



# हिन्दू स्वयंसेवक संघ Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (UK)

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## **Bomb attack on UNESCO heritage temple in India.**

### **Press Release**

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh UK is shocked and saddened by the brutal bomb blasts at the Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya (India), one of the holiest sites for Hindus and Buddhists from around the world. It strongly condemns this terrorist attack on a holy site.

Bodh Gaya, has a 3000 year old history as a place of meditation and peace and is considered a symbol ...of universal love. The Mahabodhi Temple a UNESCO World heritage site, is a Hindu/Buddhist temple at the location where The Buddha, the founder of Bouddha Dharma, and considered one of the Ten avatars (reincarnations) of the Hindu deity Vishnu, is said to have attained enlightenment at this site.

Built during the Gupta period (300–600 CE), the temple has scenes such as Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of wealth and Surya, the Hindu sun god, riding a chariot drawn by four horses. The temple has figures of stupas (reliquary shrines) and garudas (eagles). The sanctum has a statue of Buddha.

On July 7, 2013, a series of small bombs went off in and around the temple, injuring two people, authorities said. Four of the eight explosions occurred at the Mahabodhi temple complex. The temple itself was not damaged. The other four blasts hit other sacred locations around Mahabodhi, said state police official S.K. Bhardwaj. A 50-year-old Tibetan and a 30-year-old Myanmar national were injured in the attack,

HSS UK strongly urges the Government of India to take immediate steps to ensure that the terrorists are brought to justice and adequate measures are taken to protect temples and other religious sites. We urge the global community to reinvigorate anti-terror efforts, so that such senseless crimes are not repeated.

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Notes to the Editor - HSS UK – A socio-cultural organisation and a registered charity in the UK since 1968. It operates weekly youth and cultural centres across the country. It has over 80 branches and conducts health & fitness, cultural and character building activities. Over 1600 youths aged between 6 to 30 and elders aged between 30 -70 come together on a weekly basis .