

# Fact Sheet



Sri Lanka Brief Fact Sheet No 2 – 7 September 2014

## **SRI LANKA: VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND ATTACKS ON RELIGIOUS MINORITIES MARCH – AUGUST 2014**

Notwithstanding the local and international pressure, violations of the right to freedom of religion and attacks on religious minorities continued unabated in Sri Lanka. In the month of June, Sri Lanka witnessed the largest anti-Muslim riots seen in the country after 1914. Led by the Buddhist extremist organization *Bodu Bala Sena* (BBS), mobs rioted in the Southern coastal towns of Aluthgama and Beruwala. The riot was pre-planned and was a result of the gradual escalation of anti-Muslim violence unleashed by Buddhist

extremist forces in post-war Sri Lanka. Attacks against and restrictions imposed on the Christian groups have become a regular occurrence, too. Hindus are not spared either. The involvement of the state, its officials and its security apparatus in these discriminatory practices are quite disturbing. The convergence of political power, extremist Buddhists' violence and security agencies in pressuring religious minorities and imposing Sinhala Buddhist hegemony have become permanent features of post-war Sri Lanka.

### **THE UNHRC RESOLUTION ON ATTACKS ON RELIGIOUS MINORITY GROUPS**

Alarmed at the significant surge in attacks against members of religious minority groups in Sri Lanka, including Hindus, Muslims and Christians,  
Calling upon the Government of Sri Lanka to fulfil its public commitments, including on the devolution of political authority, which is integral to reconciliation and the full enjoyment of human rights by all members of its population,  
Urges the Government of Sri Lanka to investigate all alleged attacks, by individuals and groups, members of religious minority groups and other members of civil society, as well as on temples, mosques and churches, and also urges the Government to hold perpetrators of such attacks to account and to take steps to prevent such attacks in the future;

Promoting Reconciliation, Accountability and Human Rights in Sri Lanka, UNHRC Resolution, A/HRC/25/L.1/Rev.1

"I am alarmed by the rising level of attacks in Sri Lanka against religious minorities. The Government and faith leaders must respond and ensure the safety and security of all communities. In [...] Sri Lanka, I am concerned that Buddhist communities are being swept up by a rising tide of extremist sentiment against other groups. [...] Calls to violence in the name of religions violate their true principles."

Ban Ki-moon, August 30, 2014 at the UN Alliance of Civilizations Forum, Bali, Indonesia, <http://goo.gl/fRdYWK>

## IMPUNITY AND THE ALUTHGAMA ANTI-MUSLIM RIOTS

**June 15-16, 2014:**

### **The Carnage**

Muslims and their property were attacked by Sinhalese Buddhists in the towns of Aluthgama and Beruwala, as well as in Dharga Town in Kalutara District. At least four people were killed and 80 were injured. Hundreds were made homeless following attacks on homes, shops, factories, mosques, and a nursery. 10,000 people (8,000 Muslims and 2,000 Sinhalese) were displaced by the riots. The riots followed rallies by *Bodu Bala Sena* (BBS), a hardline Buddhist group. The mainstream media in Sri Lanka censored news about the riots following orders from the Sri Lankan government.

- en.wikipedia.org at <http://goo.gl/jTn7Sv>

**June 17, 2014:**

### **The OIC Expresses Serious Concern and Deep Regret**

The Secretary General of the *Organization of Islamic Cooperation* (OIC), Mr Iyad Ameen Madani, expressed serious concern at the recent incidents of violence by extremist individuals against Muslims in the towns of Aluthgama and Beruwala, as well as Draga Town in Sri Lanka.

- OIC at <http://goo.gl/uZTJol>

**June 18, 2014:**

### **Largest Muslim Party Calls for UN Probe**

The main Muslim party, the *Sri Lanka Muslim Congress* (SLMC), demanded a UN probe into one of the country's worst religious riots ever. Justice Minister and SLMC leader, Mr Rauf Hakeem, told reporters that Rajapaksa's administration was at fault for letting the bloodshed escalate.

