

MUSLIM ISSUES IN SRI LANKA

The Muslims of Sri Lanka have faced tremendous challenges and threats to their life, livelihood and Religion in the recent past. With the military defeat of the Liberation Tigers of Thamil Eelam (LTTE) in 2009 by the Government, some Buddhist extremists have directed hatred, intimidation and harassment towards the Muslims. The Muslims see this as a serious threat to their lives and livelihood and a strategized attempt to wipe out the Muslim interests in Business, Industry and affairs of the State.

The minorities, and the Muslims in particular, feel insecure and threatened by the increasing incidents of hate speech, attacks on places of worship and business establishments, hostility towards Muslim women and their dress, denying the right to Halaal food, and impediments to practicing their faith freely.

Muslims businessmen are intimidated and harassed at import/export customs point, and in bureaucratic administration of State institutions. Unjustified raids on business establishments by the tax and customs department has resulted in the Muslim business community feel targeted unjustly, causing a sense of hopelessness. This has led to fear or hesitation in investment, and even migration. The fear and uncertainty of Muslims is more pronounced in rural areas and villages where they are live in isolated pockets as a small community.

The following are some facts related to the Muslims in Sri Lanka and the current threats faced by them.

1 THE MUSLIMS OF SRI LANKA

The Muslims, who are mainly descendants from Arab traders, comprise 9% of Sri Lanka's population. They have been living in the country for over 1200 years and have co-existed with all ethnic and religious groups. The Muslims live across the nation with some concentration in the East, Central, Western and Southern regions. The Muslims are traditionally businessmen, but have now diversified in to all sectors of the Sri Lankan economy. Majority of the Muslims come under the low-income bracket.

2 THE SRI LANKAN CONFLICT AND THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY

Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict began almost immediately after independence and took a violent turn in 1983 with over a hundred thousand killed and hundreds of thousands displaced. The Muslim community was not a party to the conflict but sustained several attacks by the LTTE including massacres in mosques.

3 THE EXPULSION OF MUSLIMS FROM THE NORTH

The entire Muslim community of the Northern Province was evicted by the LTTE in 1990 in the worst ethnic cleansing the country has witnessed during the 30-year war and Sri Lankan history. They lost all their possessions, and their lands and businesses were acquired by the Tamils. To this day, the majority of them have not been resettled in their former homes.

4 PEACETALKS AND ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCES

The number of peace talks and conferences towards establishing peace never recognized Muslims as an equal stakeholder, and therefore denied them space or voice to present their concerns. This resulted in the Muslims being the "FORGOTTEN" people in the country.

5 BODU BALA SENA (BUDDHIST ARMY)

The Bodu Bala Sena or the Buddhist Army is a Buddhist extremist group that started the hate campaign against Muslims and other minorities. Similar groups have joined the bandwagon in demonizing minorities, and even perpetrating violence, sometimes in the presence of law enforcement authorities that stand by. No person has so far been arrested for hate speech or violence. These groups further their campaigns using traditional and social media.

6 MUSLIM BUSINESSES UNDER INTIMIDATION AND THREATS

A number of Muslim businesses include major clothing chains have come under intimidation and threats from Buddhist extremists. Some of them have been attacked and others intimidated with tacit approval of the local police.

7 ATTACKS ON PLACES OF WORSHIP OF MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS

An increase of attacks on places of worship started with the destruction of a 400-year-old shrine in Anuradhapura followed by an attempt to destroy the Mosque in Dambulla Sri Lanka. In the year 2012/13 alone, close to 200 attacks have taken place against the Muslims in various locations with 24

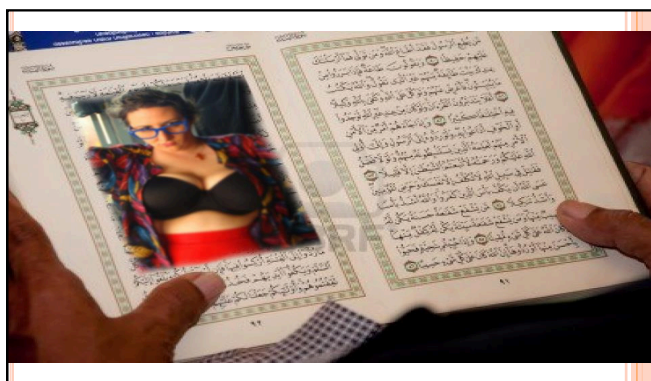
attacks on Muslim places of worship. These include violent attacks on mosques in Grandpass and Mahiyangana and attempted forcible closure of Mosques.

8 ATTACK ON HALAL CERTIFICATION

The Bodu Bala Sena started a campaign against the Halal certification issued by the All Ceylon Jamiyathul Ulema (Sri Lanka Council of Theologians) accusing the ACJU of profiting from the certification process, and directing funds to Muslim terrorist groups. Their main claim was that the non-Muslims who did not need halal certification were paying more for meat products due to the Halal certification. All the manufacturers of meat products have denied this. They have also confirmed that the minimal administrative charge for halal certification has never been passed on to the consumers. Under pressure from various quarters, the ACJU agreed not to have the HALAL logo on meat products. The ACJU continues to provide HALAL certification for exports and these services are provided free of charge.

There is a slight lull in the attacks on Muslims and other minority groups in the recent weeks and it is suspected that the government has issued strong warnings to these extremist groups not to engage in any anti-minority activity. The minorities suspect that this lull will only be until the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) is successfully completed in November 2013. Renewed campaigns by BBS, Sihala Rawaya and Ravana Balakaya are expected as soon as the CHOGM Summit is concluded.

SOME POSTERS AND VISUALS OF THE HATE CAMPAIGN



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musala thambiya

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Anuradhapura mosque Attacked



Anuradhapura mosque Attacked



Anuradhapura mosque Attacked



Anuradhapura mosque Attacked



Dambulla mosque Attacked



Dambulla mosque Attacked



Dambulla mosque Attacked



Dambulla mosque Attacked



Maharagama BBS Meeting

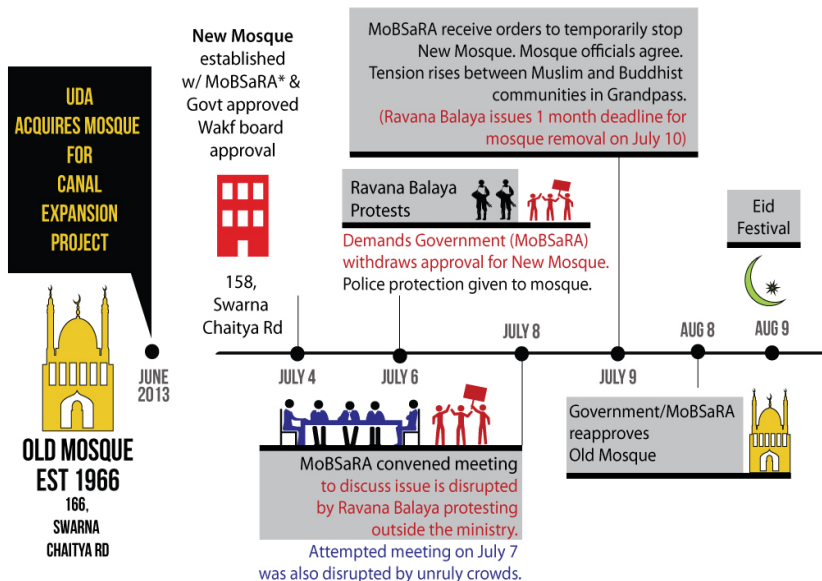


Maharagama BBS Meeting



WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN GRANDPASS?

It is regrettable that certain groups can unduly influence and divide peacefully co-existing multi-ethnic communities. We encourage all Sri Lankans to remain vigilant against such interference and to continue to preserve goodwill amongst all communities.

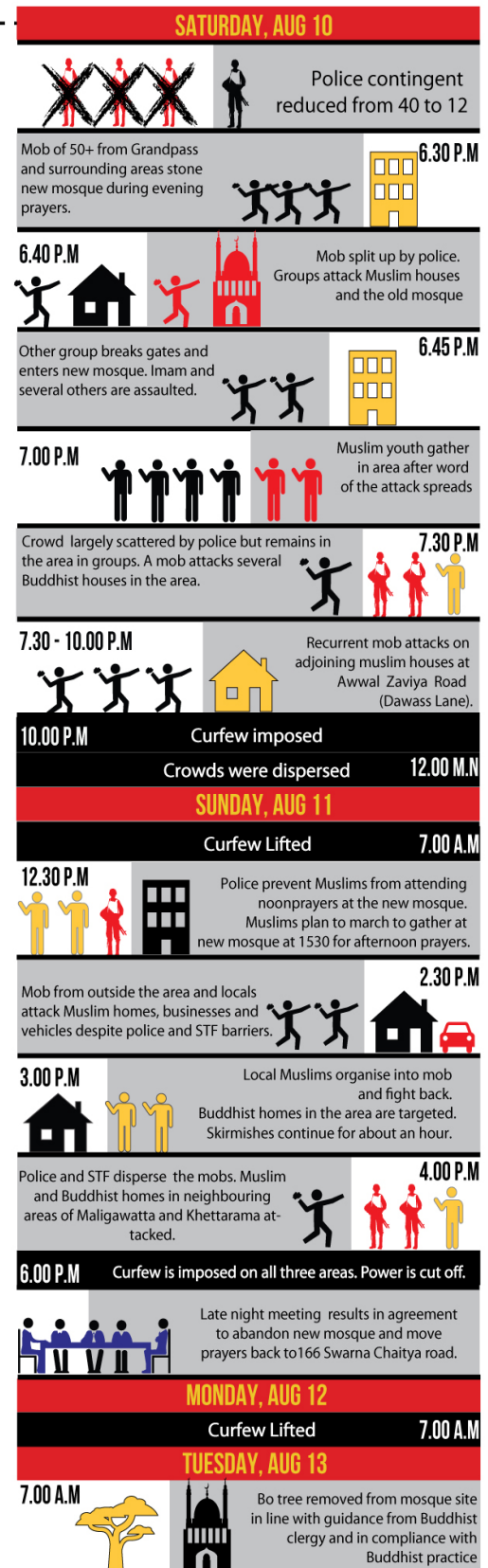


The Rally for Unity collective, as responsible Sri Lankan citizens committed to promote understanding on the strengths of unity in diversity, remains extremely concerned about the spate of attacks against places of worship and the increased level of racist rhetoric seen in the recent past. While respecting the constitutionally guaranteed rights of free speech, religious worship and assembly; we urge respect for different religious beliefs – and the associated rights – of our fellow citizens. Let us unite together and remind everyone that Hate has NO place in Sri Lanka!



This infographic is developed based on verified first-hand accounts from various stakeholders and supported by factual evidence. If you feel that any part of the content needs to be amended to reflect other facts you are aware of, please share it through the URL below for consideration.
<https://www.facebook.com/RallyForUnity>

*MoBSaRA - Ministry of Budha Sasana and Religious Affairs
 Vector Attributions - From The Noun Project: Olyn LeRoy (house), Grant Taylor (Tree), Juan Pablo Bravo (Protest, Riot), John Maravelakis (Rock), Matt Brooks (Man), Ocha Avmu (Building), Roger Cook & Don Shanovsky (Car), Ben King (Meeting).



The following are recorded threats to places of Muslim religious worship in 2012.

1. **April 20, Dambulla, Matale district:** A group of about 2,000 people allegedly led by the Mahanayaka of the Rangiri Dambulla Chapter Venerable Inamaluwe Sumangala Thero, forcefully entered the 50 year old Masjidul Kairiya Mosque, which the group claimed was illegal. Friday prayers at the mosque had to be abandoned, and the mosque was evacuated under police protection. The mosque was reported to have then been vandalized copies of the Qur'an and the cupboards they were kept in were said to have been damaged. The mosque also came under a petrol bomb attack in the early hours of the morning preceding the mob violence. There were no casualties but the building was reported to have been slightly damaged. Trustees of the Mosque say they have legal documents relating to its construction. Although the Mosque is said to have been at the site for 60 years, it was registered just a few years ago. Sri Lanka's Prime Minister and Minister of Religious Affairs D.M. Jayaratne ordered the Mosque to be relocated following the attack. Residents living in the area were since issued letters in September 2012 by the Urban Development Authority to vacate as their houses were within a designated sacred area. According to the letter, alternate lands were to be provided along the Kandalama Road in Polwatta. Notice had been issued to 52 houses and 23 shops.
2. **May 25, Dehiwela, Colombo district:** Over 250 protesters allegedly led by some Buddhist monks staged a demonstration against Madrasa Darul Qur'an lil Baranil Iman charging that it was illegal and a place where goats were sacrificed. The mob threw stones and rotten meat over the gate at the madarasa demanding its closure. A member of the Trustee Board of the Madrasa was quoted as saying that the location had been used for 13 years as a place used to teach children about the religion and that it has the required legal papers. The Dehiwela-Mt Lavinia Municipal Council said that they had received complaints from a group of Buddhist monks regarding the legality of the construction and it has summoned the centre to court.
3. **August 12, Pavvakodichchenai, Batticaloa district:** The Mohideen Jumma Mosque in the Unnichai village as burned to the ground by a group at 3am, while houses in the area had also been damaged. There were accusations that TMVP cadres may be involved in the incident, although this is contested.

4. **August 30, Kohilawatte, Wellampitiya, Colombo district:** The Mohideen Jumma Mosque was attacked sustaining damage to the loudspeaker, sound system. The Muezzin and a trustee of the Mosque were also attacked. Police have reportedly arrested two people.
5. **October 26, Malwathu Oya, Sinha Hanuwa, Anuradhapura district:** The inside of the Thakka Mosque at Malwathu Lane was burnt by unidentified people at about 2.30am on the day of the Eid---ul---Adha festival. The trustees of the Mosque made a formal Complaint to police. On January 9th 2013, a group including Buddhist clergy carried out a protest demanding that the mosque be removed.
6. **November 02, Thelumbugolla, Ridheegama Village, Kurunegala district:** The Thakweeth Jama Ath Mosque begun by the Tawheed Jamaat in the Ridheegama village was damaged following clashes between its members and local people, who were also allegedly Muslims from the village. 18 people were reported to have been injured.

INCIDENTS IN 2013

7. **January 9th, Anuradhapura, Anuradhapura district:** The Anuradhapura Malwathuoya Mosque was attacked for the third time. During the attack the mosque was submerged due to a flood.
8. **February 22nd, Hirumbura, Galle district:** The Galle, Hirumbura Mohideen Jumma Mosque was attacked early in the morning; its windows shattered, stones strewn all over the mosque floor.
9. **February 28th, Kegalle, Kegalle district:** The Kegalle Jumma Mosque situated on the Colombo - Kandy Main Road was attacked, its windows damaged.
10. **March 3rd, Opanayaka, Ratnapura district:** A mosque was attacked in Opanayaka.
11. **March 3rd, Mahara, Gampaha district:** A Mosque was attacked in Mahara.
12. **March 5th, Mahara, Gampaha district:** A government minister ordered the removal of a mosque in Mahara.

