

## Hate incidents against Muslims: January - May 2014

*(Threats, attempts to attack, attacks, harassment, inciting, warning, violence, provocation, etc. against Muslims)*

1. **January 2, 2014 - Thalgaswala, Galle District:** The beef stall at Thalgaswala Weekly Fair closes down. The principal of Nagoda Sri Sunnanda Vidyalaya and the Viharadipathi (chief monk) of the Thalgaswala Buddhist Centre Ven. Welwea Sujaatha were instrumental in executing this. He obtained the tender bid for 325,000 at the Pradeshiya Sabha call for tenders. Subsequently they cleansed the beef stall with milk and with the Blessings of the Maha Sangha closed down the beef stall's business on January 1<sup>st</sup>. According to the Nagoda Pradeshiya Sabha President there are about 500 consumers in this area. He said that the large companies are supplying packetted frozen meat to the shops in the area; by closing down the beef stall it is not going to reduce the consumption of meat in the area.

Daily Mirror: <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P3-3170444021.html>, Ada (page 02) January 2, Silumina (page 07) 5<sup>th</sup> January 2014, Hiru News

<http://www.thegossiplanka.com/2014/01/thalgaswala-meat-stall-case.html>

2. **January 2, 2014, Devenagala, Mawanella, Ratnapura District:** The Rivira Sinhala language newspaper carried the following report on a threat to the life of Mr. B.U Dias, who is the secretary of the National Organisation for Protection of Devanagala. The following is a direct translation of the report. We note with distress the language in which the Muslims are referred to and connected to the death threat. The secretary of the national organisation to protect the historic Devanagala Lands Mr. B U Dias has received a death threat as reported to the Mawanella Police. An unidentified gang travelling by van has tried to get information about this secretary from various sources in the area. These persons have called him on his mobile phone and threatened him with death; he has subsequently lodged a complaint at the Mawanella police station. Mr Dias is at the forefront of activities to protect the Devanagala lands from the fundamentalist Muslims who are supposed to have constructed unauthorised houses and shops for some time in that area. As such he suspects that these fundamentalists (Muslims) are working against him and threatening him with death.

Rivira (page 13) January 2, 2014

3. **January 4, 2014 - Dambulla, Matale District:** The Muslim families around Dambulla mosque have been evicted by the Urban Development Authority due, it is said, to the needs of road development. There were 107 families living around Dambulla mosque and within 3 months 74 families have been moved out.. According to the people of the area it is very clear that the authorities' aim is to demolish the mosque by evicting the Muslim population; the people of the area expressed their concerns to the Muslim Murasu, a Tamil Newspaper on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2014..

Suderoli (Page 03) January 4, 2014

4. **January 5, 2014, Statement:** "Muslim extremism is the reason for Sri Lanka to become a hub for drug dealings. "Farda" has become a national dress for trafficking drugs. If Niqab is not banned it will be a problem for the country" BBS statement says. "In Sri Lanka drug trafficking is taking place with the help of Muslim women's dress such as Abaya and Fardha" the secretary of BBS Ven. Gnanasara elaborated. He said "using religion and religious identity for any unlawful activities should be banned." National security is more important than religious sentiment. Also Muslim extremism is the main reason for the seizure of many containers of drugs and for political disturbances." He stated that as a

result of Muslim extremism Sri Lanka should not become one among the list of Middle East countries.

Virakesari (Page 1) January 5, 2014

- 5. January 7, 2014 – Media Conference:** The Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) demanded a complete ban on Halal certification in Sri Lanka and launched a new campaign to achieve that goal. Bodu Bala Sena General Secretary, Ven. Gnanasara Thera said that they are against the new company formed to issue Halal certification. The ACJU announced on January 6, 2014 that the issuing of Halal certificates will continue under a new company formed by reputed and respected professionals in Sri Lanka and not by the ACJU. The role of ACJU in this regard would be in providing consultations on any technicalities of the concept of Halaal compliance, as a social obligation and responsibility towards the Sri Lankan society while facilitating global requirements, ACJU said. “The new company is expected to carry out compliance validation processes on request to meet both local consumer demands as well as international export pre-requisites, similar to several other consumer good certifications currently available in Sri Lanka,” ACJU said.

Bodu Bala Sena urges to ban halal and All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama (ACJU) for leading the country towards separation and cheating the entire country by giving false promises. It also warns the Sinhala businessmen that it will work for the downfall of their business if they accept Halal certification. Reacting to a statement by the All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama (ACJU) that it would stop issuing Halal certificates and a separate company will continue the operation, the Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) organisation said today that though they respect the right of Muslims to consume Halal products it should not be enforced on others. BBS General Secretary Ven. Ganasara told a news conference held at the Buddhist Centre in Kirillapone that the BBS was planning to re-launch the campaign against the enforcement of Halal products on those belonging to other religions. “This new move by the ACJU proves that so far they have hoodwinked the public and the authorities as we believe that this new ‘unidentified company’ to be another part of the ACJU dressed in a different garb. So we are going to intervene in this matter” he said. He further said the ACJU was trying to create separatism by implementing Sharia law in Sri Lanka through the Halal certification process. Ven. Gnanasara stated that with regard to this issue the Defence Secretary too has to take the responsibility although he too was cheated by the ACJU.

<http://colombogazette.com/2014/01/07/bbs-demands-halal-ban/>, Daily Mirror (page 01)

<http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/41322-bbs-planning-to-re-launch-halal-campaign.html>

Ada (page 01) Lakbima (Page 05) Lankadeepa (page 08) Sudar (page 01) Thinakural (page 02) and Virakesari (page 01) all of 08<sup>th</sup> January,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjbCldP3t4E>, <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/41322-bbs-planning-to-re-launch-halal-campaign.html>

- 6. January 9, 2014 Media Conference:** General Secretary of the BBS, Ven. Gnanasara Thera said at a media conference held at the National Buddhist Centre in Kirillapone that in the name of Halal the country is once again facing separatism. He wants to mobilise from children to the elders to support his campaign to ban the All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama (ACJU) as well as Halal from this country. He accuses the ACJU as cheating the country by stating that it will withdraw from issuing Halal and reiterated many of the points raised at the meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January. He also stated that if there are orders to remove the VIP and VVIP labels and stickers pasted on the windscreen of vehicles, there should be a ban on Burkha and Nikab of the Muslims.

Mawbima (page 10) January 9, 2014, Lankadeepa (page 16) 11<sup>th</sup> January

7. **January 12, 2014: Media Interview:** The Bodu Bala Sena claimed that All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama (ACJU) distanced itself from issuing Halal certificates to mislead the society. BBS General Secretary Ven. Gnansara told Ceylon Today yesterday that they will not stop their campaign against the Halal issue. He said that issuing Halal certification for export products was acceptable, but for local products such a certificate was not needed. "Religious organizations cannot decide what people should consume. In order to ensure the safety of the food, there are certifications such as SLS and ISO," he noted.  
<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/16-52724-news-detail-bbs-claims-acju-misleading-society-on-halal.html>
8. **January 12, 2014: Letter:** The National Freedom Front (NFF)<sup>1</sup> sending a letter to the ACJU, emphasized that issuing Halal certification was totally for commercial purposes and not for religious purposes. NFF media spokesman Mohommad Musammil, in his letter, said that giving the authority of issuing Halal certifications to a private company confirms the commercial nature of it. "This can be seen as an attempt to continue Halal certification despite the protests by the public. Changing the institute, which issues Halal certification, is not a solution to the issue. Instead of Halal certification, mentioning the items contained in a food product is sufficient," he said. He further said that the concept of Halal was completely based on trust. Therefore, it was not a sin for a Muslim person if he eats non-Halal food unintentionally. The NFF further questioned the ACJU about the benefit that the Muslim community gained by bringing back the Halal issue.  
<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/16-52724-news-detail-bbs-claims-acju-misleading-society-on-halal.html>
9. **January 12, 2014 – BBS Media interview with Irudina Sinhala language newspaper:** The theme of discussion was mainly on abolishing the Halal concept and the ACJU as the BBS feels it/they promote separatism. Answering questions posed by the journalist, the BBS says, "we are trying to protect the traditional Muslims from the Wahabis, we are against the ACJU for trying to issue Halal to the general consumers. We want the country to have one law; the religious leaders cannot issue certificates for consumer items. This halal law comes under the Sharia law. If there is a violation of this law by someone then will the punishment be under Sharia law? This is the reason why we reject this "Ven. Gnansara says. The BBS is concerned why there is a law for Muslims to be permitted to wear the Niqab and the Burqa when others are required to remove their helmets and caps when entering a bank. Students sitting exams cannot also be identified when in Niqab. If there is a law to remove tinted glass from the vehicles the Muslim women should also do away with the Niqab and Burqa he says.  
Irudina (page 8) 12<sup>th</sup> January
10. **January 13, 2014 – Statement:** Dilantha Withanage the CEO of the Bodu Bala Sena said that BBS has re-launched their Halal campaign from Mahiyangana and in mid-February it will organise a massive campaign against Halal, in Colombo. He further said that BBS had a successful campaign last year where the ACJU had assured to do away with Halal in this country. He blamed them for handing over Halal certification to a company which he perceives as encouraging separatism in the country. "We are not against the Muslims consuming Halal, but we don't want Halal to be imposed on to other communities," he stressed. He indicated that the BBS will go from house to house and temple to temple to canvass against Halal until the Halal is completely wiped out from this country.  
Sudaroli (Page 1) January 14, 2014

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<sup>1</sup> The NFF is a political party led by Vimal Weeravansa, formerly of the JVP.

