

# Repression of Dissent in Sri Lanka

22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2014 – 31 January 2015  
Presidential Election Coverage



Journalists, Trade Unionists and HR defenders protest suppression of freedom of expression during the election campaign (12 Dec 2014 Vikalpa Photo)

## INFORM

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## Issues Covered

This issue covers period from 22<sup>nd</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> January and records some of the reported Presidential Election related violence under following sub categories

### **A. Killings, Shootings, Assaults**

### **B. Death Threats & other Threats**

### **C. Attacks on Residences, Party offices, Business Establishments & Vehicles**

### **D. Violations of Freedom of Assembly and Expression**

### **E. Attacks, Threats and Restrictions to Polling Agents and Election Monitors**

*INFORM was established in 1990 to monitor and document human rights situation in Sri Lanka, especially in the context of the ethnic conflict and war, and to report on the situation through written and oral interventions at the local, national and international level. INFORM also focused on working with other communities whose rights were frequently and systematically violated. Presently, INFORM is focusing on election monitoring, freedom expression and human rights defenders. INFORM is based in Colombo Sri Lanka, and works closely with local activists, groups and networks as well as regional (Asian) and international human rights networks*

## Summary:

2014 was a year that saw large scale repression of dissent. Then, on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, based on a request by the then President Rajapakse, the Elections Commissioner announced that presidential elections would be held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015. A few days before, Rajapakse's Health Minister, and General Secretary of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, announced that he will contest the presidential elections as the "Common Opposition Candidate", representing the National Democratic Front (NDF).

From then onwards, many politicians from the ruling United Peoples Freedom Alliance (UPFA) started to defect and pledged support to Sirisena. The main opposition, the United National Party (UNP), two small but influential parties with the Sinhalese – Buddhist population, the Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU) and the Democratic Party (DP), also pledged their support to Sirisena. The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), also influential with rural Sinhalese – Buddhists, effectively supported the Sirisena camp without explicitly saying so, with their vocal and consistent critique of the Rajapakse regime. Later, the two main parties representing the minorities, the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) and the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) also pledged support to Sirisena. Lawyers, Academics, Artists, Journalists, NGOs and influential Buddhist and Christian clergy also started to support the Sirisena campaign covertly and overtly.

Thus, the Rajapakse camp were left with state media, state resources, military, police and other state institutions to back up their campaign. This report doesn't cover the widespread use and abuse of state resources by the Rajapakse camp, but focuses on the repression of opposition political politicians, their supporters, and academics, artists, human rights activists, journalists which began from the time elections were announced. The main opposition candidate and his two most high profile supporters, the opposition leader and former president were themselves attacked. At least two persons were killed in election related violence and many were injured. Many also got death threats. There were also number of attacks on party officers, houses, business establishments and vehicles belonging to opposition politicians and their supporters. Polling Agents and Election monitors were also attacked and threatened. Senior journalists were subjected to interrogation and death threats. Artists and human rights defenders who were supporting the Common Opposition candidate were also attacked and threatened.

The vast majority of victims of election violence till the election day were supporters of the Common Opposition candidate. Electoral violence pattern changed dramatically after the victory of the Common Opposition candidate. The days after the elections saw high profile supporters of the losing candidate, former President Rajapakse, complaining of death threats, intimidations and of witch hunt alleging violence, corruption and other malpractices. These included the President's son, himself a Member of Parliament. Supporters of President Rajapakse and their properties were attacked. Within weeks, lawyers and civil society led agitations finally led to restoration in office of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Chief Justice, who was impeached unconstitutionally under the Rajapakse regime.

Isolated incidents of hounding Tamil activists were reported in the North after elections. But overall, towards latter part of January, reports of incidents of repression of dissent reduced dramatically compared to 2014.



No Violence Poster by CMEV

## A. Killings, Shootings, Assaults

### 1. 11<sup>th</sup> January : **NDF supporter Attacked**

A supporter of President Maithripala Sirisena was attacked. According to the victim Mr. Jeyarathnam a group of Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal supporters had cut his hand using a sharp knife and had threatened him and demanded to know who the supporters of Mr Sirisena are. (CMEV)

### 2. 11th January : **UNP convoy Attacked**

An assault took place in Pathadumbara in Kandy on a convoy led by United National Party (UNP) local leader A.G. Wijethunga. The convoy had been leaving a meeting addressed by President Maithripala Sirisena when it was attacked. According to Mr Wijethunga, about 30 supporters of United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) Pradeshiya Sabha member had halted the bus and attacked it. 9 individuals had been admitted to the Jambugasipitiya Hospital and later transferred to Peradeniya Hospital. A Police complaint had been filed under CIB 11169/130. According to Wategama Police Station that three suspects were arrested and 8 persons were receiving treatment at the Peradeniya Hospital. (CMEV)

### 3. 10<sup>th</sup> January: **One UNP supporter killed, three injured in Clash**

Six UNP supporters including Warnakulasuriya Manjula Prasanna had driven from Bangadeniya to Kumbutukuliya at about 1.50pm and visited J.R Sarath, a supporter of UPFA, and his son. A clash ensued between the two parties in which Manjula Prasanna received injuries to his head. He subsequently succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead on the same day at the Chilaw base Hospital. (CMEV)