13. **March 30th, Dematagoda, Colombo district:** The Dematagoda mosque and Islamic bookshop were sent a letter to shut down immediately. The letter was written on the Bodu Bala Sena's (BBS) letterhead and used indecent words.
14. **April 7th, Kotikawatta, Colombo district:** A mosque was threatened to close by a group of Sinhalese people, saying that failure to close will result in their return with a Buddhist monk, to demolish the place. This mosque is registered with the Colombo Municipal Council.
15. **May 14th, Kolannawa, Colombo district:** Methota Kolannawa mosque was stoned by unknown people.
16. **July 1st, Nawaladi, Batticaloa district:** Unidentified people broke into the Masjuthul An-Noor a mosque in Nawaladi, on Colombo – Batticaloa main road. Tills inside and outside were broken and the collections were missing. In addition the cupboards were broken and things were scattered everywhere.
17. **July 5th, Grandpass, Colombo district:** Monks staged a protest in front of the mosque and disturbed prayers on July 5th. A temporary mosque in the Grandpass area of Colombo was forced to relocate in one month due to an intense protest campaign by the "Ravana Balaya" (Ravana Force).
18. **July 9th, Colombo, Colombo district:** Ravana Balaya held a protest outside the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs demanding the removal of a mosque in Grandpass which the movement alleged was an illegal construction. Ravana Balaya and the Muslim representatives from the Mosque in Grandpass, then settled the dispute and came into an agreement to move the mosque to a suitable location within a month.
19. **July 11th, Mahiyangana, Badulla district:** A mob of masked individuals stoned the Mahiyangana Mosque, assaulted the mosque trustee, broke in and threw pig's head, flesh and blood into its precincts. To further reinforce the mood of terror, the power was switched off during the attack. The incident took place at 11.30 p.m. as the Muslims of Mahiyangana offered special Ramadan Tharaweesh night prayers. Many of the windows were broken. The onslaught lasted up to 20 minutes before the power was restored and the aggressors made to leave. No one has been arrested. Prior to the attack, the mosque trustee had been attacked

with chilli powder and threatened against continuing Friday prayers in the mosque and warned that the worst was yet to come. Disregarding the threats, the mosque conducted the Friday prayers undeterred. Additionally, Mahiyangana Provincial Council Member, Chief Incumbent of the Mahaweli Maha Viharaya Ven Watareka Vijitha thera while speaking at special ceremony organised by the Upcountry Muslim Council revealed that Ven Gnanasara thera and some others had come to the Maha Viharaya in Mahiyanganaya and had a discussion the day before the attack.

20. **July 17th, Grandpass, Colombo district:** Sinhala Ravaya monks stormed a temporarily constructed mosque in Grandpass, laying claim that the building was an illegal construction. The mosque is a makeshift space for conducting prayers during the month of Ramadan. The original mosque in the area, which was built in the 1960s, was to be relocated as per urban development plans, as 15 feet of the mosque area was required for expanding a canal. As a result, with the approval of the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs, a temporary structure was setup for Muslims in the area to conduct their Ramadan prayers until the main mosque is shifted to a new location.
21. **July 19th, Mahiyangana, Badulla district:** Mahiyangana mosque closed down for the first time in 40 years. Uva Province Minister, Anura Vithanagamage, allegedly threatened the trustee of the Mahiyangana Masjidul Araba Mosque against holding Jumma prayers. During the past few months there have been repeated threats demanding the trustees to stop Friday Jumma prayers and remove the mosque.
22. **July 21st, Thoppur, Trincomalee district:** Armed forces tried to stop the renovation of Muhaideen Jumma Mosque of Allai Nagar in Thoppur (Muttur area). They demanded to see the approval for the mosque. They left the premises after being shown the documents belonging to the mosque trustees for 50 years.
23. **August 3, and 12, Attidiya, Colombo District:** A group of ten men led by the Chief Prelate of the Bellanwila Rajamaha Viharaya enter the Masjidul Hiba mosque while the devotees are about to break their fast, and threaten them to close down the mosque immediately. The prelate alleges that the Muslims started it as a Madrasa and then converted it

into a mosque, saying; “If this mosque is not closed down we will gather people and organise a big protest and take action to close it down.” This mosque was registered with the authority and the papers were shown to the police who visited the mosque at the complaint of the Trustees of the mosque. The Police allowed the Trustees to continue the activities.

Headquarters inspector and the Superintendent of Police attached to the Mount Lavinia Division visit the Masjidul Hiba (12th August) asked the mosque’s trustees to register the mosque under the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs and the Divisional Secretariat, within two weeks, if not they might have to close the mosque.

24. **August 10th, Grandpass, Colombo district:** A Buddhist mob attacked the temporary mosque in Grandpass, leaving at least five people injured. Buddhists and Muslims clashed after the attack, and police imposed a curfew in the area. Several houses were also damaged during the clashes. A Muslim resident of the area said that a mob threw stones at the mosque when worshippers were performing evening prayers. Buddhists monks had reportedly protested against the presence of the mosque but had agreed to allow Muslims to continue praying there until the end of the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan. But area Muslims says Sri Lanka's religious affairs ministry had given them permission to continue using the site and had also provided special police security due to the threat of possible attacks.

Hate incidents against Muslims: January – December 2013 (Threats, attempted attacks, attacks, harassment, incitements and provocations directed at Muslims)

1. **January 05, Anuradhapura, Anuradhapura District:** A demonstration against Anuradhapura Malwathuoya Mosque is held by monks. The demonstrators demanded immediate removal of the Mosque and the Muslims living around the mosque with immediate effect.
2. **January 07, Nationwide:** A calendar against Halal certification is distributed at a Buddhist temple by the Chief Incumbent of the Temple.
3. **January 07, Colombo, Colombo District:** Sinhala Ravaya and the Students Association of the Law College protest against the increase of Muslim students entering the Law College.

4. **January 07, Malwathuoya, Anuradhapura District:** A group of Buddhist monks hold a protest demanding that the Muslims, who have been living down Malwathu Oya lane for a long time, leave the area for good. (Ref No 1)
5. **January 09, Anuradhapura, Anuradhapura District:** The Anuradhapura Malwathuoya Mosque is attacked for the third time. During the attack the mosque was submerged due to a flood. (Ref No 4)
6. **January 15, Colombo, Colombo District:** Posters appear on buildings in Colombo ("Sinhalese Buddhists don't need halal sacrifices to Allah").
7. **January 19, Maharagama, Colombo District:** Buddhist monks protest against a "NOLIMIT" fashion outlet, demanding the shop to be closed immediately.
8. **January 20, Kuliapitiya, Kurunegala District:** Leaflets against Muslims and Islam are distributed.
9. **January 20, Anuradhapura, Anuradhapura District:** Notices and leaflets appear, warning the Sinhalese not to consume food in Muslim Hotels (restaurants) because it causes impotence in Sinhalese men.
10. **January 21, Kuliapitiya, Kurunegala District:** Call for a meeting styled as a Sharia 'Pooja' (devotion) regarding the Halal issue. The posters state that a monk is the convenor of the meeting.
11. **January 22, Nationwide:** The BBS declares that all newly established mosques are 'bunkers of Jihad'. It demands for information of all the mosques in the country within 7 days, failing which it will have to take the next course action against them, it warns.
12. **January 22, Paragahadeniya, Kurunegala District:** A tense situation is created when 10 monks openly dissuade Sinhalese people from going to Muslim shops.
13. **January 23, Beruwala, Kalutara District:** A group of monks damage a Muslim restaurant in Beruwala.
14. **January 23, Nationwide:** Neth FM airs a programme entitled: "Why

Muslims are building mosques, not schools", why no support is given to poor Muslim families, and why they are slaughtering hundreds of cattle during the Hajj festival from the money they receive from Arab countries.

15. **15 January 23, Nationwide:** Minster Champika Ranawaka states that Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU) in collaboration with the All Ceylon Buddhist Congress is considering issuing standard certificates instead of the Halal Certificate.

16. **January 24, Kuliyaipitiya, Kurunegala District:** A group of monks led by "Matale weda hamuduruwo" parade an image (written as 'Allah' in Arabic on a paper maché pig) around the town. Can do with more detail at least a reference to DBS.

17. **January 26, Balangoda (Jailani), Ratnapura District:** 150 monks from the Sinhala Ravaya and Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) groups attempt to storm the Jailani mosque. Accompanied by several policemen, they clambered up the rock face, carrying Buddha statues in their hands, only to find their attempt foiled by a massive thunder-shower that caused the group to retrace their steps.

18. **January 27, Nationwide:** According to Western Provincial Council member Mujibur Rahuman, anti-Muslim leaflets are being distributed in many Buddhist Temples during the Full Moon (Poya) day. The leaflets ask the Buddhists to boycott halal products, not to sell properties to Muslims and boycott Muslim businesses.

19. **January 30, Galle, Galle District:** The Muslim Banking unit of a private Finance Institution (LOLC) was attacked by an unknown gang. The staff of the institution received threatening phone calls and one of the institution's name boards destroyed.

20. **January 31, Badulla / Mawanella, Badulla District:** Members of the Movement for Equal Rights were threatened by the politicians, mob and police when they distributed handbills against those creating divisions between ethnicities and religions. Some of the members of the Movement for Equal Rights were questioned by the Badulla police for "acting against the government". In Mawanella, the police refused to accept a complaint against this harassment.

21. **February 01, Kandy, Kandy District:** Slogans appeared on the

walls of mosques and surrounding areas stating: 'this is a Sinhalese country, live carefully." Also, a road sign which read: "Sidhdhi Lebbe Mawatha" is changed to "Vidyartha Mawatha" overnight.

22. **February 04, Samagiwatte, Galle District:** The Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) distributes leaflets against Muslims.

23. **February 07, Narammala, Kurunegala District:** An unknown gang posts anonymous letters to Muslim shopkeepers stating that if they do not close by March 2013, they will be "destroyed".

24. **February 07, Nationwide:** The Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) announces that the year 2013 is the year of "Halal eradication". They say they have the blessings of the President of Sri Lanka to continue their activities.

25. **February 09, Warakapola, Kegalle District:** The "Sinhala Ravaya" (sound/roar of Sinhala) organization holds a demonstration against halal products and Muslims. Two Muslims who were videoing the demonstration were threatened.

26. **February 09, Gandara, Matara District:** The Matara Gandara Muslim mosque is attacked and stoned at midnight by a gang, shouting and cursing Muslims as they did so.

27. **February 11, Rambukkana, Kegalle District:** The Bodu Bala Sena puts up some "anti-halal" posters.

28. **February 11, Narammala, Kurunegala District:** Muslim businessmen receive warning letters from an organization called the 'Consortium of Buddhist Associations' stating that the "Para Muslims will be dead before March"

29. **February 11, Colombo, Colombo District:** A statement by the BBS describes Buddhists as 'the trees on a Rubber Estate' and the minorities as 'the small bushes and creepers in the estate.'

30. **30 February 13, Narammala, Kurunegala District:** In Siyabalagaskotuwa and Kilinpolla, around areas near the police, four Muslim shops are attacked by unidentified persons in broad daylight. No police came to their aid.

31. **February 14, Kandy, Kandy District:** The “Keppattipola Parapura” gang distributes “anti- halal, anti-Muslim” hand outs that say: "you have full freedom to oppose the Halal process." It

advises the Sinhalese not to consume certain products until the Halal logo is removed from its packaging.

32. **February 14, Colombo, Colombo District:** Minister Champika Ranawaka requests all food producers to remove the Halal certificate before the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. He says that the ACJU has no legal right to issue certificates and that the ACJU is trying to divide the country through religious lines. He also states that the Halal certificate is violation of rights of the 91% non-Muslim Sri Lankans. He warns that there will be Buddhist uprising if the Halal Certification is not abolished before the Sinhalese New Year in mid-April.

33. **February 16, Galle, Galle District:** Anti-Muslim posters appear in places.

34. **February 16, Galle, Galle:** Posters and banners appear that call on the Sinhalese in threatening language to boycott Muslim businesses.

35. **February 17, Maharagama, Colombo District:** Bodu Bala Sena General Secretary, Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara gives an ultimatum to the government to ban Halal certification by March 31st. More than 1300 Buddhist monks and a gathering of 15,000 people attended the rally. BBS unveiled what it called a “historic” Maharagama Declaration, a 10 point resolution that seeks to impose a ban on halal certified foods, sending Sri Lankan women to the Middle East, mosque-building with Middle Eastern funds and certain birth control methods that they claimed were aimed at stunting the Sinhalese population. The rally calls its members to be an unofficial civilian police force against 'Muslim extremism .' They state that “so-called democrats are destroying the Sinhalese race.” He also declared that "Sri Lanka is a Sinhalese country; there is a global principle that minorities must reside in a country in a manner that does not threaten the majority race and its identity."

36. **February 17, Kattankudi, Batticaloa District:** Kattankudi police stops a community awareness programme organized by the Sri Lanka Thowheed Jamath, despite the fact that the organizers had obtained the

proper permission from the relevant authorities to hold the event.

37. **February 19, Ruwanwella, Kegalle District:** The Principal of a Sinhalese school orders Muslim female students not to come to school with their head-scarf (Hijab).

38. **February 20, Paragahadeniya, Kurunegala District:** Anti-Muslim posters appear outside the Ethkanda temple.

39. **February 20, Colombo, Colombo District:** The Bodu Bala Sena compares the All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama to the LTTE, and claims that the organization's actions are like those of the LTTE leader, Prabhakaran.

40. **February 21, Ambalantota, Hambantota District:** Three Sinhalese men enter a Muslim hardware shop and threaten its owner, Aswer Hajiyyar.

41. **February 21, Colombo, Colombo District:** The Bodu Bala Sena complains that Muslims, who return from Makkah after Umrah or Hajj, are spreading Islamic fundamentalism in Sri Lanka. The BBS Secretary says that Halal is a cancer; Jamiyyathul Ulama violates the rights of ordinary Muslims and spreads fundamentalist terrorism.

42. **February 21, Dehiwala, Colombo District:** Posters appear that call for an anti-Muslim propaganda gathering in Dehiwala (on February 24). It also urges the Sinhalese to be prepared to fight for the country at anytime, anywhere.

43. **February 21, Galle, Galle District:** Posters calling for an anti-Muslim propaganda gathering in Galle (on March 16), appear. It invites people "for the betterment of future generations," and that this is the first suicide army for the race.

44. **February 21, Kalmunai, Ampara District:** In Carmal Fathima School in Kalmunai, a group of teachers ask a newly appointed Muslim teacher to remove her head-scarf.

45. **February 21, Muruthalawa, Kandy District:** Posters against Muslims appear saying: Stop Muslimization in Murathalava town. We Sinhalese don't want Muslims or Halal.'

46. **February 22, Hirumbura, Galle District:** Stones were thrown at the Hirumbura Mohideen Jumma Mosque early in the morning; its windows shattered, stones strewn all over the mosque floor.

47. **February 24, Mawanella, Kegalle District:** Rally organized against Muslims.

48. **February 26, Horagoda- Akuressa, Matara District:** A drunken Sinhalese youth and two friends threaten and damage a small shop run by widowed Muslim women four days after starting it. An elderly gentleman who came to negotiate was slapped by the youth.

49. **February 27, Matara, Matara District:** While on the way to an institution for a computer course, 3 Muslim school girls are attacked by Sinhalese youths, who shout at them to stop wearing their head-scarf and abhayas.

50. **February 27, Colombo, Colombo District:** The BBS General Secretary demands for the Halal Certification to be withdrawn immediately. "We can't allow the Sharia law in this country. There is no need for Muslim Banking, Qadi (Muslim) court system, here."

51. **February 28, Kegalle, Kegalle, District:** The Kegalle Jumma Mosque situated on the Colombo - Kandy Main Road was stoned by a group of unidentified persons causing damage to the structure.