11. **January 14, 2014 – Media Interview with BBS Ven. Gnanasara:** After the ACJU last week announced that the Halal certificates will be issued by the new authority 'The Halal Accreditation Council (HAC) (Guarantee) Ltd.' the General Secretary of the Bodhu Bala Sena (BBS), Ven. Gnanasara in an interview with Ceylon Today said, they will continue to protest against the issuing of Halal Certificates. Ven. Gnanasara said that in the near future BBS will reinstate its General Summit programme. "Not only are we just requesting the people to protest against Halal but we are also going to meet the relevant organizations. By hook or by crook, we will solve this problem". "We have already implemented a programme to take this message from the farmer in the village at the grassroots level, to the rich living in mansions. We are not shouting because of a problem with the symbol. What we are against is the Muslim extremism that comes in with the Halal process. This can very adversely affect even the government at upcoming elections. Up until now we have managed to establish a level of governance to stop any unrest that could possibly occur and while we have listened to elders and conducted our protests with certain restraint and control, now our time of patience is over" he stated. He accused the government of deceived everyone including BBS. He asked the government's ruling authorities and governing bodies whether they are going to allow these people and their organizations to dance to their own tune. He said "the most powerful weapon in our arsenal is the public's power. We are going to arm ourselves with this weapon further." "So, at the suitable time we will wield this weapon and use it. When such a controversy has taken place in our society because of this Halal business and if the authorities have not been able to solve this problem affecting the Sinhalese Buddhists, the government must think about whether they are going to listen to the 90% majority or the 9% minority" he stated.

<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/89-52831-news-detail-is-the-government-going-to-listen-to-the-9-or-the-90.html>

12. **January 18, 2014 – Accusation:** "There is a link between the draft resolution to the UNHRC by the American and the complaints that the Young Mens Muslim Association (YMMA) wants to submit to the UNHRC. The international Muslim fundamentalists are behind these initiatives" accused Ven. Gnanasara. "We are not going to give up the struggle to defeat the plot of the Wahabi movement that want to make Sri Lanka a Muslim colony" Ven. Gnanasara said. He was responding to the statement of YMMA which wants to complain to the UNHRC regarding the harassments caused to the Muslims by the Buddhist groups. "We are deeply suspicious of the ACJU, YMMA and the Muslim organisations" he further said. The hijab and face cover are threat to the national security, he stressed.

Virakesari (Page 1) January 18, 2914

13. **January 19, 2014 – Mawathagama, Kurunegala District:** Two " Be Silent" sign boards belonging to two mosques on the Kandy – Kurunegala road in Mawathagama town were set on fire using tyres. Unidentified individuals have done this on 19<sup>th</sup> at 1.30 a.m. Since the fire caused damage to the nearby electricity transformer the surrounding people gathered and saved the transformer. BBS demanded the Mawathagama police to remove these boards last year. When the police attempted to remove them on 12.08.2013 the people of the area opposed it, thus creating tension between the police and Muslims. Following this incident the trustees of the two mosques filed cases in the Mawathagama Magistrate court and the Kurunegala High court and the cases are still pending.

Thinakural (Page 1) January 20, 2014

14. **January 21, 2014 – Ashroff Mawatha off Baudhaloka Mawatha Colombo 7, Colombo District:** The United National Party accuses the Government of Sri Lanka of attempting to

evict around 100 Muslim families from Bauddhaloka Mawatha. The Sri Lanka Government has sold nine acres of prime land to the Russian Embassy, for its upcoming project, bordering Bauddhaloka Mawatha. It is learnt that the government has promised the Russians that it would be clearing the areas in the vicinity in order to create a feasible environment for the embassy. If this happens, around one hundred families, who have been living in the area for over 100 years, will face eviction from their ancestral homes. An equally old mosque, built with the hard work and sweat of the Muslim families living in the vicinity, will be destroyed. All those living in the area are Muslims, and claim to have settled down there during colonial rule. The land was crown land when they settled on it as early as 1909. They held documentary proof that their forefathers settled in those areas during British rule. According to the documents, the land belonged to the Victoria Golf Club and had been leased to the settlers in early 19th century. According to the spokesman for the Russian Embassy the government had promised to clear up the land under the city beautification project. The Sri Lankan Government badly needs the support of the Russians to overcome the international presser on it, the UNP claims. Muslims are part of the largely minority population groups that are being displaced by the city beautification plans.

Sudar Oli January 21 page 3, Ceylon Today January 27, 2014 Page 7:

<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/90-54070-news-detail-facing-eviction.html>

<http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P3-3186108141.html>

15. **February 2, 2014 - Response of Minister of External Affairs Prof G L Peiris:** Minister of External Affairs Prof. G L Peiris has tried to explain a wave of attacks on churches and mosques, by claiming that these were community reactions to unauthorised facilities. With respect to the incidents against the places of religious worship the Minister of External Affairs Prof G L Peiris observed that in many instances the facilities concerned were not mosques or churches but makeshift prayer centers whose operations had irked relevant communities. He pointed out that there are laws regarding the establishment of places of religious worship and refuted insinuations of impunity, observing that the law has been set in motion with those violating the law being apprehended and charged in court. The above was his response to Nisha Biswal, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs in the United States Department of State during her recent visit to Sri Lanka.

<http://www.nation.lk/edition/news-online/item/25500-prof-peiris-responds.html>,

<https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/rajapaksa-regime-confirms-rajpals-position-on-church-and-mosque-attacks-reactions-by-local-community-to-unauthorised-facilities/>

[http://aramid5.rssing.com/chan-3973310/all\\_p118.html](http://aramid5.rssing.com/chan-3973310/all_p118.html)

16. **February 7, 2014 – Court Evidence:** The General Secretary of the Bodu Bala Sena (BBS), Ven. Galaboda Aththe Gnanasara, giving evidence in a Court hearing, on an attack on the Thaladena Calvary Church, alleged that 374 organizations, registered under the Company Act, are involved in 'unethical conversions' of Buddhists in the country. He alleges that the police, under the instructions of the Attorney General's Department, had provided 'protection' to those institutions. The newspaper reported that such assertions, though unverified, tend to generate strong reactions from certain quarters of the population. BBS blame the aggrieved party for inviting trouble or getting attacked.

<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/83-55186-news-detail-see-no-evil-hear-no-evil-speak-no-evil.html>

17. **February 7, 2014 - Media interview with Minister of Foreign Affairs GL Peiris where he reiterates his response to Nisha Biswal reported in incident of Feb 2, 2014:** In an interview to the Ceylon today Prof. G.L. Peiris said "In many cases, those are not churches, temples or mosques; those are rooms in private houses which are being used as prayer rooms. Then let's say on a public holiday, there is a greater deal of noise and there is

reaction from the neighbourhood. That has nothing to do with religious intolerance and even less so to do with the government support. It is a local neighbourhood reacting to what it considers as a disturbance. "There are rules in this country governing the establishment of places of worship. You cannot simply convert a room in a private house into a place of worship, and then complain if there is a problem in connection to the room in your own house. All of these are matters that need to be taken into consideration. Simply to listen to someone, come to a conclusion and broadcast it to the rest of the world, is, in our view, not a responsible course of action." "In fact, the latest allegation of religious intolerance, repeatedly stated by the US, appears to be in order to give credence to isolated incidents as a regular occurrence. It is well-known that many of the facilities for religious worship which have been targeted are those operating in violation of the guidelines governing the establishment of these places. It has generally been found that these incidents have been a reaction on the part of the community residents in those areas. Attributing blame to the government is totally unwarranted. While legal action has been taken with regard to some incidents, others have been settled amicably. Therefore, the criticism is grossly disproportionate and politically motivated."

<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/83-55186-news-detail-see-no-evil-hear-no-evil-speak-no-evil.html>

18. **February 13, 2014 – Statement:** Minister Wimal Weerawansa charged that Minister Rauf Hakeem and MP Hassen Ali are traitors. He stated that the SLMC, an ally of the UPFA, had figured among groups that had provided information to UN Human Rights Commissioner Navaneetham Pillai against the UPFA Government. Weerawansa told an election rally in Seeduwa that while the SLMC was enjoying ministerial posts, an SLMC delegation which met Pillay during her visit to Sri Lanka had provided anti-Government information to her. He alleged that this has paved the way to submit a ten-thousand-word report on Sri Lanka.  
<http://www.sundaytimes.lk/140216/columns/pillays-bombshell-report-corners-rajapaksa-regime-85793.html>, Thinakural (page 17) February 18
19. **February 13, 2014. Colombo National Hospital, Colombo District:** The prayer room on the 41<sup>st</sup> floor of the National Hospital was forcefully shut down by a Buddhist monk and his supporters attached to the Buddhist temple of the same hospital. This prayer hall was renovated by a senior consultant (Prof. Rizvi Sharif) and declared open by Minister Fowzi on February 19, 2014. According to Ashroff Hussain, a member of the hospital development committee, the Buddhist Monk has instructed the Director of the hospital to close the prayer hall immediately. With the permission of the hospital administration Prof. Rizvi Sharif inaugurated this prayer room in 1994. This hospital has seven Buddhist temples and Christian worship places. Over 350 Muslims are working in this hospital.  
Nawamani (Page 13) February 23, 2014, Thinakural (page 6) February 14, Virakesary (page 21) February 15<sup>th</sup>
20. **February 16, 2014 – News Paper Report:** Lankdeepa newspaper writes that the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Nawaneetham Pillay uses Minister of Justice, Rauf Hakeem's report to accuse Ministers. It further states that the report comprising over 10,000 words has mostly blamed Minister Champika Ranawake citing that he was behind the 214 hate incidents against Muslims in 2013.  
Lankadeepa (page1) February 16<sup>th</sup>
21. **February 16, 2014 – Statement:** We are against Muslim fundamentalism and practices and not against the Muslim people says the National coordinator of the Sinhala Ravaya Ven. Magalkande Sudantha Himi. If they can understand this countries religious values and within this protect their religious values and coexist we have no issues. Yet it is a known

fact that they are spreading their radical thinking throughout the world. The pundits in our country are the ones who do not understand this. Our rulers have no backbone to take action against these. In countries like Burma, France, England, Russia and Japan they have opposed Muslim fundamentalism and banned them because there is a true problem throughout the world. We do not ask Muslims not to eat beef; we are against them slaughtering cattle here. If they wish they can bring from anywhere and consume. If we can bring sweets from abroad it is not difficult to bring beef from abroad he says. Thereby our fight will not be unreasonable to Muslims.