### 4. 10th January : **UPFA supporter's family Attacked**

10 – 12 vehicles had been driven to the residence of United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) supporter Sunith Gunasekara and assaulted his wife and mother. A police complaint had been filed under CIB III 107/135 at the Ja Ela Police Station and in it, the suspect is identified as United National Party (UNP) Urban Councillor Anju. (CMEV)

### 5. 08<sup>th</sup> January : **Two women Hit**

UPFA Deputy Minister Sarana Gunawardana and a group of supporters had hit two women, near the Yatiyana Junior School (Polling Centre no: 51) at approximately 1.00 pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January. It was



also reported that Deputy Minister Gunawardana and his group of supporters had been travelling in 7 vehicles in and around the area. (CMEV)

#### **6. 08<sup>th</sup> January : SLMC member Assaulted & Threatened**

Supporters of Minister A.L.M. Athula's (National Congress) have assaulted and threatened a Sri Lanka Muslim Congress member, Mr. Thalha in Akkaraipattu. Mr. Thalha has made a police complaint regarding this. (CMEV)

#### **7. 07<sup>th</sup> January : NDF supporter Dies of Gunshot Injuries**

The day prior to polling witnessed the first fatality of the Presidential Election of 2015. Mr Shantha Dodangoda who was critically injured in a shooting incident at Kahawatte, Ratnapura on the morning of Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January, died at 3.05 pm at the Ratnapura hospital. Although the Pelmadulla Magistrates Court issued an arrest warrant for Deputy Minister of Power & Energy, Premalal Jayasekera, Minister Nilantha Jayakodi and Pradeshiya Sabha Chairman Vajira Dharshana de Silva on 5<sup>th</sup> January, no arrests had taken place as of the 7<sup>th</sup>. (CMEV)

#### **8. 05<sup>th</sup> January : Three injured in Shooting Incident**

United National Party (UNP) supporters, preparing the grounds for a meeting to be addressed by the Common Presidential Candidate Maithripala Sirisena, were shot at by an unidentified group of people. According to Police OIC L.P.K. Rajamanthri, the three injured persons, D.I.W. Karunadasa Ranasinghe, H. Hussain Dulshan and Shantha Dodangoda received treatment at the Ratnapura Hospital. (CMEV)

#### **9. 05<sup>th</sup> January: UNP member Attacked**

Mr. Vajira Manoj, a member of the United National Party, was attacked on 5<sup>th</sup> of January and subsequently hospitalised at the Chillaw Hospital. In his statement to the hospital police Mr. Manoj stated that he was attacked by the driver of the UPFA Arachchikattuwa Pradeshiya Sabha Chairman, near the Arachchikattuwa market. (CMEV)

#### **10. 05<sup>th</sup> January: Persons at NDF office Threatened**

TMVP leader Mr. Chandrakanth, also known as "Pillayan" had allegedly threatened the people at a NDF office situated at Kalaivani Road, Karuvakkeni, in Valaichchenai, Batticaloa. According to reports, he has also threatened to murder Mr. P. Sulakshan of the NDF. CMEV was informed that Pillayan had with him a pistol at the time of making the threats. (CMEV)

#### **11. 05<sup>th</sup> January: UPFA campaign organiser Knifed**

UPFA Organiser Mr. Arumugam Chandrakumar (38 yrs) was knifed by two unknown individuals near the Navalar School in Kopai. Mr. Chandrakumar received knife wounds in the back and arm at approximately 9.20 pm on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January. According to the OIC of Kopai Police, Mr. I.P. Jayakodi, he was taken immediately to Kopai Hospital and subsequently transferred to the Jaffna Teaching Hospital at 10.05 pm for surgery. (CMEV)

#### **12. 28 Dec 2014: Opposition supporters Kidnapped & Assaulted**

A group of Common Opposition Candidate Maithripala Sirisena supporters were assaulted near Sivananda Ground, Batticaloa. The group was assaulted around 3.45 pm while they were preparing the stage for the Sirisena rally which is to be held at Batticaloa. A group of TMVP supporters had arrived and threatened UNP's Batticaloa organizer, K. Mogan and his supporters. One UNP supporter was kidnapped and two others who were brutally assaulted and hospitalized. (CaFFE)

**13.27 Dec 2014: Opposition supporters Assaulted**

A group of Sirisena supporters traveling in a three wheeler after attending a rally were assaulted in Namaneliya, Udahagoda. Two persons were severely assaulted. In addition Mahinda and Wanniarachchi, two staunch UNP supporters in Malwatte, and three of their associates, who joined Sirisena's propaganda activities, were threatened by a group of armed men traveling in motor cycles on December 27. The assailants had pointed firearms to the UNP supporters and demanded them to refrain from assisting Sirisena's campaign. (CaFFE)