- www.gulf-times.com at <http://goo.gl/PFV2Qg>

**June 18, 2014:**

### **President Rajapaksa Promises a Probe**

President Mahinda Rajapaksa said an impartial inquiry would be conducted to probe into the recent clashes in Aluthgama and Beruwala, two coastal towns to the South of Colombo.

- www.thehindu.com at <http://goo.gl/Dlwwu5>

**June 22, 2014:**

### **Post-Mortem Reports Questionable – Justice Minister Hakeem**

“Although two people were shot dead in Welipitiya (Aluthgama) on 16th June, its inquiry and the post-mortem are strange. I can submit proof that bullets had been used at the spot where these people were wounded. [...] But the post-mortem report states that those two were dead due to lethal cut wounds. It is a very serious matter if even the medical reports are prepared fraudulently.”

- www.lankanewspapers.com at <http://goo.gl/MStm4g>

**June 30, 2014:**

### **SLMC Calls for a Presidential Commission**

SLMC General Secretary, Mr M.T. Hasan Ali, has said that post-mortem reports of victims who were shot dead were suspicious. He added that he had no faith in police investigations. The SLMC urges President Mahinda Rajapaksa to appoint a presidential commission to probe into the clash.

- www.srilankamirror.com at <http://goo.gl/DIXxJw>

**July 11, 2014:**

### **‘Virtual Holocaust’ Against the Muslim Community**

Nearly a month after the worst religious violence Sri Lanka has seen in decades, Justice Minister Rauff Hakeem warned of a ‘virtual holocaust’ against the country's Muslim community unless Islamophobia and hate speech by radical monks were stopped. He was worried that a ‘bigger project’ was at work to cripple the Muslim community economically and ‘put them in their place’.

- www.ft.lk at <http://goo.gl/ooY1sj>

**August 30, 2014:**

### **No Inquiry Held, No Commission Appointed, No Perpetrator Punished**

- srilankabrief.org



*Sri Lankan Muslims, made homeless after anti-Muslim riots in Aluthgama, demonstrate against the radical Buddhist group Bodu Bala Sena (BBS). Source: Vatican Radio.*



## LIST OF INCIDENTS

### ATTACKS AND THREATS ON AND HARASSMENT OF PLACES OF CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

#### VISIT OF POPE FRANCIS OPPOSED

July 08, 2014:

##### 'Order Buddhist monks to boycott Pope'

All Ceylon Buddhist Congress (ACBC) issued a statement in relation to the Pope's visit to Sri Lanka on 11th February saying that "Considering Pope Francis as a state leader and not a religious leader and thereby ordering Buddhist monks to boycott Pope's welcome event". The statement proposed to hand over an official letter to the Pope, inclusive this and other demands, among others: To prevent Catholics from using phrases and expressions that are associated with Buddhist culture; to obtain funds from Catholic churches to restore temples that had been damaged during the Portuguese colonial era and to reclaim temple land in which churches have been built and relocate such churches.

- www.eyesrilanka.com at <http://goo.gl/zhXgpi>

August 08, 2014:

##### Buddhist Extremists Oppose Pope's Visit

Referring to the Pope Francis' planned visit to Sri Lanka in mid-January 2015, the BBS issued a hostile statement to the media declaring: "Pope Francis must apologise to Buddhists for the atrocities committed by Christian colonial governments in South Asia. I am waiting to see what the Pope will say about the crimes committed here." Sri Lanka was under Portuguese, Dutch and British colonial rule between 1505 and 1948.

- vaticaninsider.lastampa.it at <http://goo.gl/xxF1Bz>

March 07, 2014:

##### Pastor Instructed to Submit Registration Documents

Apostolic Church of Sri Jayewardenepura, Kotte (Colombo District)

The pastor of the Apostolic Church received a letter from the Divisional Secretariat stating that they had received information that the pastor was leading an unauthorized place of worship and asked him to submit registration documents. No registration is necessary in Sri Lanka for holding prayer meetings.