52. **February 28, Kurunegala, Kurunegala District:** Leaflets encouraging the boycott of Muslim shops are delivered by the Ethukalpuraya Youth Association.

53. **February 28, Colombo, Colombo District:** A media brief issued by the Bodu Bala Sena strongly recommends that the government desists from accepting responsibility to certify products as halal, as was suggested by the All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama. The General Secretary of BBS says that the ACJU has very cunningly tried to pass the halal certification off on the government.

54. **March 01, Dematagoda, Colombo District:** A group of BBS monks raid a Colombo Municipal Council-run slaughterhouse early in the morning, demanding the abattoir be shut down immediately, alleging it was illegally slaughtering calves and distributing inferior quality meat to

sellers in Colombo. However the “abattoir” was discovered to be a distribution point only.

55. **March 02, Melsiripura, Kurunegala District:** Leaflets and notices for an anti-Muslim rally are issued. The town is decorated in advance with anti-Muslim posters for the rally, creating tension in the town between the Sinhalese and the Muslims.

56. **March 02, Beruwela, Kalutara District:** A group of around 120 Sinhalese people try to stop a halal slaughtering in the town. They photograph the butchers slaughtering cattle.

57. **March 02, Beruwela & Aluthgama, Kalutara District:** Anti-Muslim and anti-halal posters appear.

58. **March 03, Opanayaka, Ratnapura District:** A mosque is attacked in Opanayaka.

59. **March 03, Hambantota, Hambantota District:** Sinhala Ravaya organizes a public meeting where they declare that Muslims are racist and they are not.

60. **March 03, Mahara Gampaha District:** The 60-year-old Mahara mosque was defaced with images of pigs and anti-Muslim hate slogans.

61. **March 03, Mahara Gampaha District:** The superintendent of the Mahara prison (located close to the local mosque), orders the mosque administration to close the mosque down.

62. **March 03, Malwana, Gampaha District:** Anti-Muslim posters appear.

63. **March 04, Colombo, Colombo District:** The Bodu Bala Sena announces that it is the country’s „un-official police“.

64. **March 05, Mahara, Gampaha District:** A government minister orders the removal of a mosque in Mahara.

65. **March 05 Panadura, Kalutara District:** A Panadura –Eluvila Bauddhaloka School principal orders Muslim students to worship teachers and not to wear their hijab.

66. **March 05, Nationwide:** Rev. Shagoda Vipassi complains that "Sri Lanka's history is altered in grade 11 Islam book".

67. **March 05, Nationwide:** Propaganda in websites to boycott the "Mohideen beg" songs in Buddhist Temples. (Even though he was not a Buddhist, Mohidin Beg sang the most popular Buddhist theme songs in the Sinhala language.)

68. **March 05, Nationwide:** JHU publishes a book titled "Halal Facts and Lies" in Sinhala, criticizing the Halal concept. Upon receiving the first copy of the book, Rev. Omalpa Sobitha says "we are not against Halal, but we oppose the concept being imposed on other communities."

69. **March 06, Deltota, Kandy District:** The District Medical Officer (DMO) of the Deltota District Hospital compels the Muslim women who come for treatment to remove their headscarves.

70. **March 07, Nationwide:** Champika Ranawaka says "Jamiyathul Ulama" do not have the right to issue the Halal certificates.

71. **March 07, Kurunegala & Galgamuwa, Kurunegala District:** Leaflets are issued against Muslims and Halal products ("Sri Lanka is going to become a Muslim country").

72. **March 8, Kandy, Kandy District:** A nurse attached to the Kandy Teaching Hospital insists that a Muslim woman accompanying a patient to a ward, remove her Abaya and head-scarf.

73. **March 10, Malabe, Colombo District:** The BBS demands the abolishing of Halal certification before 31st March in a public meeting at Malabe. The organization declares that Buddhism needs to be protected from "the fundamentalists." and that Sri Lanka "is a Buddhist country, others can practice their religion within this framework."

74. **March 11, Nationwide:** BBS President Rev. Kirama Vimalajothi announces "we won the Halal issue but we will continue our activities. We will deliver a special

announcement in Kandy gathering on 17th March. This is a Buddhist nation. Hence we do not need Halal."

75. **March 11, Angunukolapelessa, Hambantota District:** Sinhala Ravaya organizes a meeting under the topic of "Prohibition of the terrorist burqa (Muslim women's dress) and terrorism activities".

76. **March 11, Nationwide:** Poster campaigns start against the "Fardha" (Muslim women's dress) with statements such as "Ban burqa in Sri Lanka" "Assure the security of the country now" and "Recognise the burqa as black tiger terrorism."

77. **March 11, Nationwide:** All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama announces the withdrawal of Halal certification for goods consumed in Sri Lanka. The Bodu Bala Sena considers this a victory.

78. **March 12, Nationwide:** Complaints on a Sinhala website that at the March 13th Media brief by the ACJU, held with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) and the Maha Sanga, when the ACJU announced the removal of the halal label, the podium was in front the Buddhist monks, which was disrespectful to the monks.

79. **March 12, Kandy, Kandy District:** Posters by "Sinhala Voice" appear in Kandy, saying the Sinhalese people should buy goods from Sinhalese shops only for the coming New Year. They went on to say that Sinhalese business people should only respect Sinhalese customers.

80. **80 March 12, Maha Oya, Ampara District:** Leaflets are issued against the Muslims and to remove Muslims from "Maha Oya". The leaflets state: "Maha Oya is an ancient town that belongs to us. Now the Muslims are trying to buy property and dominate it. Muslims employ Sinhalese girls in their shops and rape them and drug them so that they cannot have children. We have to chase the Muslims away and protect our town!"

81. **March 14, Nationwide:** Bodu Bala Sena Secretary Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara says that they do not accept the decision taken by the ACJU, regarding the halal issue.

82. **March 14, Bogodawatta, Kandy District:** An offensive epithet against “Allah” is scrawled on a closed shop door. (This type of activity is now a common occurrence.)

83. **March 14, Nationwide:** The Sri Lanka Restaurants Association announces that from 1st April onwards, they will no longer be buying products with the Halal logo.

84. **March 14, Kandy, Kandy District:** Posters appear in Kandy against Muslims (“don’t go to Muslim shops!” and other hurtful messages). The posters warn that Kandy cannot be changed into a Muslim town, like Akurana was.

85. **March 15, Colombo, Colombo District:** BBS Secretary announces that they are not trying to create an ethnic issue in the country. He also accuses Ministers like Vasudeva Nanayakkara for speaking on behalf of minorities after entering parliament on Sinhalese Buddhist votes.

86. **March 15, Colombo, Colombo District:** four Muslim students are forced to remove their head-scarf at the Pettah Railway Station by two Sinhalese youths.

87. **March 15, Nationwide:** Minister Champika Ranawaka launches his book: “Islamic fundamentalism Past, Present & Future and Al Jihad & Al Qaida”, an analysis of how Muslim fundamentalism is impacting the country. At the book launch, he calls for the deportation of any Arabs who have come to Sri Lanka to teach Arabic in Madrasas, immediately. He accuses them of being the cause of some of the recent disputes in the country such as the “Halal” issue. According to Minister Ranawaka, Madarasas are responsible for promoting extremist ideas such as the abhaya for Muslim women.

88. **March 16, Colombo, Colombo District:** Bodu Bala Sena President declares that Muslim women wearing black abayas are insulting other ethnic groups.

89. **March 16, Colombo, Colombo District:** Bodu Bala Sena Secretary urges Sinhalese Buddhists to “reject jobs in the Middle East” and states “are you not ashamed to earn money by giving your women to Arab men?”

90. **March 16, Suduhampola, Kandy District:** Kandy city and its environs are saturated with posters announcing the Bodu Bala Sena rally. Leaflets have also been distributed in Sinhalese houses, business establishments and Buddhist places of worship and schools. Letters have been sent by post. Sinhalese Buddhists are asked to dress in all-white, creating a “white sea” in Kandy on Sunday. Additionally, there are fresh posters stirring racist sentiment, for example “Remove slaughterhouse from the Kandy town”, “Kandy will not be allowed to be turned into another Akurana” and “Don’t purchase things from Muslim shops” creating a state of fear among the Muslim people of the area. Posters also appear thanking the Kandy mayor Mahendra Ratwatte for closing the animal slaughterhouse in Kandy. This abattoir was in existence for 148 years.

91. **March 17, Kandy, Kandy District:** The Bodu Bala Sena holds a massive rally to announce their “victory” against halal certification. Bodu Bala Sena General Secretary claims the Defence Secretary had provided an assurance that the Halal logo would be withdrawn in the country and a special police unit would be set up to carry out inspections in shops around the country that might be still carrying Halal products. Another Buddhist monk claims that according to the Qur’an, Muslims are supposed to spit 3 times in the food if they are serving it to non-Muslims.

92. **March 17, Nationwide:** A Sinhalese website states that Rizvie Mufthi, president of the All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama (ACJU) “should be arrested”.

93. **March 17, Homagama, Colombo District:** Rev. Omalpe Sobhitha delivers a speech against Muslims in Pitipena Purana Maha Vihara. “You Muslims can circumcise yourselves, but don’t try to do it to us, Buddhist.”

94. **March 17, Kandy, Kandy District:** The Bodu Bala Sena announces that their next aim is to “free” Kurugala from Muslims. Muslims should leave “Kurugala” (Jailani) before 31st April and that this year the Vesak festival will be celebrated in Kurugala.

95. **March 18, Mannampitiya, Polonnaruwa District:** A Muslim female employee attached to the Mannampitiya post office is assaulted, with attempts made to remove her scarf. She was warned by a group of youth a few days before the attack not to wear her scarf.

96. **96 March 18, Matara, Matara District:** A group called 'Matara Sinhalayo' puts up posters on the day of the opening of the Matara branch of Fashion Bug - "If you are a Sinhalese don't enter the shady-abode Fashion Bug, which digs the graves of the Sinhalese race"

97. **March 18, Nationwide:** JHU Parliamentarian Rev. Omalpe Sobitha says 'Go to Allah's country if you need Halal.'

98. **March 19, Nationwide:** The Bodu Bala Sena accuses a Muslim extremist group of the recent assault on Sri Lankan Buddhist monk in India. (However, the CCTV in the railway station proved the actual attacker was not a Muslim.)

99. **March 20, Colombo, Colombo District:** Bodu Bala Sena secretary claims "Thawheed Jamath" was the first Islamic movement which was against them when they started their campaign last year.

100. **March 20, Thiththavalgala, Kurunegala District:** Posters appear on a Masjid (Mosque) wall before the start of the "Fajr" (dawn) Prayer.

101. **March 21, Poojapitiya, Kandy District:** A Sinhalese man snatches the cap off of a Moulavi's head, and tramples it.

102. **March 23, Hendala, Colombo District:** In Hendala Junction, a Buddhist group harasses some pedestrian Muslim women wearing abaya.

103. **March 24, Panadura, Colombo District:** The Bodu Bala Sena urges the Sinhalese to "protect the nation and not let other races or religions to take over." The monk also urged Sinhalese families to have at least 5-6 children so that the Sinhalese Buddhist population grows in order to protect the Sinhala race and Buddhism in Sri Lanka. The country should be ready to rally against Christian and Muslim extremist groups operating in the country. BBS General Secretary states: "We have now become the police of this nation. We must help the police arrest people bringing down heroin in Sri Lanka who are mostly Muslims." He also claims that the Ministry of Defence had assured the group that the halal issue will be resolved and warns that if the ACJU goes against its commitments to the Ministry of Defence and the Buddhist clergy then BBS will take appropriate action.

104. **March 24, Panadura, Kalutara District:** The Bodu Bala Sena

Secretary demands that the High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in Singapore, Mrs. Ferial Ashroff, be terminated immediately and that she be recalled from Singapore. He states that the Bodu Bala Sena had received reliable information from Singapore that Mrs. Ashroff was working against the interests of Sinhalese Buddhists.

105. **March 25, Kurunegala, Kurunegala District:** Posters have come up against Muslims in the Kurunegala town. A group called "Ethukalpura Sinhalese" claimed responsibility for the posters.

106. **March 25, Galle, Galle District:** At an anti-Muslim rally organized by the Sinhala Ravaya, the organization's president, Rev. Akmeemana Dayaratne, states that the All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama members should be arrested for extortion.

107. **March 25, Gampola, Kandy District:** In Gampola town, CCTV Camera revealed anti Sinhalese posters were put up by Buddhist extremists trying to create disturbance, and not Muslims.

108. **March 25, Mawanella, Ratnapura District:** The movement "We Sinhalese" distributes leaflets against Muslims in the Mawanella area.

109. **March 26, Dehiwala, Colombo District:** A private bank puts up a notice near their ATM machines stating: "Muslims, please don't come to take cash from ATMs by covering your face".

110. **March 27, Nationwide:** The JHU claims in a statement that the South East region is being devoured by Muslim fundamentalism and extremism and that "the concept of a separate Muslim Home Land is gaining popularity amongst the Muslim community" in those areas.

111. **111 March 27, Warakapola, Kegalle District:** Buddhist flags are displayed in Sinhalese shops so that Muslim shops are easy to identify and avoid.

112. **March 27, Peradeniya, Kandy District:** A Muslim woman was forced to remove her abaya at ward No. 3 in the Peradeniya teaching hospital.

113. **March 28, Maggona, Kalutara District:** The heads of two pigs are displayed on Muslim women's property, which are located close to the Maggona Main Road.

114. **March 28, Pepiliyana, Colombo District:** A warehouse belonging to Fashion Bug (a leading Muslim owned textile establishment), is attacked by a mob as police stand by and watch. A group of 20 led by a few monks, quickly swelled to 300, damaging the building, merchandise and a vehicle. The excuse used to attack the complex was that a 15 year old Sinhalese girl employed by Fashion Bug had been raped inside the building by a Muslim colleague, an allegation which was later proved to be false.

115. **March 28, Badulla, Badulla District:** A leaflet is published against Muslims in Badulla town

116. **March 28, Kekkirawa, Anuradhapura District:** Bodu Bala Sena organizes a public meeting against Muslims at the MahaJanuarya ground in Kekkirawa.

117. **March 29, Elpitiya, Galle District:** The Bodu Bala Sena approached the legal owners of the 13 Muslim establishments in Elpitiya and directed them not to extend their leases, even though the Muslim shop owners have been paying their rent dutifully to their Sinhalese landlords, who normally renew the legal agreements every year. Now, however, the Sinhala landlords are demanding that the Muslim businessmen vacate their shops, upon making the last rent payment for the year. Elpitiya will then be "liberated" according to BBS.

118. **March 29, Colombo, Colombo District:** MP Champika Ranawaka states at a Buddhist commission: "The Muslim population was 35,000 and now it is 2 million.

119. **March 30, Nationwide:** A 'Haram' Certificate logo appears on products sold in the market, identical to the ACJU's 'Halaal' certificate.

120. **March 30, Dematagoda, Colombo District:** The Dematagoda mosque and Islamic bookshop are sent a letter to shut down immediately. The letter was written on the Bodu Bala Sena's letterhead and used indecent words. (The BBS later denied responsibility)

121. **March 30, Maharagama, Colombo District:** Stones are thrown at a 'Fashion Bug' vehicle in Maharagama.