Lakbima (page 16) February 16<sup>th</sup>

22. **February 19, 2014 – Statement:** General Secretary, of the Bodu Bala Sena (BBS), Ven. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara Thera while challenging the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) and those Christian and Catholic organizations to prove with evidence, their allegations that Sinhalese are being resettled in the North, and Buddhist temples are being constructed in these areas questioned “Don't they know that a certain community is building 5,000 houses inside the Wilpattu National Park?” He stated. "If Sri Lanka is defeated at the United Nations Human Rights Council sessions in Geneva, we will be blamed and branded as nationalists for speaking out on national issues when in reality it is certain Muslim ministers and Islamic organizations that are attempting to cause conflicts in the country," Gnanasara Thera added. He was also of the opinion that the President should wield his constitutional powers and put a halt to such activities.

<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/16-56460-news-detail-bbs-will-back-ven-maduluwawe-sobitha-thera.html>

<http://www.theindependent.lk/index.php/news2/2956-bbs-will-back-ven-maduluwawe-sobitha-thera>

23. **February 19, 2014- Sathyagraha Campaign:** The Sathyagraha organised by the Sinhala Ravaya against the slaughter of cattle has been intensified to a Fast-unto-death campaign. The organization commenced a procession from the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy on February 9 calling for an end to cattle slaughter in the country. National Organiser of Sinhala Ravaya Ven. Yakkalamulle Pavara said they demand the President officially inform them that the slaughter of cattle is banned in Sri Lanka. He added the letter received from the President's Office over the matter cannot be accepted. Muslim groups are claiming that the campaign against cattle slaughter is affecting their rights. Muslims groups further say “It is geared towards creating an obstacle for Muslims to exercise their fundamental rights. The campaign is not really against cattle slaughter but against Muslims, thus, infringing their rights.” Sinhala Ravaya mentioned that if the government refrains from banning cattle slaughter, members of Sinhala Ravaya will subject themselves to self- immolation.

He further stresses that they are pleading only to abolish the slaughter of cattle and not stop people who wish to consume beef. “When 93% of the country rejects the consumption of meat it is against the law to satisfy the needs of a section of the population (Muslim).” He further stated that they will continue with their protests against the slaughter of cattle and hope to take drastic measures in future.

<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/51-57565-news-detail-beef-eaters-may-go-to-supreme-court.html>

<http://newsradio.lk/fast-death-campaing-cattle-slaughter-colombo-fort/>

<https://srilankamirror.com/news/13504-monk-s-self-immolation-attempt-aborted>

[http://dailymirror.lk/archive/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=43232:protest&catid=110:caption-story&Itemid=768](http://dailymirror.lk/archive/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=43232:protest&catid=110:caption-story&Itemid=768)

<http://dailynation.lk/sinhala-ravaya-monks-threaten-self-immolate/>

Lankadeepa (page 11) 23<sup>rd</sup> February, Mawbima (page12) 25<sup>th</sup> February, Thinakural (page 1) February 18<sup>th</sup>

24. **February 19, 2014 – Kandy, Kandy District:** A gang of fourteen individuals entered the Jinnah Mosque at D. S. Senanayake Street in Kandy and caused damage to the building and its property. The suspects were from Mawanella area and they claimed ownership of the mosque. They were arrested and produced in court by the Kandy police who rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control. Trustees of the Mosque said the Jinnah Memorial Hall had been a common hall for the benefit of the Muslim community in Kandy for a long time and that it was further improved with a computer section and an auditorium under a project funded by the Kandy District Traders Association.

Daily Mirror - <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P3-3223682351.html>

Daily Mirror page 8 February 20, 2014

25. **February 25, 2014 – Media Interview:** The National Organizer and Media Spokesman Nishantha Sri Warnasinghe of the Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU) has spoken of Minister of Justice, Rauff Hakeem's interventions in the legal education system as an attempt to bring about the 'Muslimization' of the legal sphere, adding that this insidious plan was a conspiracy on the part of the Minister. He added that the Minister's racist policies had not only affected the handing over of positions at the Ministry of Justice, but also interfered with the appointment of Justice of the Peace positions. "Compared to all other years, in 2012 there was an exponential and unbelievable increase in the number of Muslim students being eligible. There have been irregularities in the marking scheme and in the marking of papers. How did this happen? There is a hidden agenda here. We call for an immediate independent inquiry into these injustices and human rights violations," Warnasinghe said.

<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/16-57004-news-detail-jhu-slams-hakeems-racist-policies.html>

26. **February 26, 2014 - Heragala, Gampaha District (All religions treated on equal footing – President):** "No harm has been done to mosques or churches. We are bound and committed to safeguard the rights of all religions and treat all on an equal footing as specified in the constitution. Some political parties identified by race or religion are giving wrong information to the world about our country" President Mahinda Rajapaksa made these comments in a religious event which was held at Padmawathi Privena in Keragala. "Which catholic Church and which Muslim mosque have we damaged" asks President. He stated that a Mosque cannot be built on land not belonging to the Mosque and no house can be converted into a Mosque as mentioned in the Holy Quran. "Some political parties and groups which have based their activities on ethnic or religious lines too can send a wrong message to society, he observed and added "the time when narrow divisions existed has ended and now, we should go forward with tolerance and coexist," the President said. The President addressing a large gathering of the Maha Sangha and the public noted that the government under the provisions of the Constitution was duty-bound to protect Buddhism and all other religions.

Mawbima (page11) 26<sup>th</sup> February, Thinakaran (page 3) February 26

<http://www.dailynews.lk/?q=local/all-religions-treated-equal-footing-president>

27. **February 26, 2014 – Statement:** "We are totally against the religious fundamentalism rising from Christianity, Islam and Hinduism in this country. If the fundamentalism comes from Buddhism we would oppose that as well. Our foremost duty is to protect Buddhism while protecting the unity and harmony of the country" Ven. Gnanasara of Bodu Bala Sena said in a statement in which he challenged Minister Vasudeva Nanayakkara to prove that BBS was acting as an agent of a foreign force.

28. **March 3, 2014 Janadipathi Balika Vidyalaya, Nawala, Colombo District:** Two students in Grade 7 of Janadipathi Balika Vidyalaya, School Lane Nawala, were ordered to kneel down and worship the Principal of the school after they on the advice of their parents attended school in the traditional attire worn by Muslim school girls in Sri Lanka. Despite the assurance of the Governor of the Western Province the two girls who attended school with the Muslim dress were punished. The class teacher of one of the students had informed the Principal that these girls had attended school clad in trouser and scarf despite the warning. The Principal had been infuriated and had asked the girls to worship her after they were ordered to undress their pants and scarf. The principal humiliated these girls in the presence of others and subjecting them to the embarrassment of having to take off their trousers and scarf. In 1980 the Ministry of Education by a circular issued to all Zonal Directors instructed that Muslim girls must be permitted to attend school attired in their traditional Punjabi attire which comprises a white frock (school Uniform), a white trouser and a shawl.

Sunday Leader <http://www.thesundayleader.lk/2014/03/16/undressing-the-hijab-harassment/>

The Sunday Leader (page 1) March 9, <http://www.thesundayleader.lk/2014/03/09/rajaqiriya-school-bans-hijab/>, <http://colombogazette.com/2014/03/08/rajaqiriya-school-bans-head-scarf/>, <http://www.ft.lk/2014/03/13/salley-to-go-to-police-over-hijab/>, Forum for Peaceful Coexistence, Sri Lanka - <http://mffcoexist.wordpress.com/2014/03/11/harassment-of-muslim-students-and-parents-at-janadipathy-balika-vidyalaya-rajaqiriya/>

29. **March 03, 2014 - Statement:** SLMC leader, Minister Rauff Hakeem's backstabbing policy is deplorable, says government affiliate Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU). JHU media secretary Nishantha Sri Warnasinghe, in a statement, accuses the SLMC of having sent an anti-Sri Lanka report to the UNHRC in Geneva. That report claims Muslims are having no religious freedom, blaming it on the JHU, Bodu Bala Sena and Sihala Ravaya. He asked the president to take strong action against the SLMC's backstabbing policy. The JHU statement alleges that the SLMC leader is misusing his ministerial privileges to Muslimise the ministry and to work against the country. It further states that the SLMC did not complain to the UNHCR when the then government entered into a ceasefire agreement in 2002 with LTTE terrorists who massacred Muslims inside their mosques. Neither did the party speak on behalf of the majority Sinhala Buddhists when the LTTE attacked the Sri Maha Bodhi and the Sri Dalada Maligawa. The JHU requests the President to take stern action against the SLMC leader for adopting this policy while being a member of the Cabinet. It stresses that Sinhala Buddhists have never denied any other community their religious rights, but have come forward to protect their own rights and the country. (Please refer to incident number 25 in February 2014)

<https://www.srilankamirror.com/news/13718-hakeem-s-backstabbing-is-deplorable-warnasinghe>

Daily News - <http://www.dailynews.lk/local/jhu-alleges-muslim-congress-submitted-anti-sl-report>

30. **March 4, 2014 – Kalubowila, Dehiwala, Colombo District:** The Gangodawila Magistrate issued an injunction against the Kadawatha Road mosque in Kalubowila Dehiwala, demanding the cessation of all religious activities on the premises. The order follows a case filed by the Kohuwala Police on 20 February that the mosque was a “public nuisance” and was an unregistered place of religious worship. However the mosque trustees contend that the mosque is legally registered with the Wakf Board, the legal body that is authorised to

register Mosques and Muslim places of worship. The Kadawatha Road mosque functions largely as a prayer and learning centre, conducting Qu'ran classes and small prayer meetings, with no Friday prayers. While the Police has filed a public nuisance complaint against the mosque, the premises do not use a public address system. The closure of this mosque comes just days after a group of Muslim representatives and businessmen met with Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa on 25 February, where they were given an assurance that the Government would not permit the closure of registered mosques. On March 7, three days after the closing order, the Gangodawila Magistrate reversed its order and permitted the reopening of the premises, following an appeal lodged by the trustees of the mosque.