**14.21 Dec 2014: Opposition supporters Assaulted**

A group of Common opposition supporters, who were pasting posters in Wellampitiya on December 21 announcing the Common Opposition Candidate's rally in Wellampitiya on December 24, were assaulted by a group arriving in a white van. The assailants were armed and two persons who were stabbed with a sharp object were hospitalized. (CaFFE)

**15.19 Dec 2014: Civilians Attacked and one Stripped Naked**

A group of civilians including Buddhist priests led by Rev Ampitiye SumanaratnaThero were attacked by the Police at around on 19<sup>th</sup> December in front of the Batticaloa Police Station. The group of civilians were protesting that their voting rights should be ensured when they were attacked. Sumanratana Thero had confirmed the incident saying "We are ashamed to have been assaulted and attacked, stripped naked, disrobed in front of senior police personnel including the DIG (Deputy Inspector General) of the area, Nandana Munasinghe and OIC (Officer in Charge) of the of the Batticaloa police, Chief Inspector Hettiarachchi."

[http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=116365](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=116365)



One protester was stripped naked by the Police ( Photo: CaFFE)

**16.09 Dec 2014: Opposition supporters Assaulted**

A group of Maithripala Sirisena supporters who were returning home after attending a rally in Kandy on December 9 were assaulted near Maha Palama, Katugastota. The assailants arrived in a cab and four persons, residents of Ambatenna, were admitted to Katugastota Hospital. Another group of supporters who were returning home in a bus were also attacked. (CaFFE)

**17.6<sup>th</sup> January : Family member of UNP supporter Attacked**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of January at approximately 6.00 pm a mob that came in search of a UNP supporter, Mr. Janaka Abeyratne, and attacked his family. (CMEV)

**18.05<sup>th</sup> January : UNP member Attacked**

Mr. Vajira Manoj, a member of the United National Party, was attacked on 5<sup>th</sup> of January and subsequently hospitalised at the Chillaw Hospital. In his statement to the hospital police Mr. Manoj stated that he was attacked by the driver of the UPFA Arachchikattuwa Pradeshiya Sabha Chairman, near the Arachchikattuwa market. (CMEV)

**19.24 Nov 2014: Opposition vehicle convoy Attacked**

A vehicle convoy of UNP North Western Provincial Council member H. C. Alavathuwela came under attack in Mawathagama in Kurunegala, where four vehicles in the convoy were damaged. One UNP Pradeshiya Sabha member was injured in the attack and admitted to hospital. (CaFFE / <http://www.thesundayleader.lk/2014/11/30/election-violence-and-violations/>)

**20.22 Nov 2014: Opposition supporters Shot at**

Soon after Mr. Maithripala Sirisena's crossover to the opposition, a shooting took place at Maggona at a function that was organized in support of the common candidate. Chamila Ranasinghe, a former UNP local government member was injured in the shooting. He was shot on his head and was rushed to the Nagoda Hospital and later transferred to the Neurosurgical Unit of the National Hospital Colombo.

(<http://www.thesundayleader.lk/2014/11/30/election-violence-and-violations/>)

**B. Death Threats & other Threats****21.14<sup>th</sup> January : Former President's son receive Death Threats**

UPFA Hambantota district Parliamentarian Namal Rajapaksa (son of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa) has complained to the Tangalle Police on 14th claiming that he had received death threats over the phone, the Police said. He had received calls from one number on four occasions between 11 p.m. to 12 midnight.

(<http://www.dailymirror.lk/61207/namal-receives-death-threats#sthash.zEn3OX9D.dpuf>)

**22.13 January: Politician's wife receives a Death Threat**

General Secretary of the Pivithuru Hela Urumaya Udaya Gammanpila has said that his wife has received a threatening phone call saying that if he doesn't abandon the political activity of the Pivithuru Hela Urumaya and leave the country within a week, their two children and he will be killed.

(<http://newsfirst.lk/english/2015/01/gammanpila-reveals-contents-telephone-call/71930>)

**23.11<sup>th</sup> January: UPFA supporter Threatened**

A supporter of the United National Party (UNP), Anura Bandara had threatened and attempted to hit UPFA supporter B.K Danuka Madushan in front of the UNP Party office in Galenbidunuwewa. (CMEV)

**24.10th January : NDF supporter Threatened**

Prof. Sujith Nissanka's life had been threatened by four unidentified people who had arrived in a double cab at the Kandy Sokanchi Primary School. Prof Nissanka had predicted the victory of President Maithripala Sirisena in a TV programme on Sirisa TV recently. A Police complaint had been filed under 119 CIB 314/11. (CMEV)

**25. 10<sup>th</sup> January: NDF supporter Threatened**

Unidentified gunmen had arrived at H.M. Priyanthi Hirukumari's (supporter of National Democratic Front) residence at about 8.30pm on 9<sup>th</sup> January in Nikaweriatiya and threatened her to not get involved in politics. She had been with her husband when the assailant had arrived and had called 119. (CMEV)



Brito Fernando speaking at a protest in Colombo (Vikalpa Photo)

