



Parliamentary Election 2024 2nd Interim Report (from 11th October to 12th November) 12th November 2024

Towards the “Cooling Off”

There are just 48 hours left before the 2024 Parliamentary Election 2024. The makeup of Sri Lanka's 17th Parliament will be decided by this election. Only with certain election law violations, the postal voting was concluded by 08th November. In contrast, there were fewer incidents and complaints of acts of violence and abuse of state power, resources, and employees during the pre-election period. There haven't been any instances or situations during postal voting that have had a major impact on the overall outcome of the postal voting. The Election Commission of Sri Lanka (ECSL) announced the Cooling-Off period from midnight on 11th November, 48 hours before the polls. Candidates running in the 2024 Parliamentary Elections will conclude their campaign activities by midnight of 11th November. However, according to the ECSL, candidates have been given until midnight of 12th November to remove their campaign offices.

Election complaints

From 11th October to 11th November, a large number of complaints on violation of election laws have been received by the Complaint Receiving and Mitigation Unit. During the mentioned period, there were 2230 complaints (2186 confirmed and 44 unconfirmed) received and 20 complaints (19 confirmed and 01 unconfirmed) on abuse of state power, resources & employees and 30 complaints on acts of violence (27 confirmed and 03 unconfirmed) are received. However, there haven't been any incidents or circumstances that have significantly affected the election.

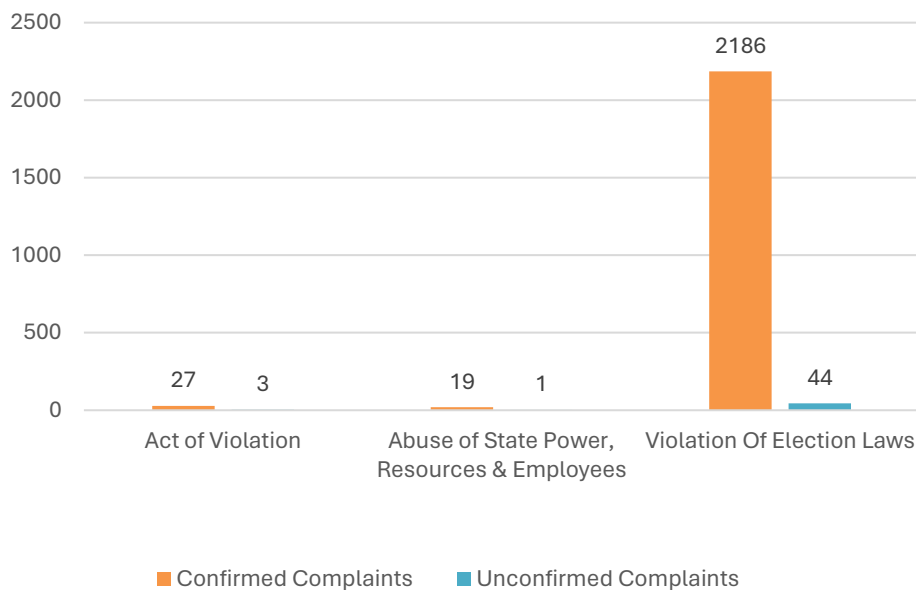
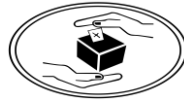


Figure 1 Election Complaints from 11th October to 11th November received by Complaint Receiving and Mitigation Unit



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Before commencing the Cooling-Off period, a fight between the followers of former Member of Parliament, Rishad Bathiudeen of Vanni Electoral District and former State Minister, Kader Masthan, was reported from Vavuniya. On the 11th November, three injured individuals were brought to the General Hospital in Vavuniya. This incident also resulted in vehicle damage.

In the Parliamentary Election 2020, there were a huge number of complaints received; 84 on acts of violence, 129 complaints on abuse of state power, resources & employees, and 1684 complaints on violations of election laws during the pre-election period. There are very few complaints on acts of violence and abuse of state power, resources and employees received during the pre-election period in the Parliamentary Election 2024. Nonetheless, compared to 2020, there are a lot more complaints about election law violations in 2024.

