

I Shawn Malan Elroy Rosthuring, aged 34 Address 437/13B Uduge Watta Meegoda.
Nationality – Burgher, Protestant Christian, do hereby declares as follows:

I have been living at No.273/3, Highlevel Road, Wataraka, which legally belongs to me by deed No.6756 registered on 25.2.2000 in the land registry and executed by Lakshman Wijesundara attorney at Law.

I have been ministering in this area under “The Lord is Our Strength” Worship Centre situated at the same premises since 16.08.1997 and the membership of my Congregation exceeded over 80.

On 28.08.99, a Buddhist monk by the name of Mavegama Gnyanaswara along with 7 others visited the Worship Centre at about 9.30 p.m. and warned me to stop my Ministry in the area. A police entry CIB II /12/4/98 was made on the same day at the Padukka police for future reference.

On 05.09.99, at about 9.00 a.m., a mob of about 200-300 led by monks came to my premises and threatened me with violence. I was able to call the police and subsequently the mob dispersed. A police entry CIB II/165/102 was made on the same day. I am in position of some photographs that have been taken in which the persons concerned can be identified.

On 15.09.2002 at about 8.45a.m. just before we commenced the worship service a mob of about 400 led by the same monk entered the premises. After threatening us with violence, finally the monk physically attacked me. This was followed by the mob also attacking me and my members. I was hospitalized at the Homagama hospital and subsequently transferred to General Hospital. Bed ticket No. 9/564830.

I suffered 2 injuries on either side of my head, resulting in 3 stitches on one side and 4 on the other. There was numbness on my right hand due to the severe beating that I received on my head and neck. I also had to use a collar for a period of about 01-month. I am in position of some photographs taken while I was in hospital as evidence of my injuries. Another member of my church Mhilal John aged 13 was also brutally assaulted which necessitated hospitalization at the General Hospital Homagama. He was discharged after 2 days. My brother Charles Turin was also severely assaulted and had to receive medical treatment. My wife and 9 others were also assaulted.

The mob subsequently began to attack the building and completely demolished it. They also damaged musical equipment-guitars, drums, chairs, etc.

The full list has been given to the police. The lost incurred has been valued Rs.285,660/- (the cost incurred of the items purchased at that time) Police entry MOIB254/179 dated 06.01.2003 was made by me at the Padukka police.

Further, Charles Turin, a member of our church, who was also assaulted, has made a police complain citing the monk Mavegama Gnyanaswara as the person who assaulted him. The police entry 95/190/MOIB and IIB234/92 dated 15.09.2002

The police have filed action against the monk and the case is pending at Magistrate Courts Homagama. Court Case No. B6732/02 dated 06.01.2003.

This matter has come up 6 times in the Magistrate Courts and the last date of call being 06.02.2004. We have identified the attackers, their names and addresses have been given to the police, some of them are identifiable through the photographs available.

The police have been forwarding various excuses as to their inability to arrest the attackers.

As a result of these attacks and the serious injuries incurred, I have suffered much mental pain and distress. There have been several threats on my life and I regret despite all these, the police have not been able to arrest any and enforce the law.