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சுதந்திரமானதும் நீதியானதுமான தேர்தல்களுக்கான மக்கள் செயற்பாடு.

PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR FREE & FAIR ELECTIONS

His Excellency,
President Maithripala Sirisena,
Presidential Secretariat,
Colombo 01.

January 19, 2015

Your Excellency,

A special investigative committee for complaints related to 2015 Presidential Election

We are glad to hear that you appointed a special official to deal with violent incidents in the run up to the Presidential Election. Likewise, we hope that you would give instructions to the relevant authorities to act impartially regarding mental and physical harassments meted out to various individuals and parties during the election period.

In determining the fairness of an election, it is all the more important to see whether both pre and post-election periods remained peaceful and conducive for political parties and their candidates to engage in political activities. A peaceful day of polling alone does not suffice in ensuring a free and fair election process.

Therefore, we earnestly request you to implement the law strictly against those deliberately indulged in violent activities during the pre –election period. Likewise, we make the same request against officials who abdicated their responsibility of upholding the law against such violent activities at that time. During this election, the state resources and power were abused in an unprecedented and organized scale, sometimes with the connivance of government officials. Hence, it is important to take action to avoid the repetition of such a situation during future elections.

As a step in this direction, we kindly request you to set up a special authoritative mechanism to process and examine complaints lodged with poll observer groups, the Elections Department and the Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission. Also, we kindly request you to take necessary action against government officials whose dereliction of duty led to the misappropriation of state resources and power at this election.

Besides, we would like to draw your attention to the need to evolve a mechanism for the prevention of the abuse of state resources and power, in the interest of the party in power during future elections.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely

Executive Director

CC: Members of National Executive Council, Election Commissioner, Election Secretariat, Rajagiriya, All others concerned