Suder Oli (page 1) March 5, Thinakkural (page 1) March 5

Daily Mirror: <http://www.ft.lk/2014/03/05/court-orders-closure-of-dehiwala-mosque/>

Daily Nation: <http://dailynation.lk/fate-dehiwala-mosque-hangs-balance/>

Daily Mirror: <http://www.ft.lk/2014/03/08/kadawatha-road-mosque-reopened/>

31. **March 9, 2014 – Protest against Land Grab: Musali, Mannar District:** Muslims from Marichchukkaddi village in Musali DS division in Mannar sat on the Puttalam – Mannar Road at Maraikkar Tivu and demonstrated against the seizure of their lands including their cemetery. The families, uprooted from Musali in 1990, came to Musali division to resettle from Puttalam after the government promised them resettlement. Marichchukkaddi is the border village between the Northern and North-western Provinces. The Sri Lanka Navy has seized 255 acres of residential and agricultural lands in the area and the Sri Lanka Army has taken back 50 acres of lands given back to the 150 families through the Divisional Secretary. Department of Wildlife Conservation is also involved in the seizure of their lands. The Muslims have been living there for around a hundred years.

Thinakkural (page1) March 10

<http://www.ninjaclack.com/index.php/1010110A/196a99892adc61e893e96a57fceda1cb22f06bd72186add755ca8889bfa0c682e48d4096349efb91fa10e7780a14f20149d22418066>

32. **March 12, 2014 Galle, Galle District – President at public rally denies religious tensions in country:** President Mahinda Rajapaksa has alleged that those seeking to destabilise the country were now accusing the government of causing religious tensions. Addressing a United People Freedom Alliance (UPFA) propaganda rally at Galle, President Rajapaksa said that it was the latest NGO project directed against Sri Lanka during the on-going sessions of the UNHRC in Geneva. The President stressed that there was absolutely no basis for allegations that religious minorities were being targeted in the post-war era. He was responding to a report commissioned by the South Asia Policy and Research Institute (SAPRI) who has former President Chandrika Kumaratunga as its patron. The report alleged that there was a government backed campaign against Hindu, Muslim and Christian religious places of worship.

Island Page 1 [http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=99691](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=99691)

33. **March 12, 2014 Sri Lanka government denies religious intolerance and sporadic attacks:** The Government insisted that attacks on some places of worship are isolated incidents and are not a sign of religious hatred or intolerance. In a statement at the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Heiner Beilefeldt at the 25th session of the UN Human Rights Council, the Sri Lankan delegation said that the Government does not condone attacks on places of religious worship. It further said that in all instances where police complaints have been lodged, the legal process has been set in motion, including producing suspects before Magistrates. The delegation added

that all people in Sri Lanka enjoy freedom of religion, including the freedom to adopt a religion or belief of their choice.

(Colombo Gazette) <http://colombogazette.com/2014/03/12/government-says-attacks-isolated/>, <http://www.thesundayleader.lk/2014/03/16/government-says-attacks-isolated/>

34. **March 12, 2014 – News Item - BBS condemns the Governor’s intervention:** The Bodu Bala Sena condemned the intervention of Western Province Governor, Alavi Mowlana, in an issue regarding racial segregation, which ensued at the Janadhipathi Balika Vidyalaya recently. The controversy surrounds the recent incident where two Muslim students had been asked to remove their hijab and long pants. The students had also allegedly been requested to kneel down before the principal. BBS CEO Dilanthe Withanage, said, "This is an ordinary issue which had been dealt in a proper manner. The school was functioning upon Buddhist norms and students must adhere to the uniform in the school. We condemn the actions of the Governor in making this a religious issue." He continued, "There are 30 Muslim students in the school. There is no reason to have Muslim students in a Buddhist school, if they cannot abide by the school's rules in the first place. However, of the 30 students, only two had been reprimanded, which shows that there was no religious sentiment wrongly advocated." The governor had discussions to resolve the dispute with Western Province Director of Education, Coordinating Secretary for Education to the Governor and Mayor of Kotte. The principal had informed that the other students have not had much problem remaining in the school, but the two students have requested to be transferred.

In another report, "Muslim fundamentalist groups are treacherous", the CEO of the Bodu Bala Sena Dilantha Withanage said in a meeting held in connection with Nawala Janadipathi Balika Vidyalaya uniform incident. He expressed that the fundamentalist Muslim groups are a danger to the educational sector. The small issues in schools have been exaggerated at national level and the image of the country is brought down by these separatist groups. Also see incident no 28.

Ceylon Today: <http://www.ceylontoday.lk/51-58612-news-detail-incident-where-muslim-students-asked-to-uncover-bbs-condemns-alavi-mowlanas-intervention.html>

Sudaroli (page 1) March 13, Thinakural (page 1) March 13, Dinamina (page24) March 13<sup>th</sup>

35. **March 13, 2014 - Press Conference:** "Sri Lanka Muslim Congress is a political prostitute. It will join any party coming to power. It is the SLMC that assists to spread Muslim extremism and separation in the east" Ven. Gnanasara said in a press conference, held in Kirillapone. If the Sinhala race is destroyed there won't be a place for the Muslims to live in this country, he warned. Among the migrant workers more than sixty thousand Sinhala and Tamil women were converted to Islam. Similarly the Tamil women in the east were converted to Islam and destroying the social structure. The SLMC gives leadership for all these activities.

Virakesari (page 14) March 21

36. **March 14<sup>th</sup> 2014 - Press conference in Colombo:** "In 2016 BBS will be the deciding factor in the country" The decision making powers cannot be Minister Hakeem, Ex. President Chandrika nor the Thondamans, it will only be the BBS, they cannot do what they want, declares Ven. Gnanasara Thera. The President of the country in future will be decided by the BBS, preparation for this is already underway he explained. If a President has retired, according to the constitution He/she can enjoy the privileges stipulated by the state and live a spiritual life without disturbing the country further, states Rev Gnanasara. We are still abiding by the law of the country and attending to our affairs. If the government

takes action against the preparation committee working against religious tolerance and if it does not take any measures to eradicate the religious separatism we will have to enforce unofficial police status and wipe out all these extremists, Ven. Gnanasara stated.

Ada (page 1) March 14<sup>th</sup>

37. **March 17, 2014 - Press Conference:** General Secretary of the Bodu Bala Sena threatened to flay Justice Minister Rauff Hakeem calling him an agent of international extremist Islam organizations. "Minister of Justice, Rauff Hakeem is a traitor. He owes the Sinhalese of this country an apology for handing over a 50 page document to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights" Ven. Gnanasara said. The BBS General Secretary also went on to call the Sri Lankan Justice Minister a 'pariah'. 'We request the All Ceylon Jamiyatul Ulama to leash their dogs. If not, they will get beaten by us," Gnanasara Thera added. "Rauff Hakeem, who's acting like a rabid dog, wants to create an ethnic split in the country and stay in power forever. For that, they are not afraid to betray the country and its people," the BBS General Secretary said referring to the report provided by Minister Rauff Hakeem to UN Human Rights High Commissioner Navaneetham Pillai. He asked to prove if there is any complaint made by Muslims against Bodu Bala Sena, anywhere in the country. "We cannot allow Hakeem to dance anymore" he noted.

March 18, 2014 <http://www.asianmirror.lk/news/item/248-rauff-hakeem-is-rabid-we-will-flay-him-bbs/248-rauff-hakeem-is-rabid-we-will-flay-him-bbs>

Thinakural (page 3), March 18, Virakesari (page 1) March 18

38. **March 19, 2014 – Derogatory Statement:** The BBS have stepped up their rhetoric against the Justice Minister Rauff Hakeem by saying they could stop Sri Lanka Muslims having access to the Sinhala market in retaliation for a report handed to the UNHRC by the SLMC. It is correct to call Rauff Hakeem a pariah as he is clearly serving other masters and carrying tales to Geneva for LTTE money, despite being paid with public money for being a cabinet minister, Bodu Bala Sena says. The minister has accused the Thera of having used, at a media briefing, lowly and abusive language against him. The BBS rejects the allegation.

[http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_14A/Mar18\\_1395158914CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_14A/Mar18_1395158914CH.php)

39. **March 19<sup>th</sup> 2014 – Some are trying to induce racism:** The President in his address at the opening of the renovated Kapuwatte Mosque in Weligama expressed his gratitude for giving him this opportunity to open this historic Mosque after renovations. He also stated that some elements are trying to induce racism in this country.

Dinamina (page 5) 1<sup>st</sup> March

40. **March 20, 2014 - Press Conference:** "Sack those Muslim ministers who while staying in the government were involved in treacherous activities against the country, immediately. We won't allow unauthorised Muslim settlements in this country" Ven. Gnanasara of BBS said at a press conference at the Buddhist Centre in Kirillapone. "The Sinhala Buddhist race is declining in Sri Lanka. The Muslims are not only involved in converting the Sinhalese, they created a situation to grab the lands belong to the Sinhalese and Tamils. Muslim ministers of this government encourage this action. Muslim settlement in Mannar district has been actively taking place. Minister *Rishad Bathiudeen* is engaged in settling Muslims from Mannar to Wilpattu" he accused. He further stated that although the Sinhala representation is high in the southern part of the country considerable number of Muslims are living among them. They enjoy all the rights and live without any fear. But the Sinhalese cannot live freely in the north or east, particularly there is no place for the Sinhalese in the Muslim populated areas. This has to be changed. Sinhalese should get all their rights. He

also stated "Several ministers in this government support the plan of the Muslim extremists of the Middle East to spread the Islamic extremism in Sri Lanka and make Sri Lanka as a member country of the Middle East" told Ven. Gnanasara. In the name of Mosques thousands of centres are in operation to propagate religion. Religious extremism is worse than the armed extremism. Muslims are using this to destroy Sinhala Buddhist"

Virakesari (page 13) March 21

41. **March 21, 2014 News accusing the resettlement of the Muslim IDPs:** The Bodu Bala Sena excoriated Minister of Industry and Commerce, Rishad Bathiudeen, for building separate Muslim zones and villages for the internally displaced people by desecrating the sanctity of the Wilpattu National Park. They allege that he has entered into secret contracts with Middle Eastern NGOs. The BBS also queried as to who granted permission for this, and as to why MPs, the Minister of Environment and Renewable Energy and Minister of Construction, Engineering Services, Housing and Common Amenities were silent on the matter. "This building of new Muslim villages is the origin of a future problem. When a government minister signs a contract on behalf of the government, how does the money end up with a NGO? Muslim extremists have had talks locally and internationally to engage in an international conspiracy to acquire our coastal belt and this attempt in Puttalam - Mannar is a threat to both national and regional safety and security. This is a problem with government policy," BBS General Secretary Ven. Galagodaaththe Gnanasara Thera, BBS Executive Committee Member and Programmes Coordinator Dilantha Withanage and BBS Education and Research Unit Chief Coordinator Chamila Liyanage stated.