122. **March 30, Dematagoda, Colombo District:** A warning letter on the Bodu Bala Sena letterhead goes to the "Nithavul Khair", a Muslim welfare organization, ordering it to terminate its activities.

123. **March 31, Weligama, Matara District:** A leaflet is circulated in the Weligama area against Muslims. It mentions the details of businesses owned by Muslims of the area and strictly warns not to purchase goods from those businesses.

124. **March 31, Badulla, Badulla District:** Posters appear in Badulla town against Muslims

125. **March 31, Kurunegala, Kurunegala District:** People shopping in a Muslim-owned shop have rotten eggs thrown at them. A Facebook page, called 'Athugal Pura Sinha Pataw' shows images of a man and a woman after being pelted with rotten eggs holding No Limit bags, with the caption: "If you go to No Limit or Fashion Bug we will attack. If you have their bags in your hands we will attack. And that is not all. Those who betray the race, even if they have police protection will be attacked with rotten eggs today, faeces tomorrow."

126. **March 29, Elpitiya, Galle District:** 13 Muslim shops are approached by the Bodu Bala Sena and are ordered not to extend their leases, even though the Muslim shop owners have been paying their rent dutifully to their Sinhalese landlords, who normally renew the lease agreements every year. Now, however, the Sinhala landlords are demanding that the Muslim businessmen vacate their shops, upon making the last rent payment for the year. Elpitiya will then be "liberated" according to Bodu Bala Sena.

127. **March 31, Negombo, Gampaha District:** A group of Muslim men taking part in religious activities is attacked. The attacker, a Sinhalese three-wheeler driver fled the scene immediately. Afterwards, a complaint was made at Kochchikade Police and the person was arrested.

128. **Apr 01, Kelaniya, Colombo District:** The Secretary of the BBS claims that 'Wahabism' should be eradicated before it swallows the country. He also declares that the Fashion Bug Pepiliyana incident was orchestrated

by Muslim Fundamentalists and that the politicians who do not promote the best interests of the Sinhalese community should be chased out from temples.

129. **Apr 01, Nationwide:** Minister Champika Ranawaka strictly opposes the halal mechanism which was proposed by Muslim ministers. The latter argued that halal is one of the rights of Muslims and measures need to be taken to sustain this right. Ranawaka, however, claims that Muslims should not consume halal products and it should not be provided by ACJU.

130. **April 01, Monaragala, Badulla District:** Leaflets are issued against Muslims. Some Muslim business organizations are listed in this leaflet.

131. **April 02, Batticaloa, Batticaloa District:** Some notices intending to persuade Tamil people to participate in a hartal against Muslims are distributed in the Batticaloa district via post. The notice mentions the following issues; a) Halal concept can affect people's unity and have a great impact on children, b) Tamil people from the East were massacred by Muslims, c) Intention of threatening Muslims, and d) The hartal (boycott) carried out by Muslims on 23rd March is proof of the division between Muslims and Tamils

132. **April 03, Nationwide:** Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) General Secretary Rev. Galagoda atththe Gnanasara states that they are going to establish a Muslim division in BBS and that "Traditional Muslims are asking us to protect the society and country from Muslims fundamentalists".

133. **April 03, Jailani, Ratnapura District:** Muslims' shops and residences are attacked and invaded by members of the Sinhala Ravaya.

134. **April 03, Weligama, Matara District:** Bodu Bala Sena conducts a meeting in the Weligama town against Muslims.

135. **April 03, Anuradhapura, Anuradhapura District:** A Muslim Sunday School in Dickson Road, Malwatu Oya, Anuradhapura is ordered by the Bodu Bala Sena to shut down immediately. In the event the order is not obeyed, the Bodu Bala Sena personnel will forcibly remove the premises, they said. To avoid any clashes between the two communities the Director of the Police intelligence service Mahesh Senaratna requested the courts to issue an order to remove it immediately without further

incident.

136. **April 05, Nationwide:** The Bodu Bala Sena alleges that Muslim ministers are resettling Muslim fundamentalists in the North and this is the main reason for the failure in resettling the Tamils. The coordinator of Bodu Bala Sena claims that they haven't been behind the attacks on Muslims' mosques and shops though Muslim fundamentalists blame them.

137. **April 05, Pottuwil, Ampara District:** JHU media spokesman Nishantha Warnasinghe issues a notice blaming Muslim saboteurs for the sudden fire which had broken out at the "Muhudu Maha" Viharaya in Pottuwil.

138. **April 07, Kotikawatta, Colombo District:** A mosque was threatened by a group of Sinhalese people calling for its closure. The group said that failure to close will result in them returning with a Buddhist monk, to demolish the place. This mosque is registered with the Colombo Municipal Council.

139. **April 07, Negombo, Gampaha District:** Negombo municipal council ruling party member Dayal Nilanga makes a racist speech during a council session, claiming that: "70% of Sinhala Buddhist and Sinhala Christian are living in Sri Lanka. Muslims came as traders to Sri Lanka," causing the Muslim members of the council to oppose his speech.

140. **April 07, Mullivayal, Mullaitivu District:** Ealam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) member and Tamil National Alliance (TNA) parliamentarian Vinothalingam attempts to interrupt clearance of land for the resettlement of displaced Muslims.

141. **April 08, Batticaloa, Batticaloa District:** Leaflets are distributed in Valaichchenai, Batticaloa district, stating that "Muslim business men should leave the Tamil's Mother Land before April 08th". These leaflets are issued by "Dravidan Sena."

142. **April 10, Jaffna, Jaffna District:** An unknown gang attacks the Jaffna University Muslim student's prayer room with engine oil. The prayer room was opened on 22nd March with the university administration's approval. Within a few days after the opening, its name board,

which included the subtitle “Muslim Students Association”, was also damaged.

143. **April 10, Colombo, Colombo District:** Former Army Commander, General Sarath Fonseka congratulates the Bodu Bala Sena for its successful campaign to withdraw the Halal certification, as it has led to the creation of an atmosphere of peace in the country. Fonseka said that he appreciates the group's attempts to grow peace in the country, but, giving up the fight against 'Halal' is a betrayal. He also said that the BBS should fight against 'Halal' until it is completely wiped out.

144. **April 10, Weligama, Matara District:** Bodu Bala Sena enters Weligama and stages a public rally near the Pradeshiya Sabha Office. The walls in Weligama and its environs are plastered with red and white posters announcing the Bodu Bala Sena rally. Widespread distribution of a leaflet in Sinhala targeting the community upsets the Muslims.

145. **April 12, Bulathsinhala, Kalutara District:** JHU parliamentarian Rev. Athuraliye Rathana states that sending women to the Middle East for employment is the main cause of problems for families in Sri Lanka and that the “Cultural encroachment of Muslim terrorists has still not ended”.

146. **April 12, Bulathsinhala, Kalutara District:** JHU leader Rev. Omalpe Sobitha addresses a public gathering, speaking against Islam and its customs, in particular stating that the entire halal process should be banned; it is not possible to produce halal and non halal products in

the same factory. He adds that according to Buddhism, Muslim's circumcision is also bad and vulgar.

147. **April 13, Colombo, Colombo District:** The mother of a child who was being treated for dengue at Lady Ridgeway Hospital says that she was asked to remove her abaya (cloak) when she visited the hospital to see her child. According to her, the nurse on duty at the Admission desk had asked her to remove her abaya if she wanted to enter the hospital premises.

148. **April 16, Gampola, Kandy District:** A Muslim-owned textile store 'The Lucky Emporium', was attacked in broad daylight by a gang numbering about a dozen. The glass panes of the shop as well as the showcases were broken, and debris of broken glass remained strewn inside and outside the

premises in the immediate aftermath of the attack.

149. **April 18, Nationwide District:** President of BBS Rev. Kirama Vimalajothi postulates that Islamic terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda and 'Jihad activity' are active in Sri Lanka. He claims that these terrorists groups are mainly active in the Eastern province, through the Jamiyyathul Ulama.

150. **May 01, Nationwide District:** Rev. Athuruliya Rathna of Jathika Hela Urumaya states that Muslim employees who are working in the following hospitals; Kalpitiya district hospital, Puttalam base hospital, Mampuri rural hospital and Alankuda central hospital are wearing Muslim garb instead of their hospital uniforms. They are therefore, under the influence of Islamic fundamentalist groups. If this continues it will create serious issues amongst communities, so proper action should be taken.

151. **May 05, Colombo, Colombo District:** JHU media spokesman declares that "Muslim racists have interfered in the country's general laws. Due to their activities the entire country is faced with a crisis."

152. **May 08, Nationwide:** Together with the JHU national organizer, Nishantha Warnasinghe, JHU leader Rev. Omalpe Sobitha proclaims that Muslim fundamentalist activities are more horrific than LTTE terrorism and are increasing day-by-day. He cited the birth control vaccinations imported by a Pakistani, illegal cigarette imports and the Kalpitiya Hospital uniforms issue as examples.

153. **May 08, Balangoda, Ratnapura District:** The Bodu Bala Sena demands the removal of all buildings from Kuragala (Jailani) by 18th May, failing which they will "come with 5000 people and surround the area."

154. **May 08, Nationwide:** JHU leader Rev. Omalpe Sobitha, admits that they are racist and religious fanatics but that they are not the authors of racism and religious fanaticism in Sri Lanka. He accuses Muslims of being behind the drug trade, (pills, birth control vials and heroin) in the country.

155. **May 14, Kolonnawa, Colombo District:** Methota Kolannawa mosque is stoned by unknown people.

156. **May 16, Nationwide:** The BBS states that Sri Lanka is not a multi-racial or multi-religious country but a Sinhalese Buddhist country and that "there is no place for those who do not accept this."

157. **May 24, Kollupitiya, Colombo District:** The monks of Sinhala Ravaya and a gang of goons had entered the Kollupitiya municipal People's Market and attacked the meat stalls there. They have forcibly taken out the meat and goods that were there and thrown them out.

158. **May 27, Dambulla, Matale District:** Matale District Secretary claims that there are no mosques in Dambulla town. "There is no need to talk about it."

159. **May 28, Padeniya, Matale District:** Padeniya Muslims are ordered by the Matale District Secretary to move from their homes after their area is declared 'sacred', without any compensation or alternative arrangements.

160. **May 28, Nationwide:** The current Minister of Agriculture, Agrarian Development, Irrigation, Trade and Environment in Western Provincial Council and JHU party member Udaya Gammanpila justifies the hate campaign against Muslims, saying "(on Madrasas) there is a law in this country. Just because you are a religious institution, you cannot abuse or disobey the law. Secondly, for the last 500 years they have been eating Halal food; we have never grudged this. But when they try to force us also to eat Halal, of course we have to resist. As much as we respect their values and beliefs, they should respect ours. In 1597, there were only 4,000 Muslims in this country. Now they have grown to two million because of religious conversions. If we didn't allow them to marry Sinhala Buddhist girls, the scenario would have been a lot different. This is why I say we are too innocent and too tolerant. Unfortunately, instead of appreciating that, they abuse it."

161. **June 01, Palagala, Anuradhapura District:** Palagala Divisional Secretary K.P .S. Kaluwaratchi orders the Muslim women employees of the DS office not to come to work with Abaya.

162. **June 03, Nationwide:** President of the Sinhala Ravaya, Rev. Akmeemana Dayarathana calls for the closure of every place where cattle is slaughtered and denies allegations by Dewatagaha mosque trustee Reyaz Salley that the anti-cattle slaughter tack is politically motivated.

163. **June 04, Nationwide:** Kalmunai Subadhraramaya Viharadhipathi Rev. Sagaratna writes that 'Sri Lanka is only for Buddhists.'

164. **June 06, Nationwide:** The BBS claims that Madrasas are bases for Islamic fundamentalism and that they are not registered under the National Education Policy. The BBS also alleges that Muslims create Islamic fundamentalism through the Shura Council and that members of the Sri Lankan Jamiyyathul Ulama recently met with a Muslim 'terrorist' in Qatar.

165. **June 06, Nationwide:** The BBS proclaims that after "winning" the Halal issue they are going to oppose the establishment of an Arabic college dedicated to teaching Sharia Law. The group argues that the Muslim community has survived without implementing Sharia law so far and that by introducing Sharia law, Muslims are trying to create a separate law, like the LTTE tried to create a separate nation. By establishing the Shura (Consultative) Council, Muslims are going to introduce "Wahabism" to Sri Lanka. The Government should take action against the establishment of Sharia Law in Sri Lanka.

166. **June 06, Colombo, Colombo District:** The Bodu Bala Sena urges the government to introduce a national policy on Islamic religious education in the country. The Bodu Bala Sena General Secretary claims Madrasa (Islamic schools) had been established throughout the country to spread Islamic extremism by certain NGOs.

167. **June 08, Karapitiya, Galle District:** Urban Development Authority (UDA) officials acting on the direct orders of the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and Urban development, Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa, are accompanied by military personnel to inform the Muslim resident families that the lands where they have been living for decades and where their legally owned homes were built on have been earmarked for Urgent Urban construction purposes and that they should vacate their homes in 72 hours. The land will be used to enhance and develop roads adjacent to the hospital and bus depot and also to expand the bus depot.

168. **June 10, Peradeniya, Kandy District:** Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU) protests against two Muslim Medical interns at Peradeniya Hospital, accusing them of forcing the Sinhalese to undertake family planning.

169. **June 11, Nationwide:** BBS General Secretary requests the government to immediately stop the building of the proposed University for Ulema.

170. **June 11, Ampara, Ampara District:** Bodu Bala Sena General

Secretary vows to take revenge on MP Harees for requesting the President's intervention in shifting the venue of their first meeting in the East from Kalmunai to Ampara.

171. June 09, Kattunayake, Gampaha District: Bodu Bala Sena General Secretary announces that Muslim doctors are working against the Sinhalese Buddhist community and that therefore, the Sinhalese should totally reject being treated by Muslim doctors.

172. June 09, Nationwide: The Bodu Bala Sena launches an online petition calling for the ban of the face veil (burqa and niqab).

173. June 09, Grandpass, Colombo District: A temporary mosque in the Grandpass area of Colombo is forced to relocate in one month due to an intense protest campaign by the "Ravana Balaya" (Ravana Force). The monks had staged a protest in front of the mosque and disturbed prayer on July 5th.

174. June 12, Karapitiya, Galle District: Urban Development Authority (UDA) officials and building contractors in-charge of the demolition & reconstruction project arrive with the police and bulldozers, telling the residents (Muslims) that their time is up and that they should leave within three hours with their belongings. After failing to move the protesting residents, they eventually leave the area, verbally abusing and threatening the residents as they do so, saying they would be back soon to continue the demolition. Muslims felt especially targeted in this instance since it was only Muslims and not Sinhala families who were also part of the community and who lived in the vicinity who were asked to move.

175. June 15, Badulla, Badulla District: The Bodu Bala Sena General Secretary calls for a ban of the Niqab, saying that several local banks had contacted him and complained that conducting business with veiled clients is problematic and is of great inconvenience to them. He also accuses Islamic fundamentalists of attempting to turn Sri Lanka into an Arabian country, ominously adding that if the fundamentalists continue to follow these practices, the moderate Muslims will suffer punishment as well. Building on the General Secretary's argument, BBS Spokesman Dilantha Withanage, claims that their opposition to the Niqab is not an attack on the Muslim community but goes beyond difficulties faced by local banks. "When these veiled individuals walk on the road, people do not know who they are, and that affects their

personal security". According to him, the Niqab is not a custom that all Muslims follow, and therefore it is unnecessary, and should be banned as it has been in France and other countries. Once it is banned, Sri Lankans can walk on the road sans fear of the veiled individuals who cannot be identified.

