

Olympic torch relay rocky in Paris

by UPI

PARIS -- Thousands of demonstrators flocked to Paris Monday to protest the passage of the Olympic torch as it traveled through the City of Lights. The Olympic torch -- not the Olympic flame -- was extinguished at least once and taken to a bus to be moved to different locations, broadcast reports said. "The Olympic flame was never extinguished," a police spokeswoman told The New York Times. After the interruption, the torch's procession in Paris reportedly resumed. The Olympic flame is separate from the torch and is kept on a bus that moves with the torch relay to Beijing, site of the 2008 Summer Olympics, CNN said. About 3,000 police tried to prevent a repeat of the tumult in London Sunday, where protesters opposed China's human rights record and involvement in Tibet, including one protester who tried to grab the torch. China's official Xinhua news agency Monday condemned the "vile misdeeds" of London protesters in London. In Beijing, a spokeswoman for the city's Olympic organizing committee said before the protests in France that the relay would maintain its international route despite opposition.

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