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**VICTIMS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN THE HAMBANTOTA DISTRICT:
A CASE STUDY OF ANGUNAKOLA PALASSA**

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Political violence has been a vital issue in the body politics of Sri Lanka since the early 1970s. There have been two patterns of political violence one involving the Sinhalese youth and the other Tamil youth. The first is the left-wing political violence with a view to establishing an egalitarian society of the socialist time. The second is the Tamil ethnic insurgency with a view to establishing a separate Tamil estate popularity known as the 'Eelam' state, comprising of the Northern and Eastern Province of Sri Lanka.

A noteworthy feature of these two patterns of political violence is that civilians have become the targets of the strategy of both political violence and counter-violence by the government to crush the former. As a result, casualties or victims among civilians are higher than members of the armed groups and government force. Although much has been written on such violence, there is dearth of series writing probing into the causes of such violence. For example, there is no systematic study of the impact of political violence on civilians in the country apart from monitoring the result and displacement and migration of people.