

Election violence claims 44 lives in Sri Lanka. (1989, January 26).  
*The Ottawa citizen.*

## Election violence claims 44 lives in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (Reuter) — At least 44 people were killed in Sri Lanka in the worst day's violence so far in the campaign for parliamentary elections next month, police said.

A senior official said today the dead in Wednesday's carnage include an election candidate and five members of his family, supporters of the ruling United National party and the opposition United Socialist Alliance, a left wing rebel and a government clerk.

"It was the worst day of violence for political parties contesting the Feb. 15 poll," the official said.

Police blamed the attacks on the left wing People's Liberation Front, a group of radical Sinhalese trying to overthrow the government.

Police said unidentified gunmen burst into the Central province home of Alliance candidate Nissanka Karunatilake, killing him and members of his family.

In most of the recent killings, victims were dragged from their homes and shot in the street.

Authorities have accused the front of killing two senior election officials and attacking polling stations during the Dec. 19 presidential election.

Eight candidates and several of their supporters have been killed since the parliamentary election campaign began on Jan. 10.