March 09, 2014:

##### Mob Attacks Pastor Demanding the Closure of Church

Good News Church, Mahiyangana (Badulla District)

While the Sunday service was in progress, a mob of around 60 people led by six Buddhist monks gathered outside the pastor's premises and demanded that the pastor stopped all religious activities. One of the Buddhist monks slapped the pastor assaulting him.

March 09, 2014:

##### Police Officers Questions a Pastor

Church of Grace, Warakapola (Kegalle District)

Two police officers visited the pastors' home and

questioned the pastor as to what was going on in his premises. The police officers then informed the pastor that they had received a complaint about prayer meetings conducted at his home.

April 04, 2014:

##### Arson Attack on Church

Jesus Has Risen Ministry, Kalkuda (Batticaloa District)

The church premises were set on fire by a group of unidentified persons. The church premise was completely damaged by the arson attack, together with Christian reading materials.

April 26, 2014:

##### BBS Monks Verbally Abuse Christians Gathered for Prayer

Assemblies of God Church, Sapugaskanda (Gampaha District)

April 27, 2014:

##### Stop Prayer Meetings - Buddhist Monks and Police

New Life Living Church, Bandaragama (Kalutara District)

When a group of 30 Christians was engaged in prayer, a mob of 30 persons led by Buddhist monks stormed the premises and demanded that the prayer meetings be stopped. The Office in Charge (OIC) of the area police station supported their demand.

<sup>1</sup> Unless a specific source is mentioned, all entries of this section can be found at National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka (NCEASL) at <http://goo.gl/mtvNPu>



**April 28, 2014:**

### Registration Information from Churches Requested

Margaya Fellowship of Sri Lanka & Gospel Grace Church, Valaichenai (Batticaloa District)  
The pastors of both churches received letters from the Divisional Secretary of Koralaipattu, Valaichenai, requesting detailed information on church registration documents, bank details, documents relating to land, account details, pastors' details and some other confidential information of the church.

**May 29, 2014:**

### Pastor Summoned to Ministry

Prayer Tower Church, Mahawewa (Puttalam District)  
The pastor received a letter dated 29th May from the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs requesting him to attend a meeting at the Ministry bringing along all legal documents pertaining to the church.

**May 29, 2014:**

### Authorities Question Pastor on Church's Registration

Gospel for All Nations, Nuwara Eliya (Nuwara Eliya District)  
Two officers from the Assistant District Secretary's office visited the pastor and questioned him on whether the church was registered with the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs.

**June 12, 2014:**

### Authorities Question Pastor on Legality of Prayer Meetings

The Christian Fellowship, Bulathkohupitiya (Kegalle District)  
Two officers from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) visited the pastor's premises and questioned the pastor on the legality of prayer meetings held in his premises.

**June 05, 2014:**

### Police Demands Pastor to Stop Prayer Meetings

Assemblies of God Church, Angunukolapalassa (Hambanthota District)

**July 06, 2014:**

### Villagers & Mob Demands Prayer Meetings to Be Stopped

Good News Ministry, Mawallawatte (Ratnapura District)  
A mob of 25 villagers led by two Buddhist monks forcibly entered the premises and began to shout at the pastor demanding "you'll have to stop the prayer meetings, if not we will demolish this place". The mob forcibly removed Bibles and Christian banners that were at the premises.

**July 12, 2014:**

### Police Officers Demand to Stop Religious Activities

The Grace Church, Warakapola (Kegalle District)  
The Officer in Charge of the area police station and two other police officers visited the pastor's premises and warned the pastor against conducting worship services.

