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**MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATION OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE**Gunethilake KMTB<sup>1</sup>, Vidanapathirana M<sup>2</sup>.*<sup>1</sup>Consultant Judicial Medical Officer, District General Hospital, Ratnapura,**<sup>2</sup>Senior Lecturer, Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura***Introduction**

During an election, conflicts occur mainly between the ruling and opposition parties in way of media conversations, parliamentary debates, meetings and poster campaigns. Out of them, much violence occurs in meetings and poster campaigns, and may cause severe injuries and deaths.

**Case history**

During a political meeting, one supporter was killed and two were severely injured. One of them had gunshot injuries to abdomen and died on the 3rd day. One of the remaining two had fractured right tibia and fibula with bullet in-situ. The other victim had through and through gunshot injury to the right chest.

**Conclusions**

Adhere to the available standard procedures and practices in cases of political violence to ensure justice. A small mistake can lead to the loss of credibility of the forensic pathologist and also the image of the country.

Clinical cases should be attended to as early as possible to minimize the loss of evidence. Arrange security during autopsies, to protect the hospital property from the aggrieved supporters. Cooperate with the relevant officials of non-governmental and governmental organizations including hospitals while maintaining professional secrecy. Such cases should be performed or done under the supervision of the most senior pathologist. If proper facilities are not available, such cases should be transferred to another hospital.