<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/51-59412-news-detail-bbs-now-slams-rishad-bathiudeen.html>

42. **March 22, 2014 – Mawanella, Kegalle District:** The Bodu Bala Sena forcibly changed a street name in the Muslim dominated Mawanella town in the presence of law enforcement officials who failed to act. Following a rally filled with anti-Muslim rhetoric in the town, the BBS and its supporters marched to a road sign that read "Hassan Mawatha" and pasted a sign over it to read "Anagarika Dharmapala Mawatha." The BBS said road names in Sri Lanka should reflect the country's Sinhala Buddhist roots. During its rally, the BBS warned that the Muslims had seized control of Mawanella and that the state of affairs would no longer be tolerated. "If the measures were not taken to control the Muslim extremists in the government like Hakeem the Bodu Bala Sena will not hesitate to shake the royal thrones," says Ven. Gnanasara Thera at the gathering.

Daily Financial Times <http://www.ft.lk/2014/03/26/bbs-beheads-street-name/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xd3zq4lfcUM>

<https://www.srilankamirror.com/news/14051-we-will-shake-royal-thrones-bbs>

43. **March 23 2014 – Geneva:** The report produced at the UN Human Rights Council about the religious disunity has no truth and there is no religious disunity in our country says Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe at the Conference of Organisation of Islamic Countries, in Geneva.

Irudina (page 2) 23<sup>rd</sup> March

44. **Mar 24, 2014 – an anonymous letter sent around electronically to a wider range of people with media publicity:** A letter identifying itself as being from the Peace Loving Moderate Muslims in Sri Lanka (PLMMSL), and addressed to the UN Chief, UN Human Rights High Commissioner, Sri Lankan President, diplomats and many others, called on the Government to ban without delay the Thawheed Jamaat an Islamic religious movement. According to the PLMMSL this movement is fast becoming a cancer within Sri Lanka's Muslim community. The letter further stated that the Thawheed Jamaat were preaching and

practicing religious intolerance, exerting pressure on other Islamic movements, making it compulsory to attend mosques, making it compulsory to learn the Arabic Language, making the implementation of Sharia law above the civil laws of Sri Lanka, forcing females to wear the burka and constructing many mosques and madrassas in many parts of the country.

It is clear that the Thawheed Jamaat represents a small minority among the total Muslim population in Sri Lanka. This shows that 90% of the Muslim community in Sri Lanka is not in any way linked to the controversial and divisive activities that are the cause of much unrest, disharmony and distrust in the country. It is tragic that the majority of the Muslims who are essentially peace loving are to pay for the actions of this minority. We fear that these activities of the Thawheed Jamaat, if left unchecked by the authorities, would create a situation in which the majority of the Muslims in Sri Lanka, are already under threat and harassment from this extremist minority, may have to face the wrath of other religions, the PLMMSL said. There was no record of the existence of such an entity before the publication of this letter.

Daily Mirror (page 1) <http://epaper.dailymirror.lk/epaper/viewer.aspx>

<http://mffcoexist.wordpress.com/2014/03/11/harassment-of-muslim-students-and-parents-at-janadipathy-balika-vidyalaya-rajaqiriya/>

Virakesari (page 2) March 25

45. **March 26, 2014 – Dambulla, Matale District, Grenade Attack:** Two hand grenades were hurled at the Mosque in Dambulla on the night of the 25th by a group of unknown persons, according to a member of the Mosque Trustee Board M Rahmathullah. He pointed out that two grenades were thrown into the backyard of the mosque around 8.45 p.m., but only one had exploded resulting in minor damages to the mosque. This incident happened despite two police officers having been assigned to guard the mosque on a daily basis.

<http://dailynation.lk/hand-grenade-hurled-dambulla-mosque/>

Metro News (page 1) March 28, Thinakkural (page 1) March 28, Virakesari (page 10) March 28

46. **April 1, 2014 - News Conference:** The Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) claimed that a huge housing project has come up in the middle of the Wilpattu National Park with funds received from an NGO based in a Middle Eastern country. BBS accuses Minister Rishard Badutheen of resettling Muslim IDPs there and lashed out at President Mahinda Rajapaksa and government officials for keeping mum about this. Ven. Gnanasara said “we already exposed the destruction of Wilpattu jungle and the Muslim settlement that is taking place there. Wilpattu is not only a tourist site, it is also considered as a Buddhist Archaeological site.” He asked “who has given permission to destroy the Buddhist artefacts?” “This housing project reflects only one ethnicity (Muslims). By destroying the Sinhala Buddhist they are trying to prove that the Sinhalese are illegal migrants to Sri Lanka” he added. He warned “if the President failed to take action we will directly intervene.”

Daily Mirror (page 1) April 2, Sudar Oli (page 1) April 2, Virakesari (page 10) April 2 Ada (page 6) April 3, Ada (page 6) April 3

<http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/45306-bbs-flays-govt-on-wilpattu-housing-project.html>

47. **April 1, 2014 - Press Interview:** In a media interview to the Daily Mirror Ven. Gnanasara of Bodu Bala Sena says Muslim society is entailed with the tragedy called Wahabism – Muslim extremism. It is the person called Alavi Moulana who has spoken to the Asian Tribune and India Today magazines about it. In addition, Mr. Azad Salley’s brother has also spoken about it. It was in 2012, that the question of Muslim extremism arose. There are

about 400 Christian fundamentalist organisations. There are reports about it. Some Muslim brothers also spoke to me about conversions. They live in fear in some parts of the country.

He further said "We have not attacked any religious place. We are not involved in the Dambulla incident. They are not religious places - they are places created in the name of religion." Ven. Gnanasara accepted that he uses harsh words. He says "It is true that we use harsh words. We do so because the people cannot understand what we say. However, nowhere have we exhibited such alleged intolerant behaviour."

Daily Mirror (page 12) April 1

<http://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/172-opinion/45256-we-have-not-attacked-any-religious-place.html>

- 48. April 3, 2014 – Press Statement:** Sihala Ravaya, another Buddhist extremist organisation said they would back Janadhipathi Balika Vidyalaya Principal's decision to disallow the wearing of shawls and trousers. Sihala Ravaya National Convener, Ven. Magalkande Sudhaththa Thera said ""Politicians are behind this extremism. We shall be announcing the names of these extremist politicians soon. If this student wants to wear what she wants to wear she must go to a Muslim school."

<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/51-60709-news-detail-sihala-ravaya-asks-student-to-find-muslim-school.html>

<http://groundviews.org/2014/05/09/the-failure-of-the-media-civil-society-and-the-moderates/>

- 49. April 08, 2014, Wilpattu National Park, Mannar District:** The Bodu Bala Sena inspected the area where a resettlement project is allegedly being carried out in a part of the Wilpattu National Park. Later Bodu Bala Sena General Secretary Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara Thera told the media that his representatives were able to observe the controversial land area today. The Bodu Bala Sena Organization constantly charged that Industrial and Commerce Minister Rishard Badiudin received funds from Pakistan for a resettlement project for Muslims and he has been clearing jungles north of the Wilpattu national park near Mullikulam. The Minister rejected the Bodu Bala Sena allegations. 60 journalists including foreign correspondents were taken on a fact finding mission on 22.04.2014 to examine the ground situation by the authorities in the area. The Journalist concluded that along the border of the Wilpattu National Park on the partly constructed Puttalam- Mannar road stretching over a distance of 36 km, there were no signs of any human settlements within the Wilpattu National Park. At the Mannar end of the Wilpattu National Park, it was quite evident that the 73 houses - small mud huts - were standing outside the Wilpattu National Park, on what the Wild Life Department (WLD) has at various times described as Sanctuary or Buffer Zone[M1].

Ada (page 5) April 8

<http://www.hirunews.lk/80892/bodu-bala-sena-inspect-minister-badiudeens-resettlement-project-in-wilpattu>

[http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=102088](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=102088)

- 50. April 09, 2014 – Slave Island, Colombo - Mayhem at media briefing:** A tense situation erupted when Bodu Bala Sena stormed a media conference organized by the Jathika Bala Sena. Several Muslim representatives also participated in the media conference convened by JBS General Secretary Vatareka Vijitha Thera. Ven. Gnanasara Thero of BBS verbally abused and threatened Muslim clerics and Vatareka Vijitha Thera after storming the venue of the press conference. Muslim Moulavis attempted to flee but they were stopped by Bodu Bala Sena representatives. BBS prevented the press conference from going ahead at the

Nippon Hotel. The press briefing was organised to brief the media against allegations that a new resettlement was being constructed with funds from a Donor Agency and named as Jassim City inside the Wilpattu National Park. The BBS said that no Buddhist Monk has the right to speak on behalf of Muslims and threatened to disrobe the Ven. Watarekka Vijitha Thero in front of the media. The incident took place in the presence of police officers. Meanwhile Police Media Spokesman SSP Ajith Rohana had said that “although nothing had happened and no arrests were made Ven. Gnanasara had attempted to remove Ven Watareka Thera’s robe”. Ven. Gnanasara was berating the monks who had been holding the media conference. "Don't you feel ashamed to come here in a saffron robe? Get out. I was looking for you, Watareka Vijitha Thera. Aren't you ashamed to wash dirty linen of mosques? We will remove your robe and dress you in a Burka. This man is a dog. Not worthy of the robe. You defamed the entire Maha Sangha. You shamed the nation by going after mosques. We should not let bastards like you to exist.”