**26. 04th January: Human Rights Defenders Intimidated**

Human rights defender, Mr. Brito Fernando along with his family returning home from an outing on the 4th of January discovered a plastic bag in which a severed head of a dog was hung on his gate. Fellow Right to Life staff member Mr. Prasanga Fernando also reported that he was subjected to the same treatment at his home. The victims believe that the possible reasons for the intimidation could be related to the commemoration of the disappeared, which was organized and carried out by the Right to Life organisation on the 27th of October 2014. Subsequent to this ceremony, posters with the faces of Right to Life staff members and other human rights activists were found all around the city of Negombo. The posters were captioned "Makara Raakshayo Athurudahan Wuwan Vikunagena Kai." (CMEV). Both these activists were involved in a street campaign called "Videye Virodaya (protest on the streets)" which was very critical of the then President Rajapaksa and seen as supporting the common opposition candidate and given the proximity to elections, this threat can be seen in relation that.



### C. Attacks on Places of Residences, Party offices, Business Establishments & Vehicles

#### 27. 12<sup>th</sup> January: UPFA supporter's residence Stoned

The residence of D.R. Asanthika Munaweera, a supporter of United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) living at 15/19C, Udawela Nawanagaraya was stoned at about 2 am. According to the victim, she and her two children had been at home at that time and her mother's house which was also nearby, had been stoned. (CMEV)

#### 28. 11<sup>th</sup> January: Tar attack on UPFA supporter's house

United People Freedom Alliance (UPFA) supporter B.G Premachandra's house located at No 534 Hurulunikawea, Galenbidunuwewa was attacked by two unidentified motorcyclists using tar around 10.30 pm. Mr.Premachandra informed CMEV that he has not filed a complaint with the Police. (CMEV)

#### 29. 11<sup>th</sup> January : Tar attack on UPFA supporter's house

United People Freedom Alliance (UPFA) supporter Noel Indika Premawansa's house was attacked by unidentified gang of people using tar around 1.30 am. According to Galenbidunuwewa police station, no complaint has been made with them. (CMEV)



An Opposition supporters three wheeler attacked (CaFFE photo)

**30. 11<sup>th</sup> January : Tar attack UPFA supporter's house**

United People Freedom Alliance (UPFA) supporter B.K.D Madushan's house located in No, 530, Hurulunikawewa, Galenbidunuwewa was attacked by an unidentified group of people using tar. According to the inquiry done from Galenbidunuwewa Police station they have not received any complaint regarding this incident. (CMEV)

**31. 11<sup>th</sup> January: Tar attack UPFA supporter's house**

There was also a tar attack on K.G Mallika's residence who is a supporter of UPFA was made by unknown persons. A white van with the number plate 64-6463 parked in the garden had been damaged in this attack along with the front and side walls of the house. A police complaint has not been filed. (CMEV)

**32. 11<sup>th</sup> January : NDF supporter's residence Attacked**

A group of people had broken into the house of D.M. Leelawathi and K.M. Karunarathne, supporters of New Democratic Front (NDF), at about 1.30 pm and attacked and wounded the residents including their two sons. The assailants had arrived in motorcycles carrying metal rods and attacked the four people in the house. Both parties suffered injuries in the fight that ensued, with one of the sons of the victims Sunil Premaratne (aged 32) rendered mute after severe head injuries. The victims have been taken to the Polonnaruwa Hospital while the assailants were taken to Welikanda Hospital for treatment. (CMEV)

**33. 11<sup>th</sup> January : UPFA supporter's house Burnt**

The residence of UPFA supporter Uruliyagamage Bandula had been burnt at about 10.30 pm by United National Party (UNP) supporters led by UNP Pradeshiya Sabha member Lalith Ananda. A Police complaint has been filed at the Madampe Police Station under MCR 66/62. (CMEV)

**34. 11th January : UPFA supporter's house Burnt**

The house belonged to United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) supporter Lionel Fernando in Rakvana was burnt. He suspects supporters of New Democratic Front (NDF) to be responsible for it. He has filed a complaint at the Rakwana Police Station under MOIB 138/62. (CMEV)

**35. 11<sup>th</sup> January: UPFA supporters residence Stoned**

The stoning of a residence in Polonnaruwa by a group of unknown people was reported. According to the resident, Anuradha Sandamali who is a supporter of United People Freedom Alliance (UPFA), the house had been repeatedly pelted with stones which caused damages to the house. A Police complaint had not been filed. (CMEV)

**36. 11th January: Tar attack UPFA supporter's house**

The residence of N.M Nawaratna Banda who is a United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) supporter (No 530, Hurulu Nikawewa, Galenbinduna Wewa) had been damaged by a tar attack by unknown people. (CMEV)

**37. 11<sup>th</sup> January : UPFA office Stoned**

A United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) office in Polonnaruwa was attacked by a group of unidentified people. Damages include the destroying of UPFA cutouts. (CMEV)

**38. 09<sup>th</sup> January : UPFA politician's house Broken Into**

In Yatinuwara, six people including Bobby Dassanayake had broken and entered in to the residence of K.V.S. Abeywickrama, a UPFA leader. The assailants had entered the house from the balcony, wounding the elder son Nipuna. A struggle ensued between the two parties with injuries to both of them. (CMEV)