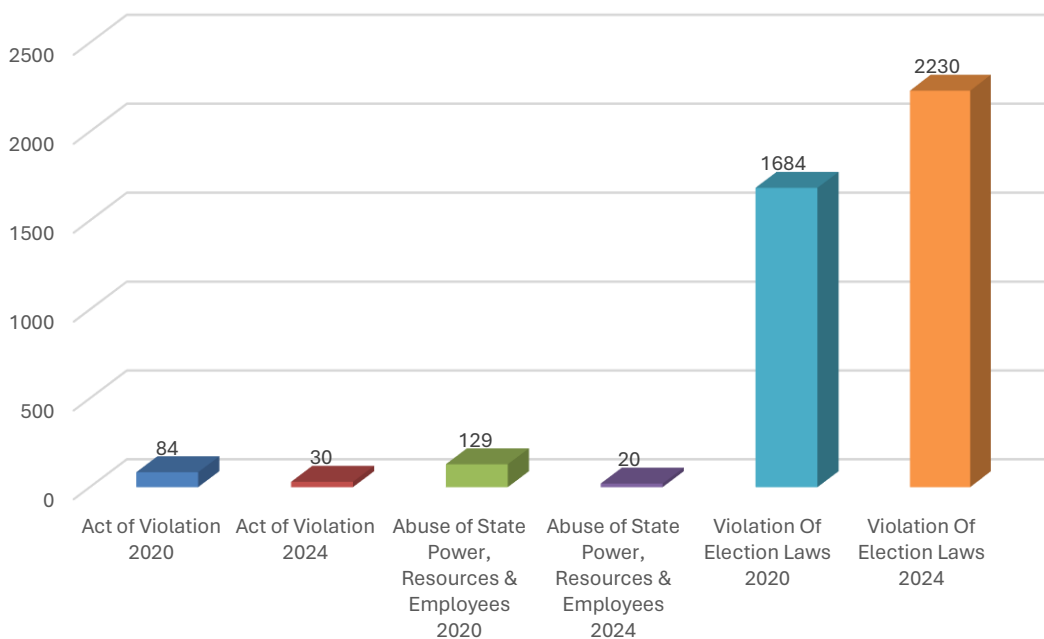


Figure 2 Election Complaints in Parliamentary Elections of 2020 and 2024 received by the Complaint Receiving and Mitigation Unit during the pre-election period

Notably, this is a significant indication that the nation will hold democratic elections with relatively low levels of violence and election law infractions.

Long Term Observers deployed by PAFFREL have been observed on illegal political party campaign offices that have been established across the country. The observers reported on 125 electoral divisions out of total 160 and identified 547 illegal political party campaign offices as of 11th November.

The Complaint Receiving and Mitigation Unit is continuing its operations and made more follow-ups with the complaints received. PAFFREL corresponded with the ECSL and Sri Lanka Police. Accordingly, 110 follow-up letters have been sent to the ECSL and 03 letters to Sri Lanka Police.



Social media monitoring

PAFFREL continued to monitor social media through a long standing trustworthy partnership with Hashtag Generation and Election Commission, observation mechanism through social media. During the pre-election period, the social media monitoring has identified below types of violence:

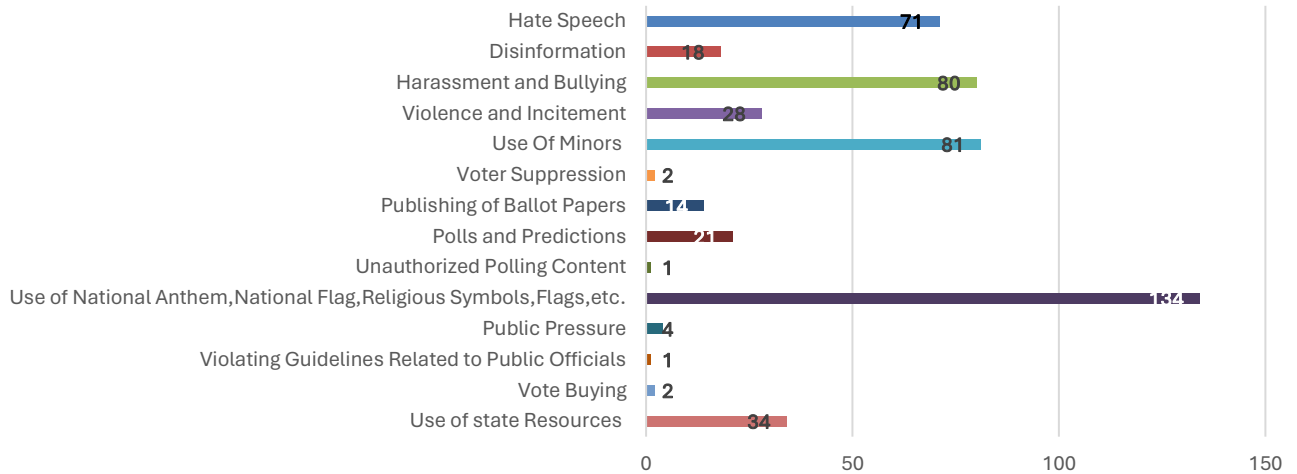


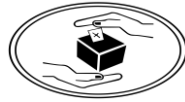
Figure 3 Social media monitoring during the Pre-Election Period of the Parliamentary Election 2024

Cases are significant under the Use of national anthem, flag, and religious symbols, flags while there are 81 cases on use of minors, 80 cases on harassment and bullying and 71 cases on hate speech. PAFFREL continues the social media monitoring with Hashtag Generation in the Cooling-Off Period, Election Day and the Post-Election Period.

The Election Commission has announced that all the campaigns through social media run by political parties/candidates, supporters of parties/candidates and users of social media should be stopped since all the campaigns pertaining to the Parliamentary Election 2024 conclude after 12 AM on 11th November 2024. In the event that a social media campaign is reported to the Election Commission, those will be directed to related social media institutions to remove the contents of campaigns.