<http://www.eyesrilanka.com/2014/04/12/muslim-parliamentarians-considering-boycotting-parliament/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldjdYVXgpgk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Syx5Jirkvw>

<http://www.adaderana.lk/news/video-bodu-bala-sena-ends-watareka-drama>

<http://www.hirunews.lk/80932/bodu-bala-sena-raids-jathika-media-conference-galagoda-aththe-thero-reprimand-wata-raka-vijitha-police-intervenues>

<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/83-61532-news-detail-sri-lankas-tilt-towards-religious-extremism.html>

51. **April 10, 2014 – Press Conference:** Western Provincial Council Minister of Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU), Udaya Gammanpila, urged Minister Rishard Bathiudeen to reveal the secret of resettling the Muslims in a Jungle. He called on the government to initiate legal action against Commerce and Industry Minister Rishard Bathiutheen over the alleged resettlement of Muslim people in Wilpattu irrespective of his positions, party or religious differences. He said the above when addressing a press conference at the party office in Battaramulla.

Sudar Oli (page 3) April 11, Mowbima (page 1) April 11

<http://www.lankaweb.com/news/items/2014/04/23/is-there-an-illegal-settlement-and-mosque-inside-wilpattu-national-park/>

52. **April 12, 2014 – Slave Island, Colombo - Derogatory Remarks on Holy Quran:** Ven. Gnananasara Thero of the BBS falsely stated that the concept of ‘Thaqiya’ in the Holy Quran allows Muslims to defraud people of other faiths and acquire properties and wealth of non-Muslims by cheating them. This occurred outside the Slave Island Police Station in the presence of the police officers, the media and the public.

Sudar Oli (page 1) April 19, Mowbima (page 4) April 17

<http://www.eyesrilanka.com/2014/04/25/insulting-the-holy-quran-could-lead-to-worldwide-response-detrimental-to-the-country/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1CBsyRjDk0>

Ceylon Today (page 1) April 17

53. **April 18, 2014 - President Rajapaksa says problems created by foreign elements:** “There is no room for any community to suppress another community on the grounds of religion or ethnicity” President Mahinda Rajapaksa said while speaking at the opening of the new bridge across Batticaloa lagoon connecting Batticaloa and Ampara and assured

that no injustice will be done to any ethnicity. President said certain foreign elements were trying to create problems between communities and religions and destroy national harmony by spreading false rumours. The Government is committed to safeguard the rights and privileges of all religious groups in Sri Lanka and to secure the freedom of worship in the country, the President further said. The Government has come under severe criticism by international as well as local civil society organisations for allowing Buddhist extremist groups to intimidate Muslims and Christians in the country.

<http://www.ft.lk/2014/04/21/no-room-for-any-injustice-to-any-community-in-sri-lanka-president-assures/>

Thinakkural (page 1) April 21, Daily Mirror (page 4) April 23

- 54. April 22, 2014 - Media Interview:** When speaking to the press at the Buddhist Centre in Kirillapone, Ven. Gnanasara of BBS said “The Tamil Nadu Tawheed Jamath is planning to come to politics as ascertained from their activities in the Maligawatte flats in Maradana, which we revealed. For those who accuse us of insulting the Quran, we ask the police to immediately arrest these Tawheed Jamath men before trying to lay a finger on the robe because if not the whole place will go up in flames. Minister of Industry and Commerce, Rishad Bathiudeen, is the one who created the environment for the Sri Lanka Tawheed Jamath to foster and provided government protection for them. Hiding behind ulterior motives they even protested the US sponsored resolution against Sri Lanka at the UNHRC, in front of US embassy, he stated. The Ven. Gnanasara was of the view that people like this including Minister of Justice, Rauff Hakeem, must be stoned according to the Sharia Law. “They are pushing their political agendas by trying to be the heroes of the Muslim society. The say that a god exists, we are ready to debate and prove their fallacy” he added.

Ceylon Today (Page 1) 23 April, Daily Mirror (page 5) April 23, Thinakkural (page 4) April 23,

- 55. April 23, 2014: Colombo – Muslim Minister’s Office raided in search of a Buddhist Monk:** A group of BBS members raided the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, 73/1, Galle Road Colombo 3, closer to the Temple Trees coming under Minister Rishard Bathiudeen, who, according to the BBS, is promoting 'Muslim Extremism' in Sri Lanka, in search of Watareka Wijitha Thera possibly to harm the monk and for complaining to the Slave Island Police. Ven. Watareka Thera, who is also UPFA Mahiyangana Pradesiya Sabha member and keen on maintaining communal harmony and peace between Sinhalese and Muslims, which the BBS denounces. Deputy Financial Secretary of the BBS, Ven. Wellampitiye Sumanadhamma Thera said, "Ven. Mohamed Vatareka Vijitha Thera is a fake character. We had reliable information that he was in the ministry. He is a parasite destroying the nation. We ask Bathiudeen not to use the robe to solve problems concerning the Muslims, mosques or Maulavis. We ask Bathiudeen to release him to us. Don't continue this deception. We will not stop until we find this fake character and take him to meet the Mahanayakes to enact the monks' law and monks' discipline according to the monks' constitution. Despite the police presence, the group who were accompanied by members of the media were allowed to enter the ministry premises and were allowed by ministry officials to search the ministry complex. (Refer April 09, 2014)

Daily Mirror (page 1) April 24, Ceylon Today (page 1) April 24, Ada (page 1) April 24. Mowbima (page 2) April 24

<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/51-62335-news-detail-bbs-storms-bathiudeens-ministry.html>

<http://www.eyesrilanka.com/2014/04/25/insulting-the-holy-quran-could-lead-to-worldwide-response-detrimental-to-the-country/>

<http://asianmirror.lk/news/item/1050-watareka-wijitha-thera-missing-bbs-to-surround-rishad-s-ministry/1050-watareka-wijitha-thera-missing-bbs-to-surround-rishad-s-ministry>

56. **April 23, 2014 - Gampola Town, Kandy District:** BBS members including several Monks arrived in two vans to the Masjidul Ilham Bebila Mosque in the Gampola town area while the Muslims were at the noon prayer. The intruders started photographing and videoing the mosque in different angles, this created tension among the Muslims. They alleged that the main hall of the mosque has been illegally built by encroaching the Bebila Road.  
Metro News (page 21) April 24, Thinakkural (page 1) April 24
57. **April 24, 2014 – Press Conference:** Addressing a media conference organised by BBS, Ven. Gnansara said “We have begun a just war against the religious extremism. Several activities are carried out in this country against Buddhism. While Muslim extremist organisations are involved in converting Buddhist to their religion a minister carries out an illegal settlement. Some Muslim ministers and NGOs are using Buddhist monks to take forward their separatist ideology. The LTTE never used the saffron robes (Monks) during the 30 years of war, but the Muslim ministers are doing it. We raised our views against these. Instead of taking action against these we have been blamed. There is no need for us to apologies to anyone for what we are doing.” He called every Buddhist of this country to be a policeman. “If we have to protect ourselves from being converted to other religion or stop land grabbing every Buddhist should become a policeman,” he stressed.  
Thinakaran (page 1) April 27, Thinakkural (page 5) April 25, Ada (page 1) April 25, Divaina (page 13) April 26.
58. **April 24, 2014 – Derogatory Statement:** “After capturing the country from the Tiger terrorists, Muslim extremism with new faces operate within the country. There are two forces of enemies operating in this country that put the government in trouble. One of them is an enemy showing friendly face to the government, the other is a Minister who puts the government in trouble by grabbing the state lands.” Ven. Omalpa thera, President of Jathika Hela Urumaya, said in the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Mitiyawatte Journalist Forum.  
Ada (page 9) April 24
59. **April 28, 2014 Complaints against Thawheed Jamath:** Ven. Akmeemana Dayarathana, President of Sihala Ravaya and several other monks have lodged complaints with four police stations against the General Secretary of the Sri Lanka Thawheed Jamath (SLTJ), Abdul Raseek for allegedly having issued statements insulting the Buddha and Buddhism. Ven. Dayarathana, in his complaint, has requested the arrest of Abdul Raseek for uttering derogatory statements against the Buddha, with the intention of spreading hatred among Buddhists, by criticizing Buddhist scripture. Ven. Akmeemana Dayarathana has lodged his complaint at the Dehiwala Police Station, while Ven. Magalkande Sudaththe, Convenor, Sihala Ravaya, lodged his complaint at the Kalutara (South) Police Station and Ven. Alawwe Nandaloka lodged his at the Alawwa Police Station. Further, Ven. Akmeemana Dayaratna urged the government to arrest the members of the Sri Lanka Thawheed Jamath immediately, confiscate their passports, announce the SLTJ as fundamentalist organisation and punish them in public.  
Ceylon Today (page 1) April 28, Metro News (page 21) April 30
60. **April 30, 2014 – Press Interview:** Bodu Bala Sena says its predictions for the past two years about the existence of Muslim terrorism in Sri Lanka have become true now. The arrest in India of a Muslim terrorist group leader with links to Kandy confirms BBS claims, stated its CEO Dilanthe Withanage. He told Sri Lanka Mirror that this particular incident has taught a lesson to all Sri Lankans and especially to those who had attacked BBS and its

general secretary Ven. Gnanasara, chauvinistically. The warnings by the defence secretary, the western province governor and a mosque trustee Riaz Salley about Muslim terrorism in Sri Lanka have proven correct, he said. Muslim terrorism has become a serious threat to the security of Sri Lanka as well as the region, he said, adding that steps should be taken by the Sri Lankan Government and the defence authorities in collaboration with the Asian region to rescue the country from peril and to nip the threat in the bud. He added that the groups operating in the eastern province and the Puttalam - Mannar zone should be investigated and peace in the country restored.

<https://www.srilankamirror.com/news/14701-bbs-says-its-predictions-of-muslim-terrorism-become-true>

61. **May 2, 2014 – Media Conference:** “Now it is confirmed that Sri Lankan Muslim organisations are maintaining relationship with the Pakistan terrorists.” Ven. Gnanasara said in a press interview held at the Buddhist Centre in Kirillapone. He stated “we have been telling the government for the last two years about the spreading of Muslim extremism in the country, but the government ignored us. Now the international media say that the Sri Lanka Muslim terrorists organised with the Pakistan terrorists, to attack India.” He accused the Sri Lanka Thowheed Jamath and the Tamil Nadu Thowheed Jamath as if they were involved in crimes such as smuggling arms, drug dealing, etc. He further blamed them as they were trying to discredit the country and create problems in Sri Lanka. In the meantime the Sri Lankan Government today rejected claims that Muslim extremist groups are undergoing training in Sri Lanka to carry out attacks in India. Defence Ministry spokesman, Brigadier Ruwan Wanigasooriya said that such claims are baseless and are not backed by evidence.