**39.09<sup>th</sup> January : UPFA supporters house Broken Into**

It was reported to CMEV that the residence of A.G. Dilani Gaya Sanjiwani, a supporter of United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) was broken into by a group of people who had threatened the residents. A police complaint had been filed at the Aralaganwila Police Station under EIB 251/53 and in it, a person known as Dharmarathna, a supporter of New Democratic Front (NDF) has been named as a suspect. (CMEV)

**40.09<sup>th</sup> January : UPFA supporter's house Broken Into**

A similar incident took place on the same day at the residence of Dugganaralage Biso Manike, a supporter of United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA), when a group of unidentified people had broken into their residence at about 9.45pm and caused damages to property including doors and windows. A police complaint had been filed at the Aralaganwila Police Station under EIB 258/55. (CMEV)

**41.08<sup>th</sup> January : UPFA PS chairman's house Stoned**

Trincomalee Pradeshia Sabha Chairman Kapila Nuwan Athukorale's residence has been stoned by unknown persons. (CMEV)

**42.06<sup>th</sup> January : UNP supporter's business place Attacked**

The business place of a UNP supporter, Mr. Muthubandara was attacked on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, at Hali Ela, Badulla. According to the victim, the perpetrators had attacked "Anuradha Hotel" twice. Following the first attack, he had seen the attackers leaving the premises in a white Defender vehicle. The second attack was approximately 30 minutes after the first. The victim had identified the vehicle number plate as WP KB – 6570. The attackers had struck the victim with an iron pole and fired shots. (CMEV)

**43.06<sup>th</sup> January : UNP Supporter's house Attacked**

The house of a UNP supporter, Mr. V. Weerasinghe which is situated in Ettampitiya, was attacked during the early hours on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, damaging the windows, walls and the roof of the house. According to the victim, the suspects are alleged to be employees working under then Minister Dilan Perera at the Foreign Employment Bureau. (CMEV)

**44.06<sup>th</sup> January : UNP supporter's house Attacked**

The house of the Secretary of the Beliatta UNP Communications Department, Mr. S.H. Kamalsiri, was attacked on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January at approximately 11.45 pm. According to the complaint, shots had been fired and had hit the walls, as well as a three- wheeler, which was parked on the premises. (CMEV)

**45.06<sup>th</sup> January: Shooting damages houses of UNP supporters**

The houses of UNP member Mr. Samantha Padmasiri and supporter Mohamed Ismail Mohamed Distham was shot at after stones were thrown during the early hours on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January resulting in damage to walls and windows. Both victims have lodged complaints at the Pannala Police station under the entry numbers EIB 105/41 for Mr. Padmasiri and EIB 105/42 for Mr. Mohamed Distham. (CMEV)

**46.03<sup>rd</sup> January : Shots fired at NDF party office**

A New Democratic Front (NDF) party office in Polonnaruwa was attacked at about 6.30 pm. According to an eye -witness, about 50 armed individuals with T56s guns had arrived in about 10 Defenders and attacked the office. Damages include destruction of cut-outs and damage to a motorcycle and lorry that was parked in the vicinity. Three complaints were filed at the Aralaganwila Police Station. (CMEV)

**47.02<sup>nd</sup> January : Defecting UPFA politician's residence Shot at**

UPFA North Western Provincial Council Lakshman Wendaruwa's residence was shot at, at about 11.45 pm. This was hours after he had defected and pledged support to the Common Opposition candidate Sirisena. Two men who arrived in a jeep (number plate unknown) had shot Samarakoonge Abeykoon, driver of Mr. Wendaruwa. At the time, Mr. Wendaruwa was out at a meeting. The driver, who had heard a vehicle outside the gate, had gone out to open the gate when he was shot. He was taken to the Kuruenegala General Hospital and has undergone minor surgery for his injuries. (CMEV / <http://www.adaderana.lk/news/29287/shots-fired-at-lakshman-wendaruwas-home-1-injured>)

**48.01<sup>st</sup> January : UNP party residence Attacked**

An attack on United National Party (UNP) Beliatta electorate organizer W.B.Wimal Jayasiri's house at about 6.45pm was reported. According to Mr. Jayasiri, a group of six people arrived in motorcycles while he was at a meeting with three (03) UNP supporters at the above location. Four (04) armed individuals with T56s fired shots into the sky, removed campaign decorations in the vicinity, entered the house and damaged furniture, destroyed important documents and assaulted his wife A.M.P Priyanka, whose forehead was injured as a result. Four motorcycles parked in their residence were also damaged. (CMEV)

**49.28th December: UNP party office Attacked**

United National Party (UNP) office located at Mahiyangana, Midahangala junction, Badulla District and maintained by Provincial Councillor M Surasena was attacked on 28th around 10.00 pm. An unidentified group (about 15 people) had arrived in a red Defender, white Trooper jeep and a Navara cab for the attack. Four armed persons had fired shots towards the sky and had attacked six people who had been at the office at the time. One disabled soldier and two boys aged 13 and 15 respectively had also been there. According to Mr Surasena, five individuals have been injured with one person in a serious condition. (CMEV)