**July 13, 2014:**

### Monks and Police Officers Demand to Stop Construction of Religious Place of Worship

The Christ Church, Welikanda, Bowatta (Polonnaruwa District)

**July 13, 2014:**

### Mob Led by Monks Disrupt Worship Service

Jesus is Good Church, Mawallawatte, Ratnapura (Ratnapura District)  
A mob of about 25 villagers led by two Buddhist monks forcibly entered the premises and disrupted the worship service.

**July 19, 2014:**

### Monks Threaten Pastor with Death

The Christian Centre, Hingurakgoda, Polonnaruwa (Polonnaruwa District)  
A group of eight people led by a Buddhist monk, claiming to be from the *Ravana Balaya*, visited the pastor's premises and demanded that the church be closed down and all religious activities be stopped immediately. The group threatened him with death.

**July 25, 2014:**

### Statues Damaged at Calvary Center

Calvary Center, Komarasan Kulam (Vavuniya District)  
A group of unidentified persons have damaged statues at the Calvary Centre. Eight statues were broken at the site. A complaint was filed at the Vavuniya police station.  
- srilankabrief.org at <http://goo.gl/uGDPD>

**August 03, 2014:**

### Police Instructs Pastor to Stop Prayer Meetings

The Revival Good News Church, Mahiyangana (Badulla District)

**August 03, 2014:**

### Police Instructs Pastor to Discontinue Prayer Meetings

The Bethel International Pentecostal Assembly, Marathanai (Ratnapura District)

**August 08, 2014:**

### Police Officers Demand Prayer Meeting Be Discontinued

Way of the Truth, Moratuwa (Colombo District)



Fr Sathivel is surrounded by the monks-led mob who invaded the Centre for Society and Religion on 4th August 2014. Source: Melani Manel Perera.

#### August 04, 2014:

##### Monks Led Mob Invade Church Premises

Lawyers witnessed an event of a mob disrupting a peaceful meeting to discuss issues of disappeared families held at the Centre for Society & Religion on 4th August. This meeting was organised by *Families of The Disappeared*, an organisation that has been working on the rights of those disappeared for more than two decades.

- srilankabrief.org at <http://goo.gl/HgjYBG>

#### August 11, 2014:

##### Police Officer Instructs Pastor to Register Place of Worship

Good News Ministry, Mawallawatte (Ratnapura District) The Headquarters Inspector present at the police station instructed the pastor to register the religious activities in case he wished to continue worship services.

#### August 19, 2014:

##### False Allegations Against Christian Reverent

The Bishop of Colombo, Rev R Canagasabay, rejected false allegations against Rev M Sathivel by the monks-led mob who invaded the Centre for Society and Religion on 4th Aug. The bishop affirmed that "Rev M Sathivel is a long standing and credible Priest of the Diocese of Colombo with a justice and peace consciousness and with over 25 years of parish and community work experience".

- srilankabrief.org at <http://goo.gl/YhPbk5>

#### September 5, 2014:

##### Prayers of IDPs Threatened by Military

The intimidation by the Sri Lankan military has for the second time led to prayers, that were going to be held for the displaced people of Valikamam North, been cancelled. Military intelligence threatened the organisers with "consequences" if the prayers went ahead.

- www.tamilguardian.com at <http://goo.gl/K3K2Tj>

## ATTACKS AND THREATS ON AND HARASSMENT OF PLACES OF HINDU RELIGIOUS WORSHIP

#### August 07, 2014:

##### Hindu Religious Places Destroyed

Excerpt from a statement made in Parliament by Mr R Sampanthan, MP, Leader, Tamil National Alliance "Hindu religious places have been destroyed; they have been desecrated. We have revealed information with regard to all this to Government; we have written to the Government; we have written to the President and we have raised this matter on the Floor of this House on a number of occasions.

New majority Buddhist places of worship are coming up in the North and the East. I do not mind the statue of Lord Buddha being installed anywhere. We all venerate Lord Buddha.

But, they are coming up even in places where not one Sinhala Buddhist person lives. What is the purpose? Why is this being done? Lord Buddha's statue is being installed in various parts of the North and the East where the Sinhala Buddhist people do not live. Why is this happening?