Virakesari (page 1) May 3

<http://mffcoexist.wordpress.com/2014/05/04/sri-lanka-denies-terror-training-claim/>

62. **May 4, 2014 – Email interview with terrorism research expert Dr. Rohan Gunaratna:** In an email interview with The Nation regarding the arrest of a Lankan Islamist terror suspect Mohammed Zakir Hussain in Chennai, expert on terrorism research Dr. Rohan Gunaratna said “overseas Islamist terror cells were increasingly operating in Sri Lanka, posing a severe threat to the entire South Asian region.” Dr. Gunaratna stressed that authorities here should work with their security counterparts to dismantle regional terrorist and criminal networks.

[The Nation](#) (page 1) May 4, Sudar Oli (page 1) May 5

<http://www.nation.lk/edition/latest-top-stories/item/28822-overseas-islamist-terror-cells-in-sri-lanka.html#sthash.6oZSOu8q.dpuf>

<http://www.srilankaguardian.org/2014/05/isi-agent-arrest-in-chennai-significant.html>

63. **May 5, 2014 – Minister Champika Ranawaka’s Accusation:** “Sri Lanka is becoming a centre for the international Islamic terrorists” accused Minister Champika Ranawaka who is also the general secretary of Jathika Hela Urumaya. He said “there is a connection between the terrorists in the Tamil Nadu in India and the Sri Lankan Muslim fundamentalists. The terrorists of Malaysia, Indonesia, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Kashmir use Sri Lanka as their centre.

Virakesari (page 2) May 5

64. **May 6, 2014 – Dambulla, Matale District – Dambulla Mosque is under threat once again:** Tense situation prevailed in Dambulla when the Road Development recommenced with the aim of demolishing the 65 year old Dambulla mosque. The construction of the road commenced this morning under the leadership of Ven. Inamaluwe Sri Sumangala Thero

with heavy police protection. The officials of the Urban Development Authorities were supervising the work. When the Mosque Administration attempted to stop it, the authorities have said that this action cannot be stopped, because the order comes from the top and to be done under the leadership of Ven. Sumangala. The Buddhist monk started this campaign against the Mosque on April 24, 2012 claiming that this mosque comes under the sacred zone. The UNP Parliamentarian R. Yograjan said that the mosque in Dambulla was also faced with the threat of closure due to the construction of a road running through its precincts. "President Rajapaksa told me that he would ask the authorities to construct the road around the Mosque. But, it is clear that there is an organised attempt to demolish not only their places of worship but also drive the Tamils and Muslims totally out of Dambulla" he noted. Ven. Sumanagala has asked the Mosque administration to remove the CCTV camera and the flash light fitted on a palmyrah tree. He has insisted that the palmyrah tree be removed and the 50 feet road has to be ready for him to take the Buddhist procession (Perehara) for the Wesak that falls on May 14 and 15. In the meantime Mr S Y M Saleem, member of the Dambulla Mosque has lodged a complaint at the Dambulla police station against demolishing the toilet of the mosque without prior notice and breaking a house and damaging articles worth over Rs. 250 thousand.

Sudar Oli (page 1) May 7, Thinakaran (page 1) May 10, Thinakkural (page 4) May 7, Thinakural (page 7) May 9, Thinakkural (page 8) May 11, Virakesari (page 2) May 7

Island May 15, 2014, [http://www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code\\_title=103368](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=103368)

<https://www.srilankamirror.com/news/14810-dambulla-mosque-at-risk-of-demolition>

**65. May 8, 2014 - Dippitigoda, Wattala, Colombo District – Injunction against Mosque:**

Today the Mahara Magistrate's Court extended the injunction on Masjidul Mohiuydeen Thakkiya at Dippitigoda, Wattala, until May 20<sup>th</sup>. At the end of March this year the Magistrate Court ordered the suspension of all construction work despite the Board of Trustees obtaining proper permission for construction. A group of Buddhist Monks of the area lodged a complaint at the police station against the reconstruction of the mosque. This mosque was registered under the Wakf Board in 1991 and was conducting all five times prayers without any interruption until the complaint made by the monks. The Magistrate has permitted the Mosque to continue religious activities.

Thinakkural (page 9) May 11

**66. May 09, 2014 – Aluthgama, Kalutara District – Muslim Shop Set on Fire:**

Three Buddhist monks and an angry mob of at least 250 persons have set fire to a shop of a Muslim trader in the town of Aluthgama. The shop was set on fire after the mob charged that the brother of the owner had molested a child. The owner of the shop Mohommad Nayeem Khan has said that this was a conspiracy against him. Khan has said that his brother who was arrested over child molestation charges was released on bail after all video footage taken inside his shop was produced before courts. "Several discussions had taken place in the Buddhist Temple against me. I requested for security after informing police that a protest demonstration was going to be held against me. The police said that necessary action would be taken if an incident occurred," Khan has added. May 08 three Buddhist monks and a mob of around 250 - 300 came down the road, shouting that legal action had not been meted out correctly and they will set fire to this shop. According to reports, the child molestation charges levelled against Khan's brother were fabricated. Another report says that a strong opinionated Buddhist trader conducting a trade nearby is behind the torching, it adds. Although the public protest was prohibited by the Kalutara

magistrate as the case has been taken up at the Kalutara court, staging of this protest was a notable matter.

Sudar Oli (page 3) May 10, Thinakkural (page 1) May 10, Virakesari (page 1) May 10, Divaina (page-03) May 10, Mawbima (page- 01) May 10, Rivira (page-03) May 10, Ada (page- 01) May 12, Divaina (page- 18) May 14, Lankadeepa(page-07) May 10.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/sinhala/sri\\_lanka/2014/05/140509\\_lanka\\_shop\\_fire.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sinhala/sri_lanka/2014/05/140509_lanka_shop_fire.shtml)

<https://www.srilankamirror.com/news/14860-muslim-trader-s-shop-torched>

[http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_14A/May09\\_1399656282CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_14A/May09_1399656282CH.php)

**67. May 12, 2014 – Responding to Newspaper:** “Eliminating Muslim extremism and protecting the sacred Buddhism is our purpose and not destroying the Muslims,” Ven. Gnansara stated. He also said that every citizen should become an unofficial policeman to protect the country. He replied to Virakesari, a Tamil newspaper when he was queried about the constant allegation against BBS by the Muslim minister. He further stated that it was confirmed that the Muslim extremism and the Middle East extremism have been spreading in this country. He said “A few Muslim organisations spread Muslim extremism and trying to destroy the entire people. To control this we are continuously fighting. We are not against Muslims. Muslim ministers are responsible for the increase of extremism. They join the Middle East countries, having secret agreements with them and betray our country.” He stressed “we don’t need to answer any of their questions. We are voicing to protect the country, and Sinhala and Tamil people.”

Virakesari (page 9) May 12

**68. May 13, 2014 – Gampola, Kandy district – Monks Protest against Muslims:** This afternoon around 30 Buddhist Monks led a protest march against Muslims in Gampola over an incident related to Wesak decoration at Zahira College. While the protesters were carrying placards and chanting anti-Muslim slogans leading from the Ambagamuwa Street, a highly Muslim populated area, the Prime Minister and his son a member of the Central Provincial Council arrived at the scene and confronted the monks. Thus the monks and others abandoned the protest, which could have created a communal unrest in Gampola. Explanation by Zahira College Old Boys Association’s Secretary mentioning that there is no evidence or base to the allegations which has been concocted by interested groups to defame the Principal and the Muslims. The Lankadeepa a Sinhala newspaper quotes the Secretary’s report of the Old Boy’s Association as follows “the Principal as usual granted permission for the Buddhist sermon on the 12 of May. This program was a success with the participation of the Buddhist monks, teachers and students. The Buddhist students and teachers appreciated the principal for same. The Bhuddhist Association of the School decided to write and report to the Secretary of the Ministry of Education about the meritorious event successfully conducted by the principal, staff, members of the School Development Society and the Old Boys Association. There was no truth in the allegations against the principal destroying the Wesak decorations and burning the Buddhist flag” The report in the Lankadeepa further states that the inquiry lead by the Senior Superintendent of Police concluded that there was no truth against any of the allegations against the Principal. Meanwhile, Ven. Dr. Medagama Dhammananda thera of the Asgiriya Chapter said that the Prime Minister should not have intervened in this issue. The Thera further said that Prime Minister had not studied the case when he intervened. “He might have thought to prevent a clash between Sinhalese and Muslims, but he actually created more problems now,” he added.

Thinakkural (page 1) May 14, The Nation (page 3) May 18, Lankadeepa (page-17) 23<sup>rd</sup> May

69. **May 13, 2014 – Authorities Propose Alternative School:** The education officials, the Governor of the Western Province and the Attorney General suggest Muslim Ladies College for the Muslim girl who filed a Fundamental Rights application seeking permission to wear Muslim clothes to Janadhipathi Balika Vidyalaya, Rajagiriya. The petitioner stated the respondents violated her fundamental rights by not permitting her to attend school wearing Muslim clothes. However the Supreme Court said, "First we must know her parents' response to the proposal given by the education officials the Governor and the Attorney General." The Court gave time till 3 June to the parents of the Muslim girl to decide whether they would like to send their daughter to Muslim Ladies College instead of Janadhipathi Balika Vidyalaya.

Ceylon Today (page 2) May 14, Rivira (page-01) May 15, Dinamina (page – 05) May 14

<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/16-63835-news-detail-parents-given-time-till-3-june-to-pick-school.html>

70. **May 14, 2014 – Hanthana, Kandy District – Mosque Land Grab:** The National Housing Development Authority (NHDA) has divided a 40 perch land belonging to the mosque of the area into 3 plots and taking measures to give it to some people from the majority community. When the Administrators of the Mosque approached the Manager of the NHDA of Kandy in order to stop this act, they were asked to go to Colombo at the Minister's level to stop it. This area has been tea and rubber estates since the British period. There was a Tamil School for the children of the labourers, a Hindu temple and a prayer hall for Muslims with an extent of 40 perches land which is over 100 years old.

