

1977 anti-Tamil pogrom

Anti-Tamil violence in August 1977, immediately after the TULF — running on the Vaddukoddai Resolution mandate — became the largest opposition party in the new parliament.

1977 is the pogrom that responded to a constitutional electoral mandate. Its sequencing — Tamil electoral assertion followed by mass violence followed by no prosecutions — completed the pattern that 1983 would amplify.

§1 Sequencing and significance

After the July 1977 general election returned the TULF as the largest opposition party in parliament on the Vaddukoddai mandate, communal violence broke out in August 1977 and spread across the country. A Presidential Commission of Inquiry (the Sansoni Commission) was appointed but its findings did not result in comprehensive prosecutions. The 1978 Constitution and its 6th Amendment (1983) would subsequently remove the Tamil parliamentary mandate-holders from the legislature altogether.

Sources

- A.J. Wilson — The Break-Up of Sri Lanka (1988).
- DeVotta — Blowback (2004).

What this is not

- This article does not name individual perpetrators or victims.
- This article does not assign collective blame.