176. June 15-26, Multiple, Nationwide: The Sinhala Ravaya organization marches from Kataragama Kirivehera in Hambantota district to Colombo against cattle slaughter, causing confrontations with Christians and Muslims alike along the way. Upon reaching Temple Trees they hand over their petition against cattle slaughter to the President.

177. June 17, Nationwide: BBS General Secretary announces in a public meeting that "the Muslims cannot change our country into a Middle Eastern country" and also that "they (Muslims) have to stop wearing niqab (veil)".

178. June 18, Badulla, Badulla District: BBS General Secretary claims "Sri Lanka belongs to Buddhists. Other religious people should not have any rights. Muslim people can wear Abaya in Saudi Arabia, but we cannot accept that dress in Sri Lanka." He also claimed that Muslims were only brought to Sri Lanka to do business and construct roads.

179. June 19, Tangalle, Hambantota District: During the Sinhala Ravaya's anti-cattle slaughter march, the group sets a Muslim owned beef stall ablaze in full view of the police, who make no arrests.

180. June, Manmunai South-Eruvilpattu AGA division, Batticaloa District: The Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Puligal (TMVP), led by former Eastern Province chief minister and current Provincial councillor and Advisor to the President, Sivanesanathurai Chandrakanthan (alias Pillaiyan), has been engaging in anti-Muslim propaganda in a bid to counter the popularity of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), who is in favour of building close relations between Tamils and Muslims in the province. Several posters and leaflets attacking Muslims have been issued. Some leaflets have asked Tamils not to patronise Muslim businesses. Muslims have also been threatened to vacate their dwellings in areas with a mixed Tamil-Muslim population and go back to traditional Muslim enclaves such as Eravur and Kattankudi.

181. **June 20, Urukaamam, Batticaloa District:** A provision store-cum-eatery owned and run by Mr. Seeni Mouhammadu Fareed is burnt down by a gang suspected to be the anti-Muslim outfit calling itself 'Dravida Senai' or Dravidian Army, regarded as a front of the TMVP.

182. **June 20, Nationwide:** Newspaper article in response to an article that questions whether racism is a social/political problem, denies that Sinhalese-dominated political parties are racist and claims that the Muslim political parties are racist.

183. **June 22, Mallawapitiya, Kurunegala District:** The BBS is reported to be forcefully occupying a house belonging to a Muslim in Mallawapitiya and refusing to obey the court order to return the house.

184. **June 25, Kalutara, Kalutara District:** Concurrently with the protest march against cattle slaughter in Hambantota, a mob including the BBS monks gather near a Mosque in Kalutara, provoking Muslims and creating tension in the centre of the town.

185. **June 28, Nationwide:** BBS General Secretary issues a public warning that the minorities will be attacked within the next month, stating that the government has to take action against the minority organisations before the July full moon day, failing which the BBS as the unofficial police force will attack the minority organisations. He also informs that in future a 'Buddhist Security committee' will be formed in every Sinhalese village to prevent other races from entering said villages.

186. **July 1, Kattunayaka, Gampaha District:** BBS Secretary Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara warns the Sinhalese not to take contraceptive pills. According to him, Muslims in Sri Lanka are increasing their numbers and covertly developing in every field including business. He further states that the Muslims are trying to lead the country towards Islamic fundamentalism; therefore Sinhalese should not use contraceptive pills. He also appeals to boycott Muslim businesses and reject Muslim doctors. The Rev. Gnanasara also states that 400 fundamental religious organizations are operating in Sri Lanka, among which 10 are Muslim fundamental groups. The most affected are the Buddhists and Catholics. In order to safeguard the country from Muslim & Christian extremists, traditional Catholics should join hands with the BBS. People who can safeguard this right should be elected at the parliament. If not, in 10 years' time this country will face another war.

187. **July 4, Grandpass, Colombo District:** Buddhist Monks oppose the opening of the newly built mosque. Muslims built this mosque in a new location on the same road, as the earlier one had been earmarked for the expansion of the canal by the Urban Development Authority (UDA). (Ref No. 173)

188. **July 4, Nilaveli, Trincomalee District:** Tamil parents and children of Nilaveli Tamil Vidyalayam protest against Muslim children wearing hijab. The school administration forbade the Muslim children wearing the hijab from entering the School premises.

189. **July 5, Grandpass, Colombo District:** Monks stage a protest in front of the mosque and disturb prayers on July 5th. A temporary mosque in the Grandpass area of Colombo is forced to relocate in one month due to an intense protest campaign by the "Ravana Balaya" (Ravana Force). (Ref. No 187)

190. **July 8, Badulla, Badulla District:** Posters appear in Badulla city against the blood donation campaign organised by the Jamiyyathul Ulama Badulla branch. Also, the Bodu Bala Sena organises a protest campaign near the Nimal Siripala de Silva postal building in the city.

191. **July 9, Nationwide:** The BBS launches an online petition calling for the ban of the face veil (burqa and niqab), urging Secretary to the Ministry of Defence to ban the Burqa and Niqab in Sri Lanka. The petition says: "The Secretary of Defence Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksha: Ban the Burqa and Niqab in Sri Lanka"

192. **July 9, Colombo, Colombo District:** Ravana Balaya holds a protest outside the Department of Buddhist Affairs demanding the removal of a mosque in Grandpass which the movement alleged was an illegal construction. Ravana Balaya and the Muslim representatives from the Mosque in Grandpass, then settled the dispute and came into an agreement to move the mosque to a suitable location within a month. (Ref No 189)

193. **July 11, Mahiyangana, Badulla District:** A mob of masked individuals stone the Mahiyangana Mosque, assault the mosque trustee, break in to the mosque and throw pig's head, flesh and blood into its precincts. To further reinforce the mood of terror, the power was switched off during the attack. The incident took place at 11.30 p.m. as the Muslims

of Mahiyangana offered special Ramadan Tharaweesh night prayers. Many of the windows were broken. The onslaught lasted up to 20 minutes before the power was restored and the aggressors made to leave. No one has been arrested. Prior to the attack, the mosque trustee had been attacked with chilli powder and threatened against continuing Friday prayers in the mosque and warned that the worst was yet to come. Disregarding the threats, the mosque conducted the Friday prayers. Additionally, Mahiyangana Provincial Council Member, Chief Incumbent of the Mahaweli Maha Viharaya Rev. Watareka Vijitha while speaking at special ceremony organised by the Upcountry Muslim Council revealed that Rev. Gnanasara and some others had come to the Maha Viharaya in Mahiyanganaya and had a discussion the day before the attack.

194. **July 13, Nationwide:** Bodu Bala Sena General Secretary says "we are not against the Tamils or Muslims. We have presented our policy on Muslim Fundamentalism. Many small groups have formed in this country to spread Muslim fundamentalism." He denies the allegation that the BBS is behind the mosque attacks. But reiterates that it is "against the Niqab, this should be banned, there is no injustice in this. He says that the majority of crimes such as smuggling, avoidance of income tax, trafficking of drugs, etc. are perpetrated by Muslims.

195. **July 14, Dewanagala, Kegalle District:** At a meeting held against Muslims in Uyanwatta village, the BBS discusses ways in which to forcefully evacuate the Muslims living close to the area.

196. **July 16, Dematagoda, Colombo District:** Seven Buddhist monks in robes and 5 civilians set fire to a lorry belonging to a Muslim parked near the Baseline road at dawn at around 3.40 a.m. This lorry arrived there with a government approved license to collect beef from a government abattoir in Dematagoda. Owners of the lorry that transports beef to the stalls at Kotte, Madiwela, Nugegoda, Mirihana, Battarmulla, and Thalawathugoda had duly obtained licenses from the local bodies.

197. **July 17, Grandpass, Colombo District:** Sinhala Ravaya monks storm a mosque in Grandpass, laying claim that the building was an illegal construction. The mosque was a makeshift space for conducting prayers during the month of Ramadan. The original mosque in the area, which was built in the 1960s, was to be relocated as per urban development plans, as 15 feet of the mosque area was required for expanding a canal. As a result, with the approval of the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs,

prayers were conducted in this nearby building on a temporary basis during the Ramadan month. (Ref. No 192)

198. **July 19, Mahiyangana, Badulla District:** Mahiyangana mosque closes down for the first time in 40 years. Uva Province Minister, Anura Vithanagamage, allegedly threatened the trustee of

the Mahiyangana Masjidul Araba Mosque against holding Jumma prayers. During the past few months there have been repeated threats demanding the trustees to stop Friday Jumma prayers and remove the mosque.

199. **July 21, Thoppur, Trincomalee District:** Armed forces try to stop the renovation of Muhaideen Jumma Mosque of Allai Nagar in Thoppur (Muttur area). They demand to see the approval for the mosque. They leave the premises after being shown the documents belonging to the mosque trustees for 50 years.

200. **July 22, Kurunegala, Kurunegala District:** Bodu Bala Sena, General Secretary Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara states at the Kurunegala Bodu Bala Sena District Committee meeting that even though there are plenty of universities in this country, Hira Foundation of Saudi Arabia is planning to construct a university in Kalmunai. "The purpose of this university is to produce a great number of ulama within a year. The King of Saudi Arabia is the head of the Hira Foundation. That means the NGOs also can start universities in this country. If this goes on there will be a request for the implementation of Sharia law and ultimately there will be a demand for the Arabic language as one of ours". He states that 31 students selected for universities from Ampara District out of which only two were Sinhalese and two were Tamils. "Is this not racism?" he asks.

201. **July 23, Kurunegala, Kurunegala District:** Bodu Bala Sena Secretary says that Muslim fundamentalists are behind the sale of drugs and that is "worse than the effect of the 13th amendment to the constitution of Sri Lanka. Institutions that are formed under Sharia law function in the share market and soon the details of the institutions will be revealed. 65 Interpreters were appointed to the courts in 2013 and among them 51 are Muslims, out of which 35 are Muslim women. This shows the law has been badly affected in the country."

202. **July 27, Nationwide:** Chief Incumbent of the Mahiyangana Raja Maha Viharaya Rev. Urulahwaththe Dhamma Rakkitha criticizes minister Rauf Hakeem for making false allegations about an attack of the Mahiyangana mosque and therefore promoting religious unrest. He proclaims that as a responsible minister Hakeem should prove the allegations by providing authentic evidence and that measures should be taken against him. The monk denies the existence of the mosque named Jumma Mosque in the vicinity of Mahiyangana.

203. **July 29, Wadduwa, Kalutara District:** Unidentified people set fire to a beef stall in the public market owned by a Muslim, at around 5 a.m. destroying the equipment and the stall. A poster was found in the premises saying that you will be killed if you do not stop selling beef hereafter.

204. **July 30, Nationwide:** Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara says the Bodu Bala Sena will recommence its battle against the Halal Certification to root it out entirely from the country. General Secretary says that although the group had stepped away from the battle against Halal because of the intervention of the Maha Sanga, the problem has not yet been resolved. He says that although the ACJU had promised to remove the Halal logo from products in the Sri Lankan market that promise has been broken.

205. **July 30, Dewanagala, Kegalle District:** The Bodu Bala Sena visit the Dewanagala rock mountain and temple in Uyanwatte Mawanella and mark 72 acres as “sacred land.” Even though the Muslims of the area possess 130-year-old deeds for their properties, the BBS tell the Sinhalese residents that the Muslims have no right to live there, that they should be removed from the vicinity and their lands given to traditional Sinhalese soon. They also warn the Muslim residents to vacate the place as soon as possible and pay compensation for living there. Despite appealing to the government, local politicians were unable to stop the BBS from holding a meeting on the Dewanagala rock summit. However, the use of loudspeakers was prohibited by the police and much of the hate speeches were not heard by those at the bottom of the rock. Buddhists and Muslims have been living around/on the Dewanagala rock for centuries. Approximately 75% of the inhabitants are Sinhalese. (Ref No 195)

206. **July 30, Oddamawadi, Batticaloa District:** A Buddha statue is placed on a table in the middle of a school playground in Pirainthuraichchenai Ashar Vidyalayam, a Muslim School in the Muslim dominated town of Oddamavadi in Valaichchenai. The playground is

located close to Buddha Jayanthi Vihara (temple). The head of the Buddhist temple had attempted to seize the playground from the school in 2010.

207. August 3, Attidiya, Colombo District: A group of ten men led by the Chief Prelate of the Bellanwila Rajamaha Viharaya enter the Masjidul Hiba mosque while the devotees are about to break their fast, and threaten them to close down the mosque immediately. The prelate alleges that the Muslims started it as a Madrasa and then converted it into a mosque, saying;

“If this mosque is not closed down we will gather people and organise a big protest and take action to close it down.” This mosque was registered with the authorities and the papers were shown to the police who visited the mosque at the complaint of the Trustees of the mosque. The Police allowed the Trustees to continue the activities.

208. August 10, Grandpass, Colombo District: A Buddhist mob attacks the mosque in Grandpass, leaving at least five people injured. Buddhists and Muslims clashed after the attack, and police imposed a curfew in the area. Several houses were also damaged during the clashes. A Muslim resident of the area said that a mob threw stones at the mosque when worshippers were performing evening prayers. Buddhist monks had reportedly protested on July 5th and 17th against the presence of the mosque but had agreed to allow Muslims to continue praying there until the end of the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan. But area Muslims say Sri Lanka's religious affairs ministry (Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs) had given them permission to continue using the site and had also provided special police security due to the threat of possible attacks. (Ref. No. 197)

209. August 11, Kolonnawa, Colombo District: Hand bills are distributed stating that the spread of the Muslim population has led to the destruction of Buddhism. Hence an initiative has to be taken to stop this situation. Two months before it was a collective battle by the Muslims & Sinhalese in Kolonnawa to clear the piled up garbage in that area. The BBS organized a gathering very close to the Jumma Masjid in Kolonnawa during the month of Ramadan, while the Muslims were praying.

210. August 11, Kurunegala, Kurunegala District: Referring to a sign board stating “Silence please” close to the Paragahadeniya Masjid in Mawathagama, the BBS states “We cannot allow these activities by extreme Muslims.”

211. **August 12, Grandpass, Colombo District:** The new Grandpass mosque is closed after the attacks. The Sri Lanka Muslim Council said that the Muslims had agreed to move to the older place of worship which the Urban Development Authority had earlier earmarked for demolition as part of the city's development. (Ref. No. 208)

212. **August 12, Attidiya, Colombo District:** Superintendent of Police attached to the Mount Lavinia Division, and an inspector from Police Headquarters visit the Masjidul Hiba, and asked the mosque's trustees to register the mosque under the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs and the Divisional Secretariat, within two weeks, if not they might have to close the mosque. (Ref. No. 207)

213. **August 13, Kurunegala, Kurunegala District:** The BBS states at a gathering at the Satyawathi Grounds in Kurunegala that they have requested the Defence ministry to investigate the Thawheed Jamaath "extremist group" which was involved in the Grandpass incident and "chase them out of the country". There are enough places to worship, stated the BBS, and hence they request the President to stop granting permission to build Masjids, Temples & Kovils. Muslims are not following the country's law. Representatives further stated that "we are telling them not to bring the Arabic law to our country. If the Defence unit of the country doesn't take action against the Thawheed extremism, we will control them."