<https://plus.google.com/105223477671776086437/posts/doRZ6SPe1Vm>

[http://www.mettroleader.com/2014/05/blog-post\\_4048.html](http://www.mettroleader.com/2014/05/blog-post_4048.html)

<http://dailyceylon.com/?p=1537>

71. **May 18, 2014 Mawanella, Ratnapura District: Muslim Owned Shop Torched:** A Muslim owned hardware shop in Mawanella was set on fire by an unidentified group. Muslims in the area believe that this was done deliberately by some anti- Muslim elements. This also created a tense situation among the communities in Mawanella. Muhamad Mahroof the owner of the shop says "if the fire brigade acted fast at least half of my shop could have been saved" I received a phone call around 3.00 a.m. informing that there was smoke in my shop. Within 10 minutes I arrived at the scene and informed the fire brigade. The response from the fire brigade was that none of the fire machines were working. Later the fire brigade from Kandy came and by that time everything was ablaze" the owner said. The opposition leader demanding a statement to the house from the prime minister, said "the assailants have entered forcefully to set fire. The police too have accepted it, but who are they?"

<https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/video-muslim-owned-shop-torched-in-mawanella/>

<http://dailynation.lk/muslim-owned-shop-mawanella-torched-rishard-condems/>

<http://www.ft.lk/2014/05/20/rishad-strongly-condemns-burning-of-muslim-shop-in-mawanella/>

Thinakkural (page 4) May 24

72. **May 19, 2014 - Wattalpola, Panadura, Colombo District: Businessmen Attacked:** Two Muslim businessmen were attacked near the Wattalpola White Temple Junction by a group of masked men at around 2 a.m. They were running a tea boutique near the new bridge in Panadura. The masked men crossed the road and attacked them asking, "are you Muslims" while they were returning home on a motorbike after finishing their usual duties. The

assailants also attacked a few other vehicles on the road and one of the victims have complained to the Panadura police who were able to arrest two of the culprits. The victims are Ilyas Cassim (46 year) father of three children and 51 year old M H M Aththas, father of 5 children running a tea boutique near the new bridge in Panadura.

Virakesari - <http://www.virakesari.lk/articles/2014/05/19/>

73. **May 16, 2014 – Gampola, Kandy District – Muslim School Stoned:** A gang of unidentified persons pelted stones at Gampola Muslim Maha Vidyalaya early morning. They damaged the name-board of the school and shattered windows and glass. The class rooms in the main hall have also been damaged as a result of roof tiles breaking due to the pelted stones.

Sudar Oli (page 9) May 17, Thinakkural (page 9) May 17

74. **May 22, 2014 – Colombo - Book launch:** Bodu Bala Sena's Education and Research Unit Chief Coordinator, Chamila Liyanage said, "Muslim population is increasing fast. Some assumption is that in 2040 the Muslims will be the majority in the country. We did a research on this and in 2081 Muslims will out number the Sinhalese." He was speaking at the book launch "Wanshayaka Vinasaya Abhimuwa" (A Race on its way to Annihilation) at the Colombo Public Library Auditorium. He further said "we should not allow the Sinhala race to perish. We have to take measures to increase the population. We have to think about the challenges faced by the Sinhalese and Tamils in the east. Muslims are trying to increase their number in the north as well. They associate with Tamil widows in the north and when a child is born they bring up the child as a Muslim." When speaking to the gathering Ven. Gnanasara said that Muslims are creating problems for the Sinhala race every day - the raping incident of a Sinhala woman in foreign employment agency in Kurunegala and the action of the employee of a shop in Aluthgama can be mentioned. "We have informed the police and are waiting for justice. We can't be patient anymore. We requested time from the Inspector General of Police to discuss all this," he noted. He also said "from Shariya law, halal, madrasas, conducting activities in Arabic language to the wearing of the niqab and burka, there is a litany of issues with extremists and fundamentalists. At this rate they will come to get our robes." Ending the book launch on an ominous note, Ven. Gnanasara threatened "if they touch even one robe ..."

Virakesari (page 22) May 26, Ceylon today (page 6) May 23, Irudina (page-01) May 25<sup>th</sup>

<https://www.google.lk/#q=chamila+liyanage+vansayaka+vinasaya+abimua>

75. **May 24, 2014 – Colombo - Protest March Against Unethical Conversions:** The United Hindu Federation organized a protest march in Colombo against unethical conversions by providing money and other equipment. Around 1000 Hindu devotees took part in the march, which commenced from Vivekananda Road in Kotahena and concluded at Pillayar Kovil in Colombo. BBS General Secretary Ven. Gnanasara and some BBS monks also took part in the protest march and extended their support to the organizers. When he was addressing the gathering Ven. Gnanasara said "the time has come to protect Hindu and Buddhist religions, culture and values. Let us join together today, let us fight together." There are over 400 Christian organisations targeting Hindus and Buddhist in Colombo organising prayer meetings and showing an illusion to the world. On the other hand the Muslim Fundamentalists convert Hindus and Buddhists. In Deniyaya an entire village has converted to Islam" he added. "If we allow this to continue there won't be Hindus and Buddhists in Sri Lanka" he warned. He invited the Hindus to unite with Buddhist to fight, stating that there are common religious and cultural traditions among the two communities.

Virakesari (page 15) May 27

**76. May 26, 2014 – Rajagiriya, Colombo District, School Prevents Mother Entering with Headscarf :** M. Kairul Nisa Awoof, a Muslim woman, filed a fundamental rights application before the Supreme Court, seeking permission to enter the premises of Nawala Janadhipathi Balika Vidyalaya clad in Islamic attire. According to the petition, the petitioner, a mother of four children, shifted to Colombo from Hambantota to further the education of her children. In her petition to the Supreme Court Awoof said that she regularly visited Gothami Balika Vidyalaya, where her eldest daughter is studying and Janadhipathi Vidyalaya, Rajagiriya where her other child is being educated. To date nobody has objected to her attire as being indecent, improper or unacceptable. The petitioner however said that Nayana Lakshitha Perera, Principal of Janadhipathi Balika Vidyalaya, Rajagiriya and Assistant Principal K.C. Padmamali had objected to and had prevented her from entering the school in Muslim attire. Petitioner said that as a result, she has been prevented from “effectively” seeing to her daughters’ education

Virakesari (page 11) May 30, Dinamina (page – 05) May 24

<http://www.ceylontoday.lk/16-64818-news-detail-right-to-wear-islamic-attire.html>

**77. May 27, 2014 – Badulla, Badulla District. A Sinhalese believed to be a Muslim is attacked by mistake:** A bearded Sinhalese teacher was assaulted by a group of people near a school in Badulla. The individual had gone to the school to pick up his child when he was attacked. Assailants shouted ‘Thambiya’ (derogatory term for Muslims) and beat him up; to their dismay he was a Sinhalese. Police have taken three people into custody over this attack. It is noted that the BBS had organised a demonstration in Badulla for that day and feelings were running high.

<http://mfcoexist.wordpress.com/2014/05/28/bearded-man-assaulted-in-badulla/>

**78. May 28, 2014 Badulla Town Badulla District: Muslim child assaulted at BBS rally:** At a sparsely attended demonstration in Badulla some BBS members attacked a 12 year old boy, on identifying that he was a Muslim. BBS organised a demonstration in Badulla today. The protesters gathered at the main bus halt and informed the public to save the Sinhala race as there is a conspiracy to destroy the Sinhala race. It was targeted against Muslims and Minister Dilan Perera. The participants were mainly from the Mahiyangana area. The protesters carried posters accusing Muslims of being drug dealers and butchers. They also held posters against Niqab and Minister Dilan Perera. The BBS members assault on the child occurred while a speaker was addressing the gathering stating that the BBS were the real owners of the country.

Divaina (page-04) May 30<sup>th</sup>, Ada (page-05) May 30<sup>th</sup>, Thinakkural (page 13) May 29  
Virakesasri

<http://fblanka.com/bodu-bala-sena-attack-muslim-child-in-badulla/>

**79. May 28, 2014: Keraminiya, Mawanella: Monks demand closure of Mosque:** “Two Buddhist Monks from Keraminiya temple in Keraminiya in Mawanella entered Masjidul Tharul Hikma around 5.30 pm and ordered us to close the mosque” said Hismath, a teacher and the secretary of the Mosque. The monks have spent more than half an hour in the mosque and have used hard words with the Muslims who were there at that time. The driver of the three-wheeler in which they came in was videoing the mosque. Their demand was to close the Mosque sighting that there were other mosques in the area. “We came personally here because the police have not taken action to close this mosque even after we told them” the monks had said however since this mosque is legally registered under the Wakf Board the Trustees have made a complaint to the Police.

<http://mffcoexist.wordpress.com/2014/05/29/bbs-threaten-closure-of-masjidul-taqwa-keraminiya-mawanella/>

**80. May 30, 2014 – Media Conference:** At the media conference at the JHU headquarters, Battaramulla, the JHU national organizer and a member of the western provincial counsel Nishantha Sri Warnasinghe warned that the Buddhist will lose their patience if the Mosque in Grandpas is renovated. “Muslim extremists used the religious dispute in the area on 08 August 2013 to discredit the country as it had been reported both locally and internationally,” he said. What is now being renovated as a mosque is the warehouse building that had been used as a prayer hall, but had been closed on an order by the Secretary to the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs, he said, adding the authorities should accept responsibility if any unrest occurs. He accused DIG in charge of the western province Anura Senanayake and Deputy Minister Faizer Mustafa and the Secretary of the Buddha Sasana Ministry for backing the attempt to renovate the warehouse as a mosque in violation of the agreement. Warnasinghe said the JHU would keep a close watch on this matter, adding that they would lodge a complaint with the police unit at the Religious Affairs Ministry.

Thinakkural (page 2) May 31

<https://www.mirror.lk/news/15206-anura-senanayake-deceived-the-buddhists>