Hindu cultural places of great veneration have been forcibly taken over. I want to refer to one particular instance [...]. There is a place called Kanniya in Trincomalee, which has seven hot wells. I would invite the members of the international community to come to Kanniya in Trincomalee and see for themselves what is happening [...]. We do not want these types of things to happen.

There was a Pillaiyar Temple there and over generations and centuries the Hindu-Tamil people have been going there and performing the 31st Day Ceremony of their kith and kin. Today some statues of the Lord Buddha have been installed there. I have gone and seen it myself.

The Pillaiyar Temple, which was there, has been desecrated. Lord Pillaiyar has been planted under a temporary shed; he is presently under a temporary shed. So, [...] one can see that some people are working on these designs; some people are very assiduously, very studiously pursuing a programme that has certain objectives. This is

[...] nothing short of being absolutely diabolical and outrageous denying the Hindu-Tamils of an ancient Hindu religious and cultural right. They cannot even freely perform the 31st Day Ceremonies of their kith and kin in this area, a right that they have enjoyed from Ravana's time."

- srilankabrief.org at <http://goo.gl/pTmiE4>

**September 02, 2014:**

### **War Damaged 500 Hindu Kovils Still to Be Renovated**

The Deputy Minister of Resettlement, Mr Winayagamoorthi Muralidharan alias Karuna, promised to renovate 500 *kovils* (places of Hindu worship) damaged during the war.

- www.lankasrinews.com at <http://goo.gl/fv36oO>  
(Website not accessible from Sri Lanka)

## **ATTACKS AND THREATS ON AND HARASSMENT OF PLACES OF MUSLIM RELIGIOUS WORSHIP**

**March 4, 2014:**

### **A Court Injunction Against a Mosque**

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 followed a case filed by the Kohuwala Police on 20th February that the mosque was a "public nuisance".

- www.ft.lk at <http://goo.gl/kYhdWx>

**March 26, 2014:**

### **Grenade Attack on a Mosque**

Two hand grenades were hurled at the Mosque in Dambulla on the night of 25th march by a group of unknown persons, according to a member of the Mosque Trustee Board, Mr M Rahmathullah. Only one had exploded resulting in minor damages to the mosque.

- dailynation.lk at <http://goo.gl/Tj3XTS>

**April 23, 2014:**

### **BBS Intruded a Mosque**

BBS members including several monks arrived in two vans to the Masjidul Ilham Bebila Mosque in Gampola town area while the Muslims were at the noon prayer. The intruders started photographing and filming the mosque in different angles, creating tension among the Muslims.

- Reported by the Muslim Secretariat referring to Metro News, page 21, and Thinakkural, page 1, on 24th April 2014, see <http://srilankabrief.org/> at <http://goo.gl/fK9VmX>

**May 06, 2014:**

### **Mosque Under Threat**

Tense situation prevailed in Dambulla when road construction recommenced with the aim of demolishing the 65-year old Dambulla mosque. The construction started with heavy police protection on 6th May morning under the leadership of Ven. Inamaluwe Sri Sumangala Thero.

- www.island.lk at <http://goo.gl/yii3ca>

**May 08, 2014:**

### **Court Injunction Against Mosque**

The Mahara Magistrate's Court extended the injunction on *Masjidul Mohiyydeen Thakkiya* at Dippitigoda, Wattala, until 20th May. At the end of March 2014, the Magistrate Court ordered the suspension of all construction work, despite the Board of Trustees obtaining proper permission for the construction.

- Reported by the Muslim Secretariat referring to Thinakkural, page 9, on 8th May 2014, see [srilankabrief.org](http://srilankabrief.org/) at <http://goo.gl/fK9VmX>

**May 28, 2014:**

### **Monks Demand Closure of Mosque**

Two Buddhist monks from Keraminiya temple in Mawanella entered the Masjidul Tharul Hikma around 5.30 pm and ordered to close the mosque. "We came personally here because the police has not taken action to close this mosque even after we told them", the monks had stated.