214. **August 23, Mawanella, Kegalle District:** The Sinhala Ravaya stops the President's convoy, which was returning to Colombo from Mawanella, and complains about their plight in Dewanagala. According to the Rev. Magalkande Sudantha's version of the crisis in Dewanagala, "a „millionaire" Muslim businessman has bought over the sacred place in Dewanagala and fenced off the land, chased off the monks, scribbled Tamil filth in front of the temple and destroyed the statues." (Please see incident no.194 and no. 204.) He further stated to the press later on that he has trust in the President and that the President himself had assured him that he would take necessary steps to deal with this situation. (Ref No. 205)

215. **September 1, Media Interview:** Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) secretary
Rev. Galagoda Aththe

Gnanasara states in an interview to the Australia based Global Mail that "Any Muslims, they are very bad people here. They are creating all problems here." According to the article the BBS members make unsupported claims, on scant evidence, that Muslims dominate Sri Lanka's business community and provoke religious fundamentalism, and that Muslim doctors secretly sterilise Sinhalese women.

216. September 2, Media Announcement: Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU) states that many banned goods are smuggled into Sri Lanka through a Muslim business channel. The JHU also alleges that there had been several instances where Muslims have tried to smuggle drugs into the country. These remarks were made by the national organizer of the JHU Mr Nishantha Sri Warnasinghe in a media announcement issued by him regarding the confiscation of a container which contained more than 250 KG of Brown sugar narcotic drugs concealed inside machine lubricant (grease) cans.

217. September 4, Defence Seminar-2013: Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa stated that the emergence of hard-line groups among the Sinhalese had caused further fragmentation of post-war Sri Lanka. He emphasised that the country was faced with the uphill task of tackling Sinhala hardliners as well as Muslim extremists. He was addressing the Defence Seminar in Colombo on September 3. The Defence Secretary said: "It has been observed that there are some foreign groups that wish to encourage Sri Lankan Muslims to identify themselves more with the global Muslim community, thereby reducing their integration with the rest of the population. It is a known fact that Muslim Fundamentalism is spreading all over the world and in this region. This is a situation that our law enforcement agencies and security forces are concerned about particularly as there have been instances where extremist elements have been in transit in Sri Lanka prior to arrest and handing over to appropriate authorities. The possibility that such extremist elements may try to promote Muslim extremism in Sri Lanka is a cause for concern."

218. September 4, Media Statement: The Executive Committee of the Bodu Bala Sena hails remarks made by Secretary to the Ministry of Defence Gotabaya Rajapaksa at a Defence Seminar about the threat to Sri Lanka from rising Muslim Extremism as a courageous statement from a national leader and says it was an 'important victor

y' for the Bodu Bala Sena in its yearlong ideological battle. In a media statement BBS further stresses that it is the nation's good fortune that Muslim extremism has been identified and exposed now before it could bring about another 30 years of war with devastating consequences in 20 years' time.

219. September 05, Media Conference: In a media conference Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara charges that the Muslims are smugglers of contraceptive pills and drugs into the country. He blames Muslims for destroying the demanded international tea trade. He states that all the Muslim women prisoners are drug offenders whereas the majority of the Sinhala and Tamil women prisoners are there because their crimes are related to family problems. He says that there are over 1,000 Pakistanis and Afghanis living in the Negombo area and requests an investigation as he finds their presence in a Sinhala Buddhist country to be suspicious. He accuses the Muslims for selling "Babul" (a narcotic containing ingredients such as tobacco, areca-nut, clove and betel leaf) to Sinhala students. He warns the All Ceylon Jamiyyathul

Ulema that the public will take the law unto their own hands if they continue with Halal Certification.

220. September 10, Press Conference: The Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara announced at a press conference in Kirillapone that an important Muslim minister and a leader of a Muslim organisation were having close contact with Yusuf al-Qaradawi who funds Islamic extremist organisations like al-Qaeda and Hamaz. He thanks the Secretary of Defence for acting based on the advice of BBS with regard to the Muslim extremism. He further stated that some Muslim extremist groups were creating religious polarisation among the people of this county. According to him there are more than ten Muslim extremist organisations functioning in Sri Lanka and they receive funds from Islamic countries. He also mentioned that the leader of Sri Lanka Muslim Congress Rauf Hakeem and Ameen of the Muslim Council of Sri Lanka secretly met Yusuf al-Qaradawi in Qatar, and they are maintaining a close relationship and that Yusuf al-Qaradawi is also trying to fund the Shura (consultation) Council which will control all the Ulama councils. The Rev. Gnanasara stated further that he is ready to reveal information related to these issues when the need arises.

221. September 10, Dewanagala, Mawanella, Kegalle District: Rev. Magalkantha Sudhantha of Sinhala Ravaya and the secretary of the

National Campaign to Protect Dewanagala, Buddhika Dias stated at a media conference that the non- Buddhist community (Muslims) residing within the Dewanagala historic sacred land should be removed. They stated that they wanted the 72 acres of land belonging to the Department of Archaeology to be surveyed in an appropriate manner by the government and the boundaries marked before the 25th of September. They threatened to commit suicide by leaping from the summit of the rock if the government failed to do so within the stipulated time. They further stated that the sacrifice of life was for the sake of “our nationality” and that the president and the government should take responsibility for the sacrifice. This communiqué was signed in the presence of media personnel and arrangements were made to deliver it to the president. (Ref No. 214)

222. September 11, Media Statement: Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara says that due to the activities of the Muslim extremism sale of drugs have increased in the country. He urges the government to take action against this phenomenon. He says “many Muslims are coming from various Muslim countries but no one here looks into who they are and what their background is”. He stated that drugs are brought to Sri Lanka from Afghanistan and Pakistan and are destroying the Sinhala and Tamil races.

223. September 11, Media Conference: Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU) Leader Rev. Omalpe Sobhitha commended the Defence Secretary’s recent speech highlighting the existence of Muslim Extremism in Sri Lanka. He criticized Muslim ministers Rauf Hakeem and Rishad Bathiudeen for asking in Parliament for further clarifications about the speech and asked if they either defended these elements of extremism or feared that the defence secretary’s statement would lead to the revelation of hitherto hidden information. The Rev. Omalpe went on to state that the political activities of Muslim leaders who worked closely with the LTTE have not been forgotten by the people, that the people do not need to be reminded of the fact that Muslim leaders sent wreaths to LTTE deputy head Tamil Chelvam’s funeral, and that they took measures to topple the government at crucial times during the war with the LTTE. The thero further stated that there was Islamic extremism spreading all over the world disturbing the peaceful existence of people.

224. September 12 – Dambulla, Matale District: Mr Ahamed Lebbe, the president of the Dambulla Jumma Mosque trustee board revealed to Thinakural the plan of the authorities to expedite the process of acquiring the mosque land. According to Mr. Lebbe the Road Development Authorities and Surveyors from Matale entered the mosque premises at 11.30 a.m. on September 11 and surveyed until 2.20 p.m. and demarcated the area that is to come under the acquisition plan. The trustees of the mosque fear that according to the new plan the

mosque will be removed from the present location. They also blamed the Muslim politicians for not doing much to save the mosque. (Ref. No 158)

225. September 14, Dewanagala, Mawanella, Kegalle District: The Sinhala Ravaya Organization stated at a press conference today that the meat stall at Dewanagala sacred area has been removed with the intervention of the Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapakse. The beef stall has been operating under the license issued by the Mawanella Pradeshiya Sabha. Participating in a media conference at Dewanagala, the National Organizer of Sinhala Ravaya Rev. Magalkande Sudantha said “we came here to take a historical decision. We were here to start a protest to death. There is a meat stall started at the sacred area without permission. We made the Defence Ministry aware of this. Nothing was done by the provincial council members to stop this. We were personally informed by the Defence Secretary that this will be closed”. This beef stall was run by a Muslim and the Sinhala Ravaya claims that the land where the stall is, comes under the ‘Temple and Devala’ Act. (Ref No. 221)

226. September 15, Press Statement: The Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) threatened to resume its campaign against the ‘Halal certification’ process on the basis that the Government had failed to keep to its promises on this issue. Bodu Bala Sena Secretary stated that he hoped to meet Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapakse soon and thereafter would take a decision on the re-launch of the campaign against the Halal certification process. He further stated that Bodu Bala Sena intended to start a fast-unto-death campaign in Kandy at the end of September. It was in Kandy that BBS stopped the campaign against Halal certification after assurances from the Government. (Ref. No 226)

227. September 15, Pulmoddai, Trincomalee District: More than 1,500 acres of land belonging to Muslims and the state have been surveyed and will be acquired for the purpose of constructing a Buddhist temple, establishing a sacred zone, for archaeological exploration, and for expanding the camps of the security forces. Arisi Malai, 13th Mile Post, Ponmalikuda are the areas that come under the survey.

228. September 16, Thoppur, Trincomalee District: According to former parliamentarian M Mahroof 50 acres of land was “grabbed” to construct a Buddhist vihara at Thoppur or Akkarai, a Muslim village in Chelva Nagar GS division. Residents alleged that the divisional secretary of Seruwila has instructed the village (GS) officer to acquire and hand over the lands evicting 60 Muslim families living on the said lands. They said at the beginning six acres of lands were allocated but later the extent of land has been increased. There are no Buddhists in the above village; Muslims have been living there for generations.

229. September 16, Viyangala, Agalawatta, Kalutara District: More than ten Buddhist Monks surrounded the Viyangala abattoir in the Agalawatta Pradeshiya Sabha on the morning of September 16th. There was no slaughtering of any cattle but the butchers and others started calling the Colombo politicians for help. On hearing of the incident the local police rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control. Although the neighbouring Mattugama Pradeshiya Sabha has banned cattle slaughtering in its jurisdiction such activities remained legal within the Agalawatta Pradhiya Sabha. The local parliamentarian who arrived there at that time has told the butchers that he is with them and to continue their business. No one has rights to interrupt a legally functioning business, the politician stated.

230. September 17, Bulathsinhala, Egaloya, Kalutara District: A large gathering of Buddhist Monks, patrons and donors to the local temple held a protest walk on 16th against the burning of the Paramitha Vishwa Samadhi Dharmayathanaya situated in Egaloya, Bulthsinhala. According to the National organiser of the Maha Sanga Sabha Ven Pahiyangala Ananda Sagara, a group had thrown a party to celebrate the burning of the Dharmayathanaya.

President of the Sinhala Ravaya Rev. Akmeemana Dayartana says “today Muslim mosques are being constructed, praying halls are being constructed, restaurants and brothels are being constructed but

nobody takes steps to burn them, yet there are groups to burn the Buddhist Temples". He urged the authorities to find the people responsible for the incident

231. September 19, Hirimpura, Galle District: Muslims of the Joseph Estate in Hirimpura were attacked on September 13th around 1.30 a.m. by a group of people carrying weapons including iron-rods and swords. The mob was using provocative language for Muslims to retaliate, but Muslims neither responded nor came out of their houses instead they called the police. Then the angry mob damaged the houses. The tense situation prevailed until the police came to the scene by 2.30 a.m. and brought the situation under control. According to the newspaper the Muslim people of the area continue to live in fear and asked the police to provide security.

232. September 19, Media Conference: Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara says in a press conference held in the Buddhist Centre, Kirillapone that the headquarters of the Islamic Wahhabi and Salafi movements operate in the east to spread the philosophy of Yusuf al-Qaradawi. He stated that he plans to destroy the Muslim extremism that is spreading in the east and that very soon the BBS will enter Akkaraipattu and Tirukkovil area at the request of the people. He said that he plans to bring all the Buddhist movements together under a two year plan and fight against Muslim extremism. He also warned that everyone will be affected if the youth attracted by the Wahhabi and Salafi ideologies start fighting among themselves.

233. September 19, Press Release: Brigadier Ruwan Wanigasooriya sent an email to media personnel with the subject line 'We are not alone in the current dialogue'. Contained in the email was an article that appeared in the UK based Independent newspaper about the on-going debate in Britain about the Muslim dress code. The article relates to race relations in the UK after a judge asked a veiled woman to remove her burqa in order to give evidence at a trial. The "current dialogue" in Sri Lanka with regards to the Muslim dress is led openly by the anti-Muslim Bodu Bala Sena and other hard line organisations and is seen as part of the groups' on-going campaign of intolerance against the country's Muslim minority community.

234. September 22, Twitter Message: Bodu Bala Sena in its twitter message immediately after the Northern Provincial Council election results

were out, conveys the need to finish off with Muslims first as they are the real threat and then deal with Tamil National Alliance. It states that the Sinhalese Buddhists must now realise why it (the BBS) opposed Northern Provincial Council Elections. The message further says that 2015 will be the year for Buddhists not for Muslims. (Sinhalese Buddhists must now realised why we opposed #NWP Elections. This is absurd how they (TNA) want to rule our land on their own. But still we want to finish off with Muslims first as they are our real threat. Remember, 2015 will be the year of Buddhists not for Muslims).

235. September 27, Dambulla, Matale District: The residents (Hindus and Muslims) of Dambulla Buddhist sacred area were issued letters by the Urban Development Authority (UDA) on 27 September and were asked to leave the area by the end of September. They were promised alternate lands on Kandalama Road, in the Pollwatha area. Some Muslim families living on this land which is deemed to be a sacred area had lived here for over 100 years. Ref. No. 224)

236. October 2, Dambulla, Matale District: Hindus and Muslims evicted from Dambulla on the grounds that they were occupying land sacred to the Buddhists, say that they are still waiting for alternative accommodation as promised by Prime Minister D. M. Jayarante during his visit to the area prior to the recently concluded Provincial Council Elections. Prime Minister Jayaratne had visited the place and assured the Chief Priest of the Hindu Temple and the evicted Muslims from their lands more than a year before, that they would be resettled in Polwatte, Dambulla. (Ref. No 235)

237. October 3, Kuragala, Balangoda, Ratnapura District: Jailanee including the Mosque and the surrounding area have been declared as an archaeological site and all buildings except the Mosque have been demolished by the civil defence force. The imam's (priest) room and the office were removed last week. Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) had previously vowed to remove the mosque from Kuragala.

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238. October 5, Anuradhapura, Anuradhapura District: 'The time has come to show who the rightful race of this country is'. This was a statement made by Rev. Galagoda Atht

he Gnanasara of the Bodu Bala Sena at the Rajarata Conference of the Bodu Bala Sena held at the Salgado Stadium in Anuradhapura. He further mentioned 'Rauf Hakeem wants the East, Vigneswaran wants the North and in a few days they will say that Colombo is ours. Tamils say the North is theirs the Muslims extremists claim that the east is theirs. Now it is time for us to show who the rightful owners of Sri Lanka are and who are foreign. Before we build roads and the tallest tower in Asia we should show who the historic nationals of this country are' he stated. He also stated that when different missionaries visit your homes, it is no use informing the police. The police cannot do anything about it, as these are not mentioned in the law books, 'We have to make our own laws' he said, when such things happen we should use the broom. 'This is the alternative' he said.

239. October 12, Valaichchenai, Batticaloa District: A Buddha statue was planted in a private

land at Kumburumoolai Division on Pasikuda Road, Valaichchenai that belongs to a retired Muslim teacher Hayathu Muhamadu Muhamadu Ibrahim on 4th October, without prior consent of the owner. However this statue was removed from the place on 11th October. According to newspaper reports the same statue had been placed for a few days and then removed from several places in the area, allegedly by the Buddhist monk attached to the Valaichchenai Sri Buddha Jayanthi Temple.

