

Alternatives

Official Newsquarterly of the Centre for Policy Alternatives, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

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MONITORING ELECTION VIOLENCE



CMEV National Co ordinator DM Dissanayeke, Dr P.Saravanamuttu,ED,CPA and Sita Ranjane(FMM)

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 2005



The Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV) monitored the incidence of election related violence throughout the Presidential Election campaign **Nov 2005** commencing with the close of nominations on 07th October and on Election Day, 17th Nov. CMEV recorded a cumulative total of 484 incidents during the campaign and 297

incidents on Election Day.

Apart from the situation in the North and East on the basis of information gathered from its monitors, CMEV believes that the Presidential Elections of 2005 has been the least marred by acts of violence and intimidation. **(->Page 3)**

"This Peace Process (- and the three year no war no peace situation-) has been criticized but do not forget that because of this, at least ten thousand people who would otherwise be dead are alive today"

--Chief Guest
Dr Devanesan Nessian
addressing participants in Part 4 of the Inter University Debate Series on Democracy and the Future of Sri Lanka (Media and Mass Communication) Kandy 28th- 30th October 2005:
Co-ordinator: Lionel Guruge
Photos :Buddhika Weerasinghe



KANDY

INTER UNIVERSITY DEBATE SERIES

Under the ongoing OTI funded *Inter University Debate Series* on the **Future of Democracy and Good Governance in Sri Lanka**, the second, third and fourth debates for students of Sociology, Philosophy and Media & Mass Communications were held in Kandy from the **6th-8th, 21st-23rd, and 28th- 30th**, October, respectively. Approximately 100 students from 12 universities around the island participated in each of the debates.

In the second part of the programme for students of Sociology, Dr K.Karunathilleke Head of the Dept of Sociology of the University of Kelaniya spoke on *Changes Which Took Place in Post Independence Sri Lanka and Key Issues in Sri Lankan Democracy and Governance* were examined by MGM Razak, Senior Lecturer, Peradeniya University, among other presentations.

In the third part, organized for students of Philosophy, topics covered included *Philosophical Foundation of Political Enquiry* (presented by Charitha Herath, Senior Lecturer, University of Peradeniya), *Marxist Humanism Against Absolutism* (Gamini Hapuarachchi, Senior Lecturer, University of Kelaniya) and *State Building Experiences in*

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State Building & Internal Conflict...

Mirak Raheem of CPAs Peace and Conflict Analysis Unit, attended a conference in Washington DC **Oct 30th – Nov 3rd** organized by the East West Center on "State-building and Internal Conflict." The conference is part of a larger project focusing on internal conflicts in Asia, with this particular conference examining conflicts in Sri Lanka, north-eastern India, Nepal, southern Thailand, and Burma. All participants submitted proposals for papers that were discussed at the conference with the aim of agreeing on as to which papers will be turned into monographs. A follow-up conference is planned in July 2006.



The East-West Center is an education and research organization established by the U.S. Congress in 1960 to strengthen relations and understanding among the peoples and nations of Asia, the Pacific, and the United States

Banda Aceh

Mirak Raheem of Peace & Conflict Analysis Unit attended a Conference on "**Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Reconstructing a Democratic Society in Aceh**" organized by Fredrich Ebert Stiftung in Banda Aceh **Nov 23rd –24th**. Participants included representatives of civil society from other tsunami-affected countries. Mirak presented a paper on, "*The Role of Civil Society in the Sri Lankan Peace Process and Tsunami recovery*"

Pradeep Pieris, Co ordinator, SI participated in a Workshop entitled **What Kind of Peace is Possible?** which was held in Vilonculos, Mozambique from **17th to 21st Nov**. This project is spearheaded by the North South Institute of Canada

Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group

Dr P Saravanamuttu, ED, CPA was invited to be the Keynote Speaker at the Kolkata Workshop of the Third Annual CRG Winter Course on Forced Migration organized by the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Dec 2005.

The North-South Institute L'Institut Nord-Sud



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 10 DEC 2005

Sriyanie Wijesundera of Peace and Conflict Analysis Unit represented CPA at the International Human Rights Celebration, **12th Dec** organized by the Trade Union Women's Forum which consists of representatives from trade unions in the public, industrial and plantation sectors. The event was sponsored by the American Centre for International Labour Solidarity

The World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) held its annual regional conference in Hong Kong from **10th -12th Dec**. Joseph Thavaraja, M Krishnamoorthy and Pradeep Peiris of Social Indicator participated in the conference and the latter presented papers on History Public Opinion Research in Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka Voter behaviour – findings of Social Indicator's latest election survey with the WAPOR members. Pradeep also spoke on Sri Lankan public opinion on WTO at the panel session along with members from Philippines, Hong Kong and members of Oxfam, HK

Sunanda Deshapriya Head Media Unit, CPA, attended the General Meeting of the International News Safety Institute in Amsterdam and the Annual NewsXchange meeting, Nov 10th

Staff Profiles, CPA

Uvindu Kurukulasuriya joined CPA's Media Unit as a Consultant with the AED sponsored *Jouranlism Training Project*. He has been working as a journalist since 1990. He was a producer for Tamil Broadcasting Company, London, as well as a Guest Producer for the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation and a BBC correspondent from 1996 -2000. Career awards include the Finalist of the Tolerance Prize by International federation of Journalists, 2004 & 2005 and the Editors Guild Award for Investigative Journalism, 1998. He also currently co edits CPAs Media Monitor publication and is a freelance journalist for Ravaya.