- mffcoexist.wordpress.com at <http://goo.gl/FbnzHQ>

**May 30, 2014:**

### **Muslims Warned Not to Renovate the Mosque**

The national organizer of the *Jathika Hela Urumaya* (JHU) and a member of the Western Provincial Council, Mr Nishantha Sri Warnasinghe, warned that the Buddhists would lose their patience if the Mosque in Grandpas was to be renovated.

Reported by the Muslim Secretariat referring to Thinakkural, page 2, on 30th May 2014, see <http://srilankabrief.org/> at <http://goo.gl/fK9VmX>

**June 06, 2014:**

### **BBS Wants Mawanella Mosque Removed**

The *Bodu Bala Sena* had lodged a police complaint against Heraminiya Dharul Hikma mosque in Hemmathagama, Mawanella, demanding its immediate removal.

- www.asianmirror.lk at <http://goo.gl/sopRzN>

**June 20, 2014:****Mosque & Prayer Room Attacked in Jaffna**

Reports from Jaffna stated that a mosque in the busy Navanthurai area was attacked; reportedly by unidentified persons. The prayer room used by Muslim students of Jaffna University had also been attacked a couple of days earlier.

- www.thehindu.com at <http://goo.gl/fkp3RC>

**June 23, 2014:****Ibbagamuwa Mosque Attacked**

A group, carrying swords and cricket bats, threatened Muslim shop owners in the area and attacked and damaged the mosque located at Ibbagamuwa in Kurunagala district.

- www.asianmirror.lk at <http://goo.gl/zu8oxf>

**June 26, 2014:****Fort Mosque Receives Threatening Letter**

A mosque in Colombo Fort received a threatening letter with raw pieces of pork ordering the Mosque authorities to halt the reconstruction of the mosque.

- www.asianmirror.lk at <http://goo.gl/NgXyRy>

**June 29, 2014:****Rathmalana Mosque Attacked**

A mosque at Rathmalana was attacked and set on fire in the early morning of 29th June at around 1.30 am. The caretaker of the mosque managed to mobilize neighbours and to quell the fire.

- www.lankaviews.com at <http://goo.gl/F8hZTI>

**July 08, 2014:****Qu'ran Insulted by BBS Leader Gnanasara Thero**

Submitting an observation report to the Colombo Fort Magistrate, the Director General of Muslim Religious Affairs affirmed that the statement made by *Bodu Bala Sena's* (BBS) General Secretary Ven. Galagodaatte Gnanasara Thero to the media recently contained derogatory remarks on Qu'ran.

- www.asianmirror.lk at <http://goo.gl/ksoAol>

**August 15, 2014:****90 Year Old Mosque Demolished**

The Sri Lankan military demolished a mosque situated at Karumalai-oottu in Trincomalee Town. The mosque, established in 1926 and registered as a Jumma Mosque in 1947, was seized by the Sri Lankan military.

- www.tamilnet.com at <http://goo.gl/e9DxG5>

(Website not accessible from Sri Lanka)

**ATTACKS ON THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY <sup>2</sup>****March 17, 2014:****Muslim Minister Accused of Being a Traitor**

"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 the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights", Ven. Gnanasara stated at a press conference in Colombo. Calling the Sri Lankan Justice Minister a 'pariah', Ven. Gnanasara said that "we request the *All Ceylon Jamiyatul Ulama* to leash their dogs. If not, they will get beaten by us", Ven. Gnanasara Thero added.

- www.asianmirror.lk at <http://goo.gl/KHFoZc>

**March 20, 2014:****Muslim IDP Settlement Opposed**

Opposing Muslim IDP settlement on their traditional lands in Mannar, BBS leader Ven. Gnanasara said that "the Sinhala Buddhist race is declining in Sri Lanka. The Muslims [...] created a situation to grab the lands belonging to the Sinhalese and Tamils. Several ministers in this government support the plan of the Muslim extremists of the Middle East to spread Islamic

extremism in Sri Lanka and make Sri Lanka a member country of the Middle East. Religious extremism is worse than armed extremism."