240. October 12, Kurundugahahethakma, Elpitiya, Galle District: Rev. Kmeemana Dayarathana of Sinhala Ravaya, a group of around 1,000 residents of the area, as well as members of the Sinhala Ravaya staged a protest against a Muslim businessman who was to open a gold jewellery shop in the town. The Muslim businessman had leased the shop from a Sinhalese businessman, paying Rs 500,000. Minister of Resettlement, Mr Munaratne Weerakoon intervened and has ordered the Sinhala Ravaya, out from Kurundugahahethakma. The monk had allegedly abused the minister in lewd language when the latter had pleaded with the prelate not to whip up racial disharmony. The incident was triggered off by the chairman of the Kurundugahahethakma Pradeshia Sabha, Gamini Marawansa, who had joined the procession and said, "We have won today" implying that the battle to get the Muslim businessman out of the

icity had succeeded. The Minister had lodged a complaint with the Ipitiya Police.

241. October 15, Kottikawatta, Colombo District: A W M Sihan, United National Party Member of the Kottikwatta Pradheshiya Sabha says that Bodu Bala Sena has taken away 11 cattle by- force that were brought for the Hajj animal sacrifice (qurban) on 14th mid-night. Out of 11 cattle the Pradeshia Sabha has given approval for five and the rest were awaiting approval. Sihan also said the cattle traders were also attacked by the Bodu Bala Sena. He further stated that these incidents happened even after the chief Minister of the Western Province had warned the Pradeshia Sabha chairman not to disturb qurban activities.

243. October 16, Kandy, Kandy District: Swarnamali Vidyalaya in Kandy closed school on the 15th of October due to a teachers development program and made up for this day by opening school on the 16th of October, on the day the Haj festival was celebrated by Muslims. Some of the staff and parents had protested against the school functioning on Haj festival day. Principal of the school stated that the school functioning on the 16th was with the consent of the Zonal Education Director.

242. October 15, Statement: The National Organizer of the Bodu Bala Sena (BBS), Rev. Vitharandeniya Nanda, says the halal struggle that was deflected and halted, will resume on 22 October. Though the Defence Secretary and the Mahanayake Theras had intervened and stated that the dispute would be resolved, no measures had been taken so far in this regard, while the BBS had become a victim of deceit, the monk said. He also said a motorcade will start from Colombo and proceed to the Dalada Maligawa in Kandy on 22 October and after paying homage to the Maligawa, action will be initiated to boycott products labelled as halal.

244. October 16 - Kannathotta, Kegalle District: Muslims in this area were om

performing the animal sacrifice (qurban) until the day of the Haj festival. In spit

requests made by the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council member and

the president of Kannathotta Jumma mosque Nihal Faruk, the Pradeshiya Sabha, the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspector delayed the issue of permits due to pressure from extremist elements. It was only after the people of the area contacted Mr Basil Rajapaksha (The minister

of Economic Development and the President's brother) the permit was issued, that too on the day of the Haj festival

245. October 16, Ruwanwella, Kegalle District: Qurban ritual to be held in celebration of the Hajj festival in Ruwanwella yesterday, by the Kannattota and Bulathkohupitiya mosques, had to be cancelled due to the Ruwanwella Pradeshiya Sabha failing to issue a permit on time to slaughter 41 cattle. Opposition Leader of the Pradeshiya Sabha, Mohommad Shiyam, said they had sought a licence since it involves a religious practice. When inquiries were made by Ceylon Today, Ruwanwella Police Officer- In-Charge said, Ven. Badalkumbura Wimalaratane of Lenagala Rajamaha Viharaya had lodged a complaint against the planned cattle slaughter.

246. October 20, Statement: Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara of the Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) alleges that the controversial 'Halal' logo was once again being printed on certain products and released to the market and accused the All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama (ACJU) of going back on its earlier promise to ensure that no new products were released to the market with the logo. Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara claims that new products released to the market also carry the Halal logo. Thus the BBS will once again take up its fight against the Halal issue. However the ACJU official commented that after discussions it was decided that the Halal logo was optional and it was up to the companies to decide if their products should carry the Halal logo.

247. October 21, Dambulla, Matale District: S Y M Saleem, Member of the Board of Trustees of Dambulla Mosque told Sudaroli Newspaper that around 10.30 p.m. a mob had thrown pig meat into the mosque compound and lit crackers. Even though the mosque is provided police protection such activities continue to take place, he stated. According to Mr Saleem this is the

second such incident in recent days. He also mentioned pig's blood has been sprayed on the mosque premises recently. As a result, the Muslim residents of the area live in fear (Ref No 236)

248. October 22, Procession: The Bodu Bala Sena monks led group

re-launches its anti-Halal campaign with a motorcade that left Colombo for Kandy on the morning of the 22nd of October. A special religious ceremony was held before the Sacred Temple of the Tooth in Kandy, to invoke blessings for the campaign. The BBS motorcade departed for Kandy from the Buddhist Centre in Kirulapone. The contingent from Colombo was joined by a number of vehicles at Ambepussa and Kegalle. They held a public rally at Kegalle, chanted anti-minority slogans and made hate speeches against the Muslim community, before heading off to Kandy. Kegalle is home to a significant Muslim population. The BBS claims that thousands of people and hundreds of vehicles joined and that the campaign was successful. (Ref. No. 91)

249. October 22, Press Interview: The Bodu Bala Sena believes its anti-Halal agitation is far more important than taking up the Government's move to create casino zones in the capital Colombo, the group's Chief Executive Officer Dilantha Withanage tells the media. Withanage also criticized the letter released by Governor of the Western Province Alavi Moulana requesting all the heads of the local governments in the province to cooperate and assist with the annual Hajj cattle sacrifice (qurban). He pointed to the fact that the letter was written on a letterhead that features the Dharma Chakra, a Buddhist symbol.

250. October 23, Statement: Dilantha Withanage the CEO of Bodu Bala Sena says that the BBS has declared the oncoming year starting from October 23rd as the "Anti-Halal year". The members of the BBS have made vows yesterday (October 22) before the sacred tooth relic that they are going to fight with their lives against the spreading of the Halal concept.

251. October 25, Statement: Who gave authority to All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama (ACJU) to issue halal certificate, who are these Ulama, asked Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara of the Bodu Bala Sena. According to the report featured in the Tamil language Virakesari Newspaper Rev. Gnanasara vowed to fight continuously if the ACJU doesn't completely withdraw Halal certification. He blamed the ACJU for cheating

some Buddhist monks and feeding Halal food to Sinhala Buddhists. Sri Lanka is a Buddhist country, they cannot cheat us always, he stated. Our motorcade protest to Kandy which was meant to raise awareness among the Sinhalese was a success, the Rev. Monk stated.

252. October 30, Press Interview: We also have a right to boycott what is certified as halal, Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara says in an interview with Ceylon Today. He further says that the halal issue has divided society and many people felt hurt, directly or indirectly. The halal process is a part of the Sharia law, which is not a part of the legal system of this country, he stated. He goes on to say that the Muslims in Akurana speak the Arabic language, but the Sri Lankan Muslims do not traditionally speak Arabic. He suspects that later the Muslims will want the Arabic language also recognized as an official language. The halal issue is like a monster and it is more serious than casinos, he said, and vowed to continue the fight against the halal certification.

253. October 31, Colombo, Colombo District: The members of the Bodu Bala Sena raided the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs in large numbers today and blamed the ministry for not taking action against the unethical conversion in the country. The Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara told the secretary to the Ministry that the Christian and Muslim Fundamentalisms are increasing in the country and the Buddhist and Hindus are brainwashed and forcefully converted to their religions. He stated, the domination of the Muslims and Christians has been increased in the country; particularly the Muslim fundamentalism has become stronger. He queried why the Ministry is not doing anything to stop these developments. He further said that the Muslims have only 600 years history in this country and able to establish 58 Quadi courts around the country, but there is not a single court for the Buddha Sasana and also more than 400 organisations are functioning against Buddhists.

254. November 4, Dompe, Gampaha District: Dompe Pradeshiya Sabha decided to close all beef stalls in the Dompe electorate. The proposal to close the beef stalls was brought by Member of UPFA Aminda Rajapaksa. Nine voted for the closure while five voted against it. The butchers and the owners of the beef stalls who are Muslims lose their business, while the people who want to eat beef are deprived.

255. November 6, Akkarai, Thoppur, Trincomalee District: While a farmer was preparing his land for cultivation a group of people from the Majority community have arrived there with a surveyor and started surveying his and the neighbouring lands without the owners' permission. When the farmer tried to stop them surveying his land there was an altercation. The Seruvila Police arrived on the scene shortly thereafter and resolved the quarrel and requested the group to temporarily stop surveying the land. Local Muslims claimed that Buddhists of the neighbouring areas were trying to acquire land owned by Muslims to build Buddhist temples. Muslims have ownership documents to their lands but still feel that the very existence of their village is threatened. (Ref. No 228)

256. November 6, Kirillapone, Media Conference: the General Secretary of Bodu Bala Sena, Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara said at a press conference that they protested against both halal and casinos but they consider Halal a greater threat. He said, Halal makes divisions within the society and it affects the country in more serious ways than the casinos. Rev. Gnanasara wants Halal to be banned immediately. During the Tsunami Sinhalese gave food packs to Muslims and no one was bothered about halal or haram, he stated. According to him Halal is a myth created by the Jamiyyathul Ulama. "Recently we organised a motorcade to oppose the Halal. We met with the Chamber of Commerce and they assured us that they

would find a reasonable solution. If there is no proper response from the Chamber we will go to court to find a solution" he said.

257. November 8, Colombo. The Registrar General A M Gunasekera has instructed all the Muslim Registrars around the country not to register any marriages between foreign Muslims and local Muslims. In his circular the Registrar General elaborates that there is no provision in the Muslim personal law to register foreigners. Therefore do not register any marriage involving foreigners. If both parties are Muslims, their marriage cannot also be registered under the normal marriage law or upcountry marriage law.

258. November 8, Izzadeen Town, Matara. The Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs cancelled the registration of the Issadeen Town Masjid Al-Taqla (Mosque). The director of the above ministry informed the Wakf Board about the cancellation of the registration. In his

letter he points out that the chief monk of the Issadeen Town Ashokarama Temple Rev. Dr Kanathakoda Satharaja, registrar of the Matara Sasana, and the chief inspector of Matara claim that the mosque is a threat to local peace as there are three mosques in the 1.5 sq. km area where a large number of Buddhists live.

259. November 17, Kekkirawa, Anuradhapura District: A Jumma Mosque situated on the A9 Main Road in the Kekkirawa Police Division came under attack by an unidentified gang. Trustees of the Mosque say glass panes of the Mosque have been shattered in the course of attack.

260. November 20, Ninthavur, Ampara District: Minister Vasudeva Nanayakkara requested a presidential intervention to settle the Ninthavur unrest. He says the area became tense after a gang of thieves, who were apprehended and handed over to the police, were released without any action. It appears that the thieves were members of the Special Task Force (Police). They had burgled houses in this area for some time. One day the people remained alert and apprehended them and handed them over to the police. Ninthavur is a Muslim village. (See report from Nov. 21 below)

261. November 21, Press Release: the Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU) spokesman accuses in his press statement that a Sri Lanka Muslim Congress politician was behind the tense situation in Ninthavur. He alleges that the SLMC Eastern Provincial Council Politician gave leadership to the 36 hours protest, which was finally dispersed by the anti-riot squad.

262. November 25, Press Interview: Minister Champika Ranawak of Jathika Hela Urmaya in an interview to Daily Mirror tells the Muslims not to create social segregation the way Prabakharan of LTTE did. The way the Muslims dress, eat and act are the reasons for their segregation, he stressed. He says that no Muslim leaders have ever asked their youth to join the forces to defeat the LTTE despite the harassment of LTTE for the Muslim community, but now they are talking about the harassment of Bodu Bala Sena. He also warned the people about the Muslim expansionism and existence of Wahabism in the country.

263. November 26, Twitter Message: Bodu Bala Sena in its Twitter message welcomes the opening of the first Buddhist temple in Israel. The message reads "First Buddhist temple opened in Israel is a blessing for the Buddhist in Sri Lanka to suppress the Muslims".

264. November 28, Dewanagala, Mawanella, Kegalle District: The Rev. Magalkande Sudantha, the Convenor of the Sinhala Ravaya and four other Monks have begun a fast unto death campaign near the clock tower in Mawanella since the morning of the 28th of November. These Monks are urging the archaeological department to survey the land around the Dewanagala Raja Maha Viharaya (Buddhist Temple). According to these Buddhist monks, intruders (Muslims) are carrying out illegal mining and construction activities in the area. They claim that this is a security risk to the religious site and that it also damages the archaeological value of the location. Hundreds of Muslim families are living in approximately 72 acres of this land and the priests called upon the department to remove these Muslims from this area and

takeover the land. The fast unto death was begun by the Monks claiming that the survey was being delayed. (Ref No. 225)

265. December 1, University of Moratuwa, Colombo District: The Moratuwa university says it has banned Muslim students from wearing the face veil (Niqab) owing to security concerns. The Vice Chancellor of the university, Prof. A.K.W. Jayawardane stated that the students were informed that the face veil cannot be worn as there are concerns that unknown elements may enter the university with their faces covered and that could raise a security issue. Fathima Sahar, (not her real name) a first year student at the Faculty of Architecture of the above University is the first victim of the ban. In an article published in the journalism website Groundviews, Sahar claimed that the niqab was previously never an issue for the University of Moratuwa. She was not the first student to wear it. A few years ago the University had its first niqabi enrol and complete her studies and graduated without hindrance. One other student who is affected by this decision started wearing it in September 2011. She has been banned from wearing the niqab after two years of wearing it in university. Sahar wonders why this is happening now. The Higher Education Ministry has said that there is no rule or regulations that prevent female Muslim students from covering their faces.

266. December 3, Dewanagala, Mawanella, Kegalle District: Surveying the controversial land of Dewanagala commenced today (December 3). The Department of Archaeology has informed nearly 100 Muslim families to vacate the Dewanagala area in Mawanella. These families were living here for over 200 years and they have necessary documents in their possessions to prove that they are lawful owners of the

lands they live in. These families were asked to leave reportedly due to the pressure from the Sinhala Ravaya, the extremist Buddhist group which has been agitating to chase the Muslims away from this area. The Sinhala Ravaya launched many campaigns including staging a fast unto death (see November 25) to make Dewanagala a Buddhist Sacred area sans minorities. In August 23, 2013 the Presidential motorcade was brought to a halt by the Sinhala Ravaya in Mawanella while President Mahinda Rajapaksa was returning after attending a ceremony in Mawanella. They handed over a petition to the President urging him to take steps immediately to protect the sacred land of Dewangala. They alleged that the area has been encroached by Muslims. The President assured that he would order an inquiry into the matter and take appropriate action. However, the reason given by the Department of Archaeology ordering the Muslims to leave from there is that they have earmarked the land surrounding the Dewanagala rock for Archaeological excavation. In the meantime Rev. Anuradhapura Amitha Dhamma who was present at the site aggravated the already tense situation. The monk wanted the archaeological site to be extended beyond the 400 meters as currently planned and have all houses and mosques in the vicinity demolished. He allegedly claimed that he had destroyed the mosques in Anuradhapura, and vowed that he would destroy the ones in Kegalle in the same way. (Ref No 263)

267. December 7, Morawak Watte, Thagaspittiya, Ridigama, Kurunegala District: The Land Reform Commission takes measurers to transfer the ownership of 6.5 acres of private land in Thagaspittiya Morawak watte to the Paththiny Devalaya (Temple) in Kandy. This land belongs to 40 Muslim families and 2 Sinhala families. The Muslims are highly disturbed due to the fact that these lands were given to them officially in 1976 by the government under the rural development scheme and they have built their own houses and established livelihoods. They were asked to leave their lands without any prior notice, compensation or provision of an alternative land.