**50.28<sup>th</sup> December: UNP party office Attacked**

A group of people had attacked a United Minuwangoda, Gampaha District. Three 10x4 cutouts and six 12 feet iron poles were stolen. The UNP party office was maintained by Warnakilasuriya Henry Josephe Fernando. (CMEV)

**51.26<sup>th</sup> December: UNP party office Attacked**

A party office of the United National Party (UNP) at Manikitta, Kandy District and maintained by H.A Sisil Jayawardana was attacked by a group of unknown people on the night of 26<sup>th</sup> December. Further, several cut outs of Common Presidential Candidate Maithripala Sirisena in the vicinity were destroyed. (CMEV)

**52.26<sup>th</sup> December: NDF election office Bombed**

The election office of the Common Opposition Candidate at Sandiweli, Eravur was bombed around 11 pm. Police have been told that a group of TMVP members, party of former Chief Minister Pilleyan, carried out the attack.(CaFFE)

**53.24<sup>th</sup> December: UNP HQ Attacked**

The United National Party Head Quarters 'Sirikotha' had come under attack following a clash between UNP supporters and members of the Federation of National Organizations who were protesting there. The attack was carried out by the 'Federation of National Organizers (FNO)' an umbrella organization of Minister Wimal Weerawana, a main spokesman of the government. CaFFE stated that Police did not take any action against the FNO supporters when they commenced the attack.

(CaFFE / CMEV / <http://www.asianmirror.lk/news/item/5898-caffe-condemns-the-attack-on-sirikotha>)





Attackers were armed with wooden polls (Photo :CMEV)

#### **54.23<sup>rd</sup> December: UNP party office Attacked**

Two newly opened election offices of the UNP in Adigama and Palama Serukale of Anamaduwa, Puttalam District were attacked on 23<sup>rd</sup>. The attack was carried out by group of supporters of United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) North Western Provincial Councilor Mr Sanath Nishantha according to MP Palitha Range Bandara. (CMEV)

#### **55.08 Dec 2014: House of defecting UPFA supporter Bombed**

House of UPFA supporter GPHN Sarath Rathnasiri was bombed. He has met the brother of the Common Candidate last week and assured the support to Mr. Sirisena. The house was damaged by the attack and fragments from the bomb, foreign made, were found near the house. (CaFFE)



Bomb attack on the house ( Photo: CaFFE)

#### **56.07 Dec 2014: Vehicle of defecting UPFA MP's vehicle Stoned**

The vehicle of MP Hunais Farook who crossed over to the UNP was stoned on 07<sup>th</sup> Dec evening. The incident occurred after his vehicle collided with a motorcycle in Borella. Police claim that this incident was not politically motivated. (CaFFE)

#### **57.29 Nov 2014: Lorries belongs to Common Candidate's brother Attacked**

A lorry belonging to 'Araliya Sahal', owned by the Dudley Sirisena, a brother of Common Candidate Maithripla Sirisena has come under attack in Marandagahamula. The Lorry had transported Rice to Marandagahamula, which is the rice distributing centre of the country. The driver and the cleaner of the lorry was assailed by a motor cycle riding gang.

(<http://www.asianmirror.lk/news/item/5321-maithri-s-brother-dudley-sirisena-s-lorry-attacked-in-marandagahamula>)

BBC Sinhala service reports that unidentified group had stopped an another rice transport lorry belongs to Araliya group of Dudley Sirisena and taken away its keys.

([http://www.bbc.co.uk/sinhala/sri\\_lanka/2014/11/141129\\_maithree\\_attack\\_dudley](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sinhala/sri_lanka/2014/11/141129_maithree_attack_dudley))

### **D. Violation of Freedom of Assembly and Freedom of Expression**

#### **58.05<sup>th</sup> January : Shooting Incident while preparing a meeting ground for UNP**

United National Party (UNP) supporters, preparing the grounds for a meeting to be addressed by the Common Presidential Candidate Maithripala Sirisena, were shot at by an unidentified group of people. According to Police OIC L.P.K. Rajamanthri, the three injured persons, D.I.W. Karunadasa Ranasinghe, H. Hussain Dulshan and Shantha Dodangoda received treatment at the Ratnapura Hospital. (CMEV)

**59.02<sup>nd</sup> January : Common Candidate's rally Attacked**

A public meeting conducted by Common Presidential Candidate Maithripala Sirisena near Pelmadulla depot came under attack at about 7.20pm. As soon as the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Councillor Manjula Dias Wikramanayake's speech was concluded, assailants aimed stones at Mr Sirisena, who was soon ushered away by his security officers. Pelmadulla Electorate Organizer H.D.D Senaviratne was injured and later admitted to the Pelmadulla Base Hospital. Pelmadulla Base Hospital Medical Officer in Charge, Dr. Waruna Sampath confirmed that Mr Senaviratne had been admitted to Hospital and that he had sustained minor injuries to the head. (CMEV)

