

**News and Current Events :: Buddhist monks stir up mob**

Buddhist monks stir up mob - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/6/25 9:03

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BUDDHIST MONKS STIR UP MOB AGAINST CHURCH IN SRI LANKA

Buddhist monks from the Bodhidumarama temple in Wadduwa, Sri Lanka, incited a mob to march against a local evangelical church the evening of Saturday, June 19, saying they wanted to "rid our village of the fundamentalist plague."

About 50 monks, accompanied by 150 other local residents, marched from the Buddhist temple to the church. When they arrived, they found only two parishioners along with the pastor's two daughters. After demanding that the pastor be brought to them, they began throwing chairs and tearing down Scripture banners and threatened the daughters. One of the girls managed to call police who were unable to control the mob when they arrived. After damaging the church, the mob finally left with no arrests being made. The next morning the pastor canceled services as he had done the previous Sunday because of threats.

Again a large mob gathered and tried to force their way into the church despite police guards. The rioters threw gasoline bombs, bricks and rocks, damaging the roof and windows. A parapet wall also collapsed. Police used tear gas to disperse the crowd and fired shots into the air. The pastor was eventually forced to announce that he would stop holding meetings at the church.

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