themselves on connecting roads preventing voters from proceeding to polling centres.

### **Abuse of State Resources**

Re-telecasting interview with Dr. Dayan Jayatilleke over SLBC.

Batticaloa, Kalkudah, Valachchenai – Food and alcohol stored at the National Paper Corporation

Island wide – Message sent through Mobitel saying “Let’s vote for Mahinda for nation’s consistency, stability, sustainability in a secured nation (Bulath Kolaya)”.

Islandwide–Rupavahini broadcasting war in Sri Lanka drawing parallels with wars abroad.



Colombo, Piliyandala – Calls on SLT lines requesting voters to vote for UPFA candidate

Using media Swarnavahini displaying BulathKolaya (islandwide).

### **Denied Right to Vote**

Colombo, Kaduwela, Sri Sumanatissa Kanishta Vidyalaya – Seven voters found that names on the ID card and names on the polling card were different.

Matara, Devundera, Devundera Abeysekeramaya – a voter who went to vote was turned away saying his vote had been cast.

Matara, Kimbulgoda – A woman using her passport as authentication of identity was refused the right to vote.

### **Illegal Campaigning**

Nuwara Eliya, Nuwara Eliya – UNP politician distributed leaflets outside the Ambagamuwa Vidulipura polling centre.

Matara, Hakmana – Distribution of defamatory leaflets near polling centre at PallawelaMahaVidyalaya.

Kurunegala, Nikaweratiya – Cutouts of UPFA candidate remain outside NikaweratiyaWelandaPiyasa.

Agalawatte, Kalutara, Meegahathenna polling centre 45 – Posters in vicinity of polling centre have not been removed.

Jaffna, Chavakachcheri, Kachchal Tamil mixed school – 50 metres to the right of the school there are people standing outside urging people to vote for Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Gampaha, Attanagalle, Yatiyana polling centre at the Yatiyana Junior School – There was no police protection near gate. Group campaigning for Rajapaksa near gate of school.

Moneragala, Wellawaya – UPFA PS member and others are campaigning for Rajapaksa.

Badulla, Badulla Mailagaathenna Rahula Vidyalaya – Samurdhi officer and others inside a van outside the polling centre urging voters to vote for Rajapaksa. Van has a poster of Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Jaffna, Karachchi Urulharam Maha Vidyalaya – UPFA symbol displayed.

Leaflets on display urging vote for UPFA candidate (islandwide).



Hambantota, Hambantota Mirijawilla – Mahinda Rajapaksa cutout on display at junction. A few days before it had been covered, cover now removed.

Ratnapura, Rakwana, Muttetigama polling station 61 – Two Samurdhi officers urging voters to vote for UPFA candidate.

Anuradhapura, Thambuttegama – Four people outside Kalundagama Cultural Centre urging voters to vote for NDF candidate.

Kurunegala, Polhawela – 100 to 150 metres away from Adargala Pothgul Rajamahavihara polling centre former Grama Sevakas are making comments on who voters should vote for.

Ampara, Pottuvil, Uddalachchenai polling centre – On list displaying candidates names and symbols, a cross was marked in front of Mahinda Rajapaksa's name.

Mahanuwara, Mahanuwaru – Leaflets being distributed near St Anthony's polling centre in Katugasthota.

Gampaha, Ragama – Provincial Councillor Neal Indika distributed leaflets urging people to vote for UPFA candidate.

Badulla, Badulla – Alcohol was distributed by a group in a Prado bearing a sticker with the image of the UPFA candidate.

Islandwide – Muslim voters were urged through a religious programme 'Muslim Saiviyar' broadcast over SLBC to not vote for the NDF candidate.

Islandwide –SMSs sent through Dialog mobile network to some connection holders, a message requesting that the vote be cast in favour of the UPFA candidate.

### **Access to Vote**

Puttalam, Mannar – Displaced people located in Mannar not given transport to go and vote. No private buses or CTB buses running. Police informed but no steps taken.

### **Violations of Voting Process**

Ratnapura, Eheliyagoda, Bodimaluwa Vidyalaya – People who came with ID cards but without polling cards were turned away by the police.

Galle, Hiniduma, Ulugama – Police have taken into custody a three-wheeler carrying forged ballot papers.



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Mahanuwara, Harispattuwa, Vidyananda Pirivena polling centre – A person with disabilities who came to vote was guided to vote for Bulathkolaya.

Badulla, Viyaluwa – Distribution of forged ballot papers.

Gampaha, Biyagama – Voter reported that his vote had been cast.

Nuwera Eliya, Nawalapitiya, Ulapone– Polling card had been forcibly taken from voter by those who came in a vehicle.

Gampaha, Mihirigama, Palewela Maha Vidyalaya polling booths 1 and 2 – People who came to vote given forged ballot papers which had already been marked (PAFFREL mobile).

Colombo, Homagama – Unauthorised person present in vicinity of Kirivanthuduwa and Siyabalagoda Junior School.

**Other**

Kalutara, Horana, Pokunuvita Sirimevan Vidyalaya – The polling booth arranged in such a way that it enables officials to see how the person is voting.

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