268. December 10, Media Conference: Bodu Bala Sena has sought to bring to the Governments notice that some government institutions headed by Muslims recruit only Muslims for the highest positions and no opportunities were given to the Sinhalese, says the Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara of the Bodu Bala Sena in a media conference held in the Buddhist Centre in Kirullapone. He wants the government too to take

responsibilities for the Muslim Fundamentalism that destroys the Sinhala Buddhists and Tamils. He asks the President,

Prime Minister, Ministers and their advisors to learn the history and the culture of this country. The Rev. Gnanasara blames the government for not listening to the advice given by the BBS to not allow the extremists and separatists of the Middle East into the country. He goes on blaming the Government advisors who he thinks are introducing some culture that are not existing anywhere in the world. He expressed his anger over the letter issued by the governor of the western province to the local governments to allow the cattle slaughtering (sacrifice) during the Hajj festival. Muslim extremism increases and the birth rate of the Muslims are many times more than that of the Buddhists and Tamils in this country, he says.

269. **December 12, Statement:** Those who slaughter animals cannot call it a sacrifice. There is no place for animal sacrifice and Muslim extremism in a Buddhist country, Bodu Bala Sena announces. In the name of religion animals are slaughtered in this country and the Muslims perform it in their festivals according to their religious belief, which we cannot accept as a sacrifice, Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara says. He further says that sacrifice is the core principle of the Buddhist religion. He states that Sri Lanka is a Sinhala Buddhist country; it should be governed according to Buddhist principles. Rev. Gnanasara says, Muslims should not spread their policies in the areas where the Sinhalese and Tamils live and insult the Buddhist religion. If the Government doesn't take notice of these, we may have to destroy everything, he warns.

270. **December 13, Kohuwala, Dehiwala, Colombo District:** The Dehiwala Police orders the Mosque administration of the Dharus Safiee Mosque at Kadawatha Road in Kohuwala to stop conducting prayers and issuing the call to prayer five times a day. This mosque has been functioning for the last three years with the approval of the Department of the Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs and the Wakf Board. The Mount Lavinia Divisional Superintendent of Police at a meeting in his office on December 11 requested the Trustees of the Mosque to stop all activities until the Trustees obtain approval from the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs.

271. **December 13, Kohuwala, Dehiwala, Colombo District:** A handbill has been circulated in the Kalubowila area stating that the activities of the

Muslims of the area constitute a “public nuisance.” It further says that there will be a meeting on December 15 at the Sunantharama temple under the leadership of the General Secretary of Sinhala Ravaya, Rev. Akmeemana Dayarathana to discuss the problem.

272. December 15, Attidiya, Dehiwala, Colombo District: Police officers visited Attidiya Masjid Ul Hiba (Mosque), Dehiwala and order the mosques Trustees to stop prayers services. This mosque has been facing threats since the Ramadan fasting period and the residents of the area believe that the Buddhist monk from the majority community works behind such activities.(Ref. No. 212)

273. December 15, Dehiwala, Colombo District: Police Officers entered the Dharul Arkam mosque in Dehiwala and ordered the mosque trustees to stop prayers and the call to prayer five times a day. The Muslims of the area expressed fear over such activities of the Police. It is the Buddhist Monk and some Buddhist people of the area who complained to the police about the Mosques being unauthorised, which led the police to take such action, the Muslims of the area alleged. Mosques come under the Wakuf Board, which has been established according to the law passed in the parliament and police cannot stop the activities of mosques, says Minister Rishard Bathiudeen who visited the mosques. “Why are the police targeting places of worship instead of the countless unauthorised buildings in the country ?” people ask.

274. December 17, Statement:
“Completely wipe out hijab from Sri Lanka,” the BBS Executive Committee Member Dilantha Withanage says. Speaking of the regulation to obtain the new electronic National Identity Card, he stated that the Muslims should not be permitted to wear their traditional hat or hijab. According to him this country considers the hijab a dress that is used to smuggle drugs and commit robberies, therefore he stressed that it should be wiped out. He stated that he wanted people to stop pointing at the Buddhist monks unnecessarily on

every issue and comparing the monks and their saffron robes with others. According to him the Buddhist priests are living peacefully in this country and he warns those who bring the Buddhist monks into every issue that they will have to face dire consequences

275. December 17, Kohuwala, Dehiwala, Colombo District: The Masjidul As Shafiee at Kadawatha Road in Kohuwala was stoned on the night of 16th December 2013. On 15th December 2013 the trustees of the Mosque were ordered by the Kohuwala police to stop all religious activities including issuing the call to prayer and conducting prayers on the premises. The police had arrived promptly to provide security, sources told.

276. December 18, Kurandaga, Galle District: A Muslim owned jewellery shop in Kurandaga in Karandeniya electorate in the Galle District was burnt late last night by an unidentified gang.

277. December 19, News: According to the information from sources within the higher authorities of the Government, Muslims will not be allowed to wear caps and hijabs for the new electronic Identity Cards that will be issued in 2014. This misleading report has no base in mentioning that the Muslim extremists are requesting for caps, hijab and face cover for their ID pictures. The Muslims think that laws preventing Muslim men and women from wearing caps and hijabs (head cover) for their identity card photographs were signs of the government working against the Muslim community of the country.

278. December 20, Press Conference: Bodu Bala Sena in a media conference at its headquarters stated that the government too is responsible for destroying Sinhala Buddhism and Tamils and spreading Muslim extremism in the country. The organisation further claimed that “in a day we can change the government and clean the country, but we follow just path in our fight because we are guided by Buddhism.” Rev. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara says to the media that today several try to promote the policies of the Muslim extremism at the cost of insulting Buddhist philosophy. He stated that from food items to every activity the Muslim policies are followed and that the country has transformed to an extent where it is ready to issue Halal certificate for drugs too. Rev. Gnanasara says that, today, the birth rates of the Muslims are many times more than that of Buddhists and Tamils and Muslim extremism is spreading. He also says that over thousand families have arrived from the Middle East with an objective of spreading their extremist ideologies among the Muslims in Sri Lanka and make them separatists. He advises the President to understand this situation and rule the country accordingly and not to rule the country to his whims and fancies.

279. December 23, Dewanagala, Mawanella, Kegalle District: Sinhala Ravaya in posters have called on Sinhala youths to join “the first suicide army” to go to Dewanagala today. A group of persons (not locals) mobilised by Sinhala Ravaya entered Dewanagala and staged a protest creating fear among the Muslim residents. The group was asking the Muslims to leave the area immediately. In recent days the Sinhala Ravaya has staged several protests, claiming that Dewanagala is the traditional sacred land of the Sinhala Buddhists. Around 30% of the inhabitants are Muslims living there for centuries. Some of the inhabitants are in the possession of two hundred year old land deeds. Due to the extreme fear situation some Muslim politicians had to bring the attention of the President and defuse tensions. The organiser of Sinhala Ravaya Rev. Magalkantha Suthantha made a statement to media that if the unauthorized structures on the Dewangala historic land are not demolished and the preparations to survey the land are not made within the next three months, the Sinhala Ravaya will undertake the responsibilities to do so. Although there is police to protect the Muslims the fear among the people remains heightened. (Ref No. 265)

280. December 27, Statement: According to a report in the Virakesari Dilantha Withanage the CEO of the Bodu Bala Sena had stated that the Muslim leadership tries to get the sympathy votes of the Muslim community by showing that the Buddhists are separatists and majority extremists. “When we raise our voice to protect the policies of Sri Lanka and Buddhism this is what the Muslim leadership is showing to their people”, says Dilantha Withanage. He had asked everybody to keep in mind that certain important leaders were spreading extremism by

keeping the Muslims hostage. According to him Middle East extremism is spreading here as well. He says it will not be allowed to make Sri Lanka a Muslim country by maintaining relationships with Middle East. He stated that the Bodu Bala Sena will never permit Sri Lanka to become a Muslim country. There is an effort by ministers like Rauf Hakeem to amalgamate north and east together and form Tamil Eelam.

281. December 27 - Maligawatte, Colombo 10 - Colombo District: Several Muslims in the Maligawatte area staged an agitation campaign against an allegedly illegal transfer of lands belonging to the Muslim burial ground in Maligawatte. The protestors claim that the 19 perch block of land was transferred with the help of governing party members in the area to a

private company. They want the construction work on the site stopped and the land returned, otherwise the protests will continue until the authorities intervene and return the land belonging to the burial ground, to the mosque and the people, they said.

282. December 27, Offensive Cartoon: a cartoon depicting a handcuffed bearded Muslim man wearing a Muslim dress (male salwar kameez) and cap accompanied by a police officer was published in the “Ada” newspaper (Dec 27). The title of the cartoon is “measures are taken to bring the Pakistan drug suspect to Sri Lanka, News.” The police officer in the cartoon is asking the suspect “shall we go to look for weapons.”

283. December 30, News report: According to the Daily Mirror, a request has been made by the Indian government in a letter written to Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs on December 26th, requesting him to enhance security given to Indian diplomatic offices in Sri Lanka to prevent an attack by Muslim extremist groups. India has expressed fears of a possible attack on the Indian mission in Colombo or consular offices in other parts of the country in the aftermath of the execution of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Qadir Mullah in Bangladesh. Abdul Qadir Mullah was sentenced to death by Bangladesh’s International war crimes Tribunal set up to investigate into the crimes committed during the 1971 liberation war. Mullah who was found guilty of the murders of 344 persons and dozens of other war crimes was hung on December 12.

284. December 31, Poojapitiya, Kandy District: Mullegama Masjithul Falahq Mosque at Ambatenna in the Poojapitiya area came under sudden attack by an unidentified group. A group of people who arrived in a vehicle around 10 p.m. have pelted stones and caused heavy damage to the glass panes of the Mosque, the shocked area residents say. The attackers have entered the mosque by breaking the doors and caused further damage to the building as well. Sinhala and Muslim communities live peacefully in this village. Buddhist clergies and area politicians who visited the site immediately are stunned over the attack.

The following are some of the hate campaign against Muslims on social media:

January - August 2013

1. **Marsh 05:** Propaganda in websites to boycott the “Mohideen beg” songs in Buddhist Temples. Even though he was not a Buddhist, Mohidin Beg sang the most popular Buddhist theme songs in the Sinhala language.
2. **March 12:** Complaints on a Sinhala website that at the March 13th Media brief by the ACJU, held with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) and the Maha Sanga, when the ACJU announced the removal of the halal label, the podium was in front the Buddhist monks, which was disrespectful to the monks.
3. **March 17:** A Sinhalese website states that Rizvie Mufthi, president of the ACJU “should be arrested”.
4. **June 09:** The BBS launches an online petition calling for the ban of the face veil (burqa and niqab).
5. **July 9:** The BBS launches an online petition calling for the ban of the face veil (burqa and niqab), urging Secretary to the Ministry of Defence to ban the Burqa and Niqab in Sri Lanka. The petition says: "The Secretary of Defence Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksha: Ban the Burqa and Niqab in Sri Lanka"
- 6.

The following are personal Attacks against Muslims: January - August 2013

1. **January 07, Colombo, Colombo District:** Sinhala Ravaya and the Students Association of the Law College protest against the increase of Muslim students entering the Law College.
2. **January 07, Malwathuoya, Anuradhapura District:** A group of Buddhist monks hold a protest demanding that the Muslims, who have been living down Malwathu Oya lane for a long time, leave the area for good.
3. **January 31, Badulla / Mawanella, Badulla District:** Members of the Movement for Equal Rights were threatened by the politicians, mob and police when they distributed handbills against the fundamentalists

creating divisions between ethnicities and religions. Some of them were questioned by the Badulla police for acting against the government. In Mawanella the police refused to accept a complaint against this harassment of their efforts to create awareness of religious and ethnic harmony.

4. **February 19, Ruwanwella, Kegalle District:** The Principal of a Sinhalese school orders the Muslim female students not to come to school with their headscarf (Hijab).
5. **February 21, Kalmunai, Ampara District:** In Carmal Fathima School in Kalmunai, a group of teachers ask a newly appointed Muslim teacher to remove her hijab.
6. **February 27, Matara, Matara District:** While on the way to an institution for a computer course, 3 Muslim school girls are attacked by Sinhalese youths, who threaten them to stop wearing their hijab and abayas.
7. **March 05, Panadura, Kalutara District:** A Panadura –Eluvila Bauddhaloka principal orders Muslim students to worship teachers and not to wear their fardha.
8. **March 06, Deltota, Kandy District:** The District Medical Officer (DMO) of the Deltota District Hospital compels the Muslim women who come for treatment to remove their headscarves.
9. **March 8 & 9, Kandy, Kandy District:** A nurse attached to the Kandy Teaching Hospital insists for a Muslim woman accompanying a patient to a ward, to remove her Abaya and hijab.
10. **March 15, Colombo, Colombo District:** 4 Muslim students are forced to remove their Hijab at the Pettah Railway Station by two Sinhalese extremists.
11. **March 18, Mannampitiya, Polonnaruwa District:** A Muslim female employee attached to the Mannampitiya post office is assaulted, with attempts made to remove her fardha. She was warned by a group of youth a few days before the attack not to wear her fardha.

12. **March 21, Poojapitiya, Kandy District:** A Sinhalese man snatches the cap off of a Moulavi's head, and tramples it.
13. **March 23, Hendala, Colombo District:** In Hendala Junction, a Buddhist group harasses some pedestrian Muslim women wearing abaya.
14. **March 27, Peradeniya, Kandy District:** A Muslim woman was forced to remove her abaya at ward No. 3 in the Peradeniya teaching hospital.
15. **March 28, Maggona, Kalutara District:** The heads of two pigs are displayed on Muslim women's property, which are located close to the Maggona Main Road.
16. **March 31, Negombo, Gampaha District:** A group of Muslim men taking part in religious activities is attacked. The attacker, a Sinhalese three-wheeler driver fled the scene immediately. Afterwards, a complaint was made at Kochikade Police and the accused was arrested.
17. **April 03, Jailani, Ratnapura District:** Muslims' shops and residences are attacked and invaded by the '*Sinhala Rawaya*' who have 'taken the law into their own hands.'
18. **April 13, Colombo, Colombo District:** The mother of a child who was being treated for dengue at Lady Ridgeway Hospital says that she was asked to remove her 'abaya' (cloak) when she visited the hospital to see her child. According to her, the nurse on duty at the Admission desk had asked her to remove her abaya if she wanted to enter the hospital premises.
19. **June 10, Peradeniya, Kandy District:** JHU protests against two Muslim Medical interns at Peradeniya Hospital, accusing them of forcing the Sinhalese to undertake family planning.
20. **June 22, Mallawapitiya, Kurunegala District:** The BBS is reported to be forcefully occupying a house belonging to a Muslim in Mallawapitiya and refusing to obey the court order to return the house.
21. **July 4, Nilaveli, Trincomalee District:** Tamil parents and children of Nilaveli Tamil Vidyalayam protest against Muslim children wearing fardha. The school administration forbade the Muslim children wearing the fardha from entering the School premises..