D.M. Dissanayake joined CMEV in 1999 and has experience with the Presidential Elections of that year as the Uva Provincial Co ordinator, the General Election 2000 and 2001 as the NW Province Co ordinator, the Local Government Election 2002 and the General and Provincial Elections of 2004. He is currently the National Co ordinator of CMEV. He has a LLB Degree from the University of Colombo and was called to the Bar in 2003



Bhavani Fonseka (CPA) and Sunethra Bandaranaiyake (APLF)

CPA held a press conference, 5th Dec, to launch a report profiling the stigma and discrimination faced by People Living With HIV

and AIDS (PLWHA) and their family members. The study was commissioned by the Asia Pacific Leadership Forum (APLF) to measure the stigma and discrimination in areas such as employment, health-care, social life, family life, education and



CPA in the Press ...

Interviews by Voice of America's Colombo correspondent, with Dr P Saravanamuttu, Kethesh Loganathan and Rohan Edrisinha regarding the current situation with regard to the Peace Process, are summarized at www.voanews.com

Stigma and Discrimination faced by PLWAs

housing. The aim of this document is to highlight the various levels of stigma and discrimination faced by PLWHA and to explore possible ways in which these concerns can be addressed in Sri Lanka.



Kumaravadivel Gurruparan speaking at the Press Conference

"Some Lessons in International Politics" and "Going Back to War" were among the weekly articles submitted by Dr Saravanamuttu to the "Insight" column of the Morning Leader and he also contributes to Lankadeepa's weekly "Saama Mawatha" column

Social Indicators Pre Election Opinion Poll available at http://www.cpalanka.org/research_papers/PE_2005_Opinion_Poll.pdf is given substantial press coverage at the websites of Daily Mirror (at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/2005/11/03/front/04.asp>) Lanka Business Online and the Hindu (Nov 2), and NewAge Magazine (Nov 2005) among others.



L-R Sunanda Deshapriya, head of the Media Unit, CPA, C.P. de Silva from FMETU, Sanath Balasuriya Also Ananth Palakidner (SLTMA) N.M. Ameen from SL W J A (SLMMF) and Seetha Ranjane (FMM)

Launch of Media Charter ...



Facilitated by the "Voices of Reconciliation Programme" of the Media Unit of the CPA, the **Public Service Media Charter** was launched on Nov 3rd, in Colombo, aiming towards a democratic and pluralist media culture and social and professional rights for media and journalism in Sri Lanka.

Present at the historic occasion were representatives from the Federation of Media Employees Trade Unions, Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association, Sri Lanka Tamil Media Alliance, Sri Lanka Muslim Media Forum and Free Media Movement. All these organisations had co-operated in the design of the Charter



Attendees at the Launch

(>>Page 1)

Multicultural Society: Theoretical Perspectives by Dr. A.M.S Anes, Senior Lecturer University of Peradeniya

The fourth and final debate was for students of Mass Communications and Media and topics covered included *Media Perspectives for Needs of Human Society*, by Dr Sunil Wijesiriwardene, Senior Lecturer, Kelaniya Sri Pali University of Sri Lanka, *Gender and Media*, by Dr Ariyaratna Athugala, Senior Lecturer, University of Kelaniya, and *Promoting Journalism in The Public Interest*, by Sunanda Deshapriya, Unit Head, Media Unit, CPA, among others.

(>>Page 1)

CMEV

prevailing during the election campaign and on Election Day

Unit in Focus

conducive to the conduct of a free and fair election and called on the Election Commissioner to call for a re-poll of the North and East in order to ensure that a truly free and fair election of the chief executive of Sri Lanka had taken place.

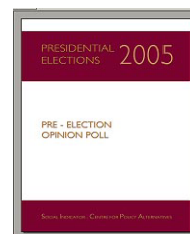
More information is available at <http://www.cpalanka.org/cmev.html>

However, CMEV strongly feels that the environment

prevailing during the election campaign and on Election Day in the North and East were not

conducive to the conduct of a free and fair election and called on the Election Commissioner to call for a re-poll of the North and East in order to ensure that a truly free and fair election of the chief executive of Sri Lanka had taken place.