**60.29<sup>th</sup> December : Young Artistes Attacked**

Some young artistes were attacked by political goons while they were conducting a campaign in support of presidential candidate Maithripala Sirisena at Kumbukgate in Kurunegala. The young artistes' collective "Aluth Parapura" spokesman Udul Premaratne said they came under attack while distributing leaflets among the people. He said the attack was carried out in the presence of the Police officers who took no action to prevent the attack. "Around 11.30 a.m. we were distributing leaflets in Kumbukgate. After an hour some goons who arrived there attacked us. Actress Samanalee Fonseka and singer Indrachapa Liyanage were injured," he said. "Aluth Parapura" was formed by a group of young artistes against the existing political system. They started their campaign from Kurunegala on 29<sup>th</sup>.

<http://www.dailymirror.lk/59937/young-artistes-supporting-ms-attacked>

**61.28 Dec 2014: NDF stage fired at**

Meanwhile shots were fired at a stage built for Sirisena's December 27 rally in Walasmulla on December 28 mornings around 1.30 am. (CaFFE)

**62.27<sup>th</sup> December: UNP Rally Stoned**

A UNP rally in Akkareipattu to support the Common Opposition Candidate was pelted with stones twice between 7 and 8 pm. The stones were thrown when Opposition leader Wickremesinghe was speaking and one stone hit the microphone. However he continued with his speech (CaFFE)

**63.27<sup>th</sup> December: NDF state fired at**

Shots were fired at a stage built for NDF rally on December 27 at Walasmulla. (CaFFE)

**64.23<sup>rd</sup> December: NDF stage fired at**

Kolonnawa UNP organiser and provincial Councillor S.M. Marikkar had said that group of gunmen had arrived in a Defender and a van around 11.30 on December 23 and had shot using two firearms. (CMEV)

**65.24<sup>th</sup> December: NDF stage fired at**

A stage and meeting area that were in the process of being prepared for a rally of the Common Opposition Candidate Maithripala Sirisena at Umagiliya Playground, Colombo District was attacked by a group of people at on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Two jeeps and one van displaying posters of President Mahinda Rajapaksa had arrived and parked next to a jeep belonging to the Wellampitiya Police Station. One armed individual had got down from one of the vehicles and shot about 17 rounds from the firearm in the direction of the stage and its roof. Sub Inspector of the Wellampitiya Police Station Mr. Tennakoon and nine other police officers along with the group of people who were preparing the stage had to run for cover. (CMEV)

**66.22<sup>nd</sup> December : Anti Rajapakse Street drama troupe Attacked**

Opposition activists, including street drama troupe, 'Weediye Virodaya' were attacked at Hambantota by a goons led by Hambantota Mayor Eraj Ravindra Fernando. There were reports that Fernando was



armed and that he tried to kidnap one of the leaders of 'Weediye Virodaya' Jayathilaka Bandara Bandara. (CaFFE)



Singer and HR defender Jayathilaka Bandara is being helped by colleagues after he was assaulted

#### **67. 21<sup>st</sup> December: NDF Party supporters preparing for rally Attacked**

A group of NDF supporters who were pasting posters on December 21 announcing the Common Opposition Candidate's rally in Wellampitiya on December 24 were assaulted by a group that arrived in a white van. The assailants were armed and two persons who were stabbed with a sharp object were hospitalized. (CaFFE)

#### **68. 18 December: NDF stage burned in Wanduramba**

The stage that had been set up in the Baddegama, Wanduramba Electorate in the Galle District, by common candidate Sirisena's supporters for a rally and the public announcement system were set on fire by gang led by a Government politician.

(CaFFE / <https://www.ceylontoday.lk/51-80210-news-detail-maithris-wanduramba-election-stage-attacked.html>)





State set up for opposition rally in Wanduramba on 18th Dec was set on fire by a gang led by opposition politician  
( photo: Internet)

#### **69. 16<sup>th</sup> December: NDF stage attacked**

A group arrived on December 16 night had destroyed the decorations of the stage of NDF rally at Ahangama. Former Southern Provincial councillor of the UNP, Maithri Gunaratne said that a group of policemen threatened those who were decorating the stage. (CaFFE)

#### **70. 9<sup>th</sup> December: Hotel attacked for having a NDF meeting**

A hotel in Pallathalawinna, Kandy where former President Chandrika Bandaranaike held a meeting on December 9 was vandalized by a group arriving in Defender Jeeps. Windows of 21 rooms have been broken. (CMEV)

#### **71. 8<sup>th</sup> December: NDF supporters preparing for a rally Attacked**

A group of NDF supporters who were pasting posters announcing the December 9 rally in Kandy were assaulted at Kadugannawa on December 8. Around 30 men carried out the attack and former UNP provincial councillor, Jayaweera Bandara was wounded. (CaFFE)

#### **72. 08 Dec 2014: Ravaya newspaper editor Interrogated**

The Chief Editor of 'Ravaya' newspaper Attorney at Law K.W. Janaranjana was called to the Criminal Investigation Division alleging that publishing a news item stating information from state intelligence services indicate Mr. Maithripala Sirisena would receive 59% of the votes while Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa receives only 41% was a personal attack on the former head of Police Intelligence Services Division Chandra Vakista. The news item has not made any insulting remark to Mr. Chandra Vakista or the Police Department.