- Reported by the Muslim Secretariat referring to Virakesari, page 13, on 21st March 2014, see srilankabrief.org at <http://goo.gl/fK9VmX>

**March 22, 2014:****Muslim Road Name Changed to Sinhala Buddhist Name**

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 [Sinhala Buddhist Nationalist] Mawatha." The BBS stated that road names in Sri Lanka should reflect the country's Sinhala Buddhist roots.

- www.ft.lk at <http://goo.gl/duUXyj>

<sup>2</sup> Due to space limitations, only a selected number of incidents are included in this factsheet.



**April 24, 2014:**

**Call for Every Buddhist to Be a Policeman**

BBS leader Ven. Gnananasara said that “If we have to protect ourselves from being converted to other religions or stop land grabbing, every Buddhist should become a policeman.”

- Reported by the Muslim Secretariat referring to Thinakkural, page 5, on 25th April.  
<http://srilankabrief.org/> at <http://goo.gl/fKgVmX>

**May 09, 2014:**

**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 Aluthgama. This happened after the mob charged that the brother of the owner had molested a child. The owner of the shop, Mr Mohommad Nayeem Khan, has said that this was a conspiracy against him.

- [www.srilankamirror.com](http://www.srilankamirror.com) at <http://goo.gl/Qaysko>

**May 13, 2014:**

**Monks Protest Against Muslims**

Around 30 Buddhist monks led a protest march against Muslims in Gampola over an incident related to the Wesak decoration at Zahira College. While the protesters were carrying placards and chanting anti-Muslim slogans, the Prime Minister and his son, a member of the Central Provincial Council, arrived at the scene and confronted the monks.

- Reported by the Muslim Secretariat referring to Thinakkural, page 1, on 14th May and The Nation, page 3, on 18th May, see <http://srilankabrief.org/> at <http://goo.gl/fKgVmX>

**May 16, 2014:**

**Muslim School Stoned**

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

- Reported by the Muslim Secretariat referring to Sudar Oli, page 9 and in Thinakkural, page 9, on 17th May, see [srilankabrief.org](http://srilankabrief.org/) at <http://goo.gl/fKgVmX>

**May 18, 2014:**

**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 an anti-Muslim group.

- [www.ft.lk](http://www.ft.lk) at <http://goo.gl/kpB6Mo>

**May 28, 2014:**

**Muslim Child Assaulted at BBS Rally**

At a demonstration organized by BBS in Badulla, some BBS members attacked a 12 year old boy after identifying him as a Muslim.

- [fblanka.com](http://fblanka.com) at <http://goo.gl/fW9GWN>

## “STOP THE PROMOTION OF HATRED AND FAITH-BASED VIOLENCE” UN RIGHTS EXPERTS URGE SRI LANKA

GENEVA (2 July 2014) – Three United Nations experts on freedom of religion, minority issues, and summary executions today called on Sri Lanka to adopt urgent measures to stop the promotion of racial and faith-based hatred, and violence against Muslim and Christian communities by Buddhist groups with extremist views, and bring perpetrators of this violence to justice. More than 350 violent attacks against Muslims and over 150 attacks against Christians have been reported in Sri Lanka in the last two years. Muslim and Christian communities are reportedly subjected to hate speech, discrimination, attacks and acts of violence throughout Sri Lanka frequently.

[www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org) at <http://goo.gl/hUFKtd>

This factsheet was published with the support of the Sri Lanka Advocacy Network, Germany. It was researched, compiled and edited by the Sri Lanka Brief team.

For further information, <mailto:srilankabrief@gmail.com> or visit [srilankabrief.org](http://srilankabrief.org)