

India policeman among 12 convicted in rape

by UPI

MUMBAI -- An Indian court Friday convicted 12 people in a gang-rape case stemming from the 2002 communal riots in western Gujarat state. Those convicted included a policeman. The special court in Mumbai, where the case was moved from Gujarat, acquitted seven others accused in the rape case, the Press Trust of India reported. The state exploded in 2002 in communal riots in which at least 1,000 people, mostly Muslims, died. The riots followed the torching of a train in February of that month in which dozens of Hindus were killed. The charges said the rape victim, who was six months pregnant, was gang raped during the riots. She was a key witness in the killings and rape of her family members and others, the PTI report said. The BBC reported the supreme court handed the case to federal authorities and moved it to Mumbai, formerly Bombay, after saying the state government in Gujarat, ruled by Hindu national BJP party, had done little to bring the accused to justice. The report said the policeman was convicted on charges of protecting the guilty, who are to be sentenced Monday.

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