([http://www.lankatruth.com/home/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=7950:ravaya-editor-called-to-cid&catid=36:top-stories&Itemid=124](http://www.lankatruth.com/home/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7950:ravaya-editor-called-to-cid&catid=36:top-stories&Itemid=124))



Ravaya editor Janaranjana was interrogated (Photo: Internet)

### **73.06<sup>th</sup> December: Former President Attacked**

Supporters of United People Freedom Alliance (UPFA) had attacked former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and Provincial Councilor Ms. Hirunika Premachandra. After a rally in Beruwala town in support of Common Opposition candidate Sirisena, President Kumaratunga and Ms Premachandara had gone to dinner at Provincial Councilor Mohammed Jemine Marikar Mohammed Isthikar's house. During the dinner a group of people had hooted and stoned the house. President Kumaratunga and Ms Premachandra had managed to leave the house with the support of their security and supporters of the common opposition candidate. (CMEV)

### **74.06<sup>th</sup> December: Journalist critical of the Rajapaksa government threatened**

Senior journalist and Jaffna Press Club Advisor R. *Dayabaran* was threatened by unknown phone numbers when he was travelling to Colombo to participate in a media protest, which was vocally critical of the suppression of media during the Rajapaksa government. Mr. Dayabaran has been harassed by military intelligence officers for some time now.

### **75.05<sup>th</sup> December : Anti Rajapaksa Street drama troupe attacked**

The 'Weediye Virodaya' troupe was assaulted at Eppawala on December 05. The members of the troupe claim that the attack was carried out by supporters of SM Ranjith Samarakoon, Chief Minister of North-Central Province. (CaFFE)

### **76.05<sup>th</sup> December: Journalist assaulted by UPFA supporters & Threatened**

Anuradhapura Regional Correspondent for Hiru TV and Ada newspaper, Tisara Samal Somaratne was attacked on 05<sup>th</sup>, while covering an incident involving a group performing a street drama on good governance. He identified the men who threatened him to be supporters of North-Central Province (NCP) Chief Minister S.M. Ranjith Samarakoon. While he was receiving treatment for assault injuries at the Eppawala hospital, he was threatened by a group of men who arrived at the hospital premises. "They told me to leave the hospital or they would kill my parents in front of me," he told media (<http://www.sundaytimes.lk/141207/news/journalist-allegedly-assaulted-by-upfa-supporters-threatened-in-hospital-131557.html>)

### **77.25 Nov 2014: UNP MP's party office fired at**

Shots were fired at the office of UNP MP, MMA Halim, at Mawilmada, Kandy, in the early hours of the day. The windows and walls of the office were damaged. Halim has been actively promoting Common candidate Mr. Sirisena. (CaFFE)

**78.23 Nov 2014: UNP supporters' houses attacked**

The house of a staunch UNP supporter named Milton, at Medagama, Madampe was attacked twice after midnight. The house of Sudeh Priyankara, at Second Lane, Medagama, was also attacked. Both of them had lit fire crackers after former SLFP Secretary Maithripala Sirisena announced his intention to contest as the common opposition candidate. Mr. Milton had said that a group of people on motor cycles arrived at his house at about 12.20 a.m. and fired shots. While they left once after residents of the house came out, one motorcycle had returned and fired shots.

(CaFFE/ <http://www.asianmirror.lk/news/item/5321-maithri-s-brother-dudley-sirisena-s-lorry-attacked-in-marandagahamula>)

**E. Attacks, Threats and Restrictions to Polling Agents and Election Monitors****79.8th January : Polling agents Attacked**

Three polling agents on duty at the Mountain Temple Building Polling Station in Gampola had been attacked by United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) Urban Councillor Dharshana Nayanatharanga and supporters. The three individuals S.G.H.M. Jayalal, S.L. Bandara and S. Prasad Kumara were attacked soon after the ballot boxes were ready to be taken to the counting centres. (CMEV)

**80.07<sup>th</sup> January: Death threat to Election monitor**

CMEV Monitor R.S.S. Doragamuwa was threatened via a phone call by UPFA Pradeshiya Sabha Minister Nimalsiri who threatened to break his arms, legs, and to murder him on the 9th of January. The threat was attributed to the CMEV monitor not supporting President Mahinda Rajapaksa, and also because of his involvement in Election Monitoring. (CMEV)

**81.30<sup>th</sup> December: Election monitor Attacked**

CMEV monitor J.P.A.M Jayasekara was attacked when he attempted to photograph electioneering by both parties in close proximity to each other and that clash between the two groups. Two incidents followed this clash in which the CMEV monitor was threatened and attacked. A police complaint has been made with SSP (Senior Superintendent of Police) G.A.N.L.Wijesena, Polonnaruwa. (CMEV)