More information is available at <http://www.cpalanka.org/cmev.html>



CPA's Social Indicator conducted a pre election opinion poll the results of which were released Nov 1st in advance of the November 2005 Presidential Elections. 1200

randomly selected respondents in 22 districts across the island were interviewed. The Mullaitivu, Killinochchi and Mannar districts and the Tamil population in Trincomalee were excluded. Topics covered included perceptions on the ability of Presidential candidates to address issues such as handling the peace process, reducing the cost of living and reconstruct tsunami affected areas.

Calendar of Events

For more updates on latest and upcoming CPA events, visit http://www.cpalanka.org/calendar_events.html

October

6th –8th Sociology Workshop in Kandy -Part of the Inter- University Debate Series on Future of Democracy and Good Governance in Sri Lanka –
18th The first public discussion forum on Public Service Broadcasting at the SEDEC auditorium.
21st –23rd Philosophy Workshop in Kandy Part of the Inter- University Debate Series on Future of Democracy and Good Governance in Sri Lanka –
28th –30th Media and Mass Communication Workshop in Kandy Part of the Inter- University Debate Series on Future of Democracy and Good Governance in Sri Lanka –
30th CMEV press Conference

November

Month of November :Monitoring of the Presidential Elections Nov 2005

3rd Facilitated by the “Voices of Reconciliation Programme” the Media Unit launched a **Public Service Media Charter** towards a democratic and pluralist media culture and social and professional rights for media and journalism in Sri Lanka. The Federation of Media Employees Trade Unions, Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association, Sri Lanka Tamil Media Alliance, Sri Lanka Muslim Media Forum and Free Media Movement were among the organizations which had collaborated to make this possible.

6th With support from UNESCO, CPA organized a workshop on **Public Service Values in Journalism** Anuradhapura, for the media professionals of Rajarata Radio.

8thWorkshop on the theme of **Governments, Budgets Donor Aid and Natural Disasters**, Co sponsors of the event included the International Budget Project, the National Centre For Advocacy Studies and Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, among others.

14th CMEV Press Conference
21st Post Election CMEV Press Conference

December

5th CPA held a press conference to launch a report profiling the stigma and discrimination faced by People Living With HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) and their family members. The study was commissioned by the Asia Pacific Leadership Forum (APLF).

28th Awareness Workshops on Federalism Project :Training of Trainers workshop

EVENTS ATTENDED

Oct 30th – Nov 3rd Mirak Raheem of CPA's Peace and Conflict Analysis Unit, attended a conference in Washington DC organized by the East West Center on “State-building and Internal Conflict.”

10th Nov Sunanda Deshapriya Head Media Unit, CPA, attended the General Meeting of the International News Safety Institute in Amsterdam and the Annual NewsXchange meeting,

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EVENTS ATTENDED cont...

17th to 21st Nov Pradeep Peiris, Co-ordinator, CPA participated in a Workshop entitled **What Kind of Peace is Possible?** held in Vilonculos, Mozambique. This project was organised by the North South Institute of Canada.

Nov23rd –24th Mirak Raheem of Peace & Conflict Analysis Unit attended a Conference on **“Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Reconstructing a Democratic Society in Aceh”** organized by Fredrich Ebert Stiftung in Banda, Aceh.

30th Nov. Kethesh Loganathan head, Peace and Conflict Analysis Unit, represented CPA at a civil society meeting with former US President Bill Clinton and the UN Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery.

10th Dec Kethesh Loganathan made a presentation on **“Political Killings”** at a Seminar on **“The Right to Life, Measures to combat Extra-judicial Killings and Disappearances”** organized by the Human Rights Commission on Human Rights Day .

Dec Dr P Saravanamuttu, ED, CPA was invited to be the Keynote Speaker at the Kolkata Workshop of the Third Annual CRG Winter Course on Forced Migration organized by the Mahanirban Cullcutta Research Group.

10th -12th Dec Joseph Thavaraja, M Krishnamoorthy and Pradeep Peiris of Social Indicator participated in the annual regional conference of the World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR). The latter presented papers on History Public Opinion Research in Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka Voter behaviour – findings of Social Indicator's latest election survey with the WAPOR members. Pradeep also presented Sri Lankan public opinion on WTO at the panel session along with members from Philippines, Hong Kong and members of Oxfam, HK

12th Dec Sriyanie Wijesundera of Peace and Conflict Analysis Unit represented CPA at the International Human Rights Celebration organized by the Trade Union Women's Forum

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

A study profiling the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV/AIDS and their family members



The Media Charter



Vibhasha
Volume 3 Issue 1



Media Unit's
Madhya Vimarshi



The final report on CPA's study on women's access to and ownership of land and property in the North and East



Mahajana Sevaya Sandaha Janamadaya, a pamphlet on **Public Service Media**

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