

Indian Hindu party rejects violence claims

by UPI

NEW DELHI -- India's Hindu nationalist party dismissed claims revealed in secret video recordings that it was allegedly involved in the 2002 attacks on Muslims. The BBC reported the claims against India's main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party were made in secret recordings on the violence in the western Gujarat state, whose government is led by the party. The recordings by Tehelka magazine claimed the party government in Gujarat supported the violence in which more than 1,000 people died, most of them Muslims, the BBC said. The 2002 riots resulted after Muslims were accused of burning more than 50 Hindus in a train. BJP's Gujarat authorities have been accused of failing to prevent the riots and more than a dozen people have already been convicted for the violence, the report said. The Tehelka report, aired on some TV channels, allegedly showed Hindu politicians, some who were members of the BJP, describing how they carried out the violence, the report said. The BJP rejected it as a sting operation. The BJP also called the allegations a conspiracy by India's ruling Congress party ahead of next month's state elections, the report said.

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

Indian Hindu party rejects violence claims by UPI