

BROADCAST BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. LEE KUAN YEW,  
ON TUESDAY, 21ST JULY, 1964 -- OVER RADIO  
AND TV MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE.

This afternoon shortly after five when the procession of Muslims celebrating Prophet Mohamed's Birthday was passing Lorong Soopoo near the Kallang gas works, a member of the Federal Reserve Unit asked a group who were straggling away from the procession to rejoin the main stream. Instead of being obeyed he was set upon by them. Thereafter a series of disturbance occurred as more groups became unruly and attacked passers-by and spectators.

These disturbances have spread rapidly throughout the Geylang area between Kallang and Geylang Serai. By 7.30, about two hours after it started, disturbances took place in the city itself.

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After consultations between the Acting Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak, the Commissioner for Police and I, it has been decided that there would be curfew from 9.30 tonight to 6.00 tomorrow morning.

What or who started this situation is irrelevant at this moment. All the indications show that there has been organisation and planning behind this

outbreak to turn it into a ugly communal clash. All that was needed someone to trigger it off. Then the news spread like wild fire with each attack followed by a counter attack. We can and we will sort these things out later on.

But right now our business is to stop this stupidity. The vast majority of our people want to live in peace with each other. To them I make this appeal to stay indoors tonight and make it easier for the police and military to deal with marauding groups who are out to make mischief.

This is not the first time such things have happened. Each one of us shares a responsibility in keeping the situation sane and rational. Rumors and wild talk or revenge, and retaliation will only inflame men's minds. What we want is sober caution and law and order can be restored more quickly.

Both the Central and State governments are determined that this lawlessness must stop and all culprits apprehended and punished. The Police and the army are there to do their duty without fear or favour regardless of race, language or religion.

Regrettably, there have been a few deaths both among Chinese and Malays and a few persons injured. Some lorries, cars and scooters have been burnt. But do not take the law into your own hands and try to mete out justice

on your own. That is the business of the government. Do not make things worse by yourself trying to act as policemen. To relieve parents of any anxiety for their children all schools will be closed tomorrow, but business will go on as usual tomorrow. Workers will go to work as usual. You should do your duty by staying at home tonight while the Police and the army will see that all this madness is checked and stopped. What has happened cannot be undone. What will happen depends upon what you and the government do. We shall make it clear that lawlessness does not pay. But more important, harmony between our communities must be preserved. This you can help me do.

21st July, 1964.

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