Driving forces for a free and fair election

The Election Commission and Sri Lanka Police perform their duties to the best of their abilities except on misuse of state power, resources, and employees. The Election Commission and Sri Lanka Police, which are indicative of an advanced political culture, have best practices to prevent acts of violence and limit the use of illegal election propaganda, particularly cutouts and posters. The credit should go to the Election Commission, Sri Lanka Police and all the election monitoring organizations and bodies. PAFFREL also appreciative for the political parties, independent groups and media personals and institutions who are being supported and shared truthful information to the public towards a peaceful election.



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As stated by the ECSL, over 20 foreign observers, including monitors will oversee the Parliamentary Election 2024. The ECSL has invited ten observers to attend from Russia, and Thailand,. The Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) has already commenced their election monitoring. All the efforts will be taken by the International election observers and monitors are to ensure a transparent and fair election process.

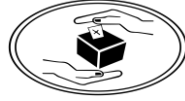
Regulating campaign finance

To ensure a transparent and accountable election campaign process, a collaborative effort by multiple election observation groups including several organizations, namely, Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV), Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL), Hashtag Generation, Campaign for Free and Fair Elections (CaFFE), Institute for Democratic Reforms & Electoral Studies (IRES), and PAFFREL underway to track whether the contenders of the Parliamentary Election are spending their campaign funds within the allotted limitations through assigned 32 Campaign Finance Observers assigned in specific electoral divisions in Matale, Polonnaruwa, Galle, Matara, and Ratnapura district and they are reporting against predetermined expenditure amounts to get the total island wide campaign expenditure of each candidate. This is a pilot initiative along with the Election Commission to monitor the election campaign expenditure of candidates through several categories such as mainstream media, social media, public campaigns, public events, and press conferences and launch ceremonies, and campaign offices.

Active citizenry and appeal to voters

Provision of leave for public and private sector employees to cast their votes in national elections without loss of pay or personal leave has been granted; Half a day if you're 40 kilometers or less, one day if you're 40–100 km, one and a half days if you're 100–150 km, and two days if you're beyond 150 km. In addition, the ECSL informed the heads of all State Sector and Private Sector banks and financial institutions should grant leave appropriately by to the employees of these institutions to go to the polling stations assigned to them and cast vote. Furthermore, leave shall be granted to the staff and students in universities and G.C.E (A/L) students in tuition classes to cast vote.

PAFFREL works to build a democratic country with politically aware and capable citizens who appreciate democracy and encourage transparency and accountability in governance. One of the crucial procedures that individuals can utilize to exercise their right to select the best representatives for a given period of time is the election. First time voters in particular have a significant opportunity to use their right to vote properly as youth voters. PAFFREL intervened in several voter education initiatives to educate the youth and other citizens to enhance the political literacy of voters by empowering them to exercise their democratic right to vote responsibly and conscientiously. PAFFREL encourages active citizens to be involved to promote collective community initiatives to prevent violence and malpractices in the Cooling-Off period, Election Day and Post-Election period. PAFFREL is also aware of citizens through its social media channels. PAFFREL appeals to voters to exercise their right to vote in the Parliamentary Election 2024.



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PAFFREL's election observation through 40 District Coordinators, 25 Field Coordinators, 3000 Stationary Observers, 1320 Mobile Team Observers (MTOs) through 330 Mobile Teams, 155 Long Term Observers, 32 Campaign Finance Observers, 25 Election Dispute Resolution Center Observers, 200 Counting/Tabulation Center Observers and 24 Special Mobile Observers through 06 Special Mobile Units is continues to ensure a free and fair election.

Any citizen can contact the Head Office, PAFFREL and Complaint Receiving and Intervention Centers (District Level) through below contacts:

No.	District/s	Contact No.	Email
01	Colombo	0757427942	paffrelcomplaintunit@gmail.com
02	Gampaha and Kalutara	0701084006	
03	Kandy and Matale	0701083974	
04	Nuwara Eliya, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, and Digamadulla	0701083911	
05	Galle and Matara	0701083949	
06	Hambantota	0751227989	
07	Jaffna and Vanni	0701083929	
08	Kurunegala and Puttalam	0701084013	
09	Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa	0701083998	
10	Badulla and Monaragala	0701084034	
11	Ratnapura and Kegalle	0701083929	

General Contact Details

People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL)

No.16, Byrde Place, Off Pamankada Road, Colombo 06, Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 11 255 8570

WhatsApp: <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Va9bCyOLI8YbWO7aaZ0r>

Email: paffrel@sltnet.lk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Paffrel.Organization>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQtjspli-nTqqTC9fq6DcQQ>

Website: <https://www.paffrel.com/paffrel/about-paffrel>

TikTok: <https://www.paffrel.com/paffrel/about-paffrel>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/paffrel/>

Twitter: <https://x.com/PAFFREL>

Threads: <https://www.threads.net/@paffrel>