

Public gatherings banned in restive Chinese city

AFP, Urumqi

Authorities banned public gatherings in China's restive Urumqi city as Han Chinese marked a traditional day of mourning yesterday for those who died in ethnic unrest one week earlier.

Police in Urumqi, capital of the northwest Xinjiang region, published a notice Saturday banning any public gatherings, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

"Assemblies, marches and demonstrations on public roads and at public places in the open air are not allowed without police permission," the notice was quoted as saying.

It added that police would disperse public assemblies if they took place and take "necessary means" to do so, as well as detain people who resisted orders to stop, Xinhua said.

Han Chinese were on Sunday expected to commemorate those who died in last Sunday's unrest that left 184 dead and over 1,000 injured -- 137 of the dead were Han, according to

government figures.

It is a tradition for Han Chinese to mourn the loss of loved-ones on the seventh day after their death, when relatives perform ceremonies such as burning fake money or invite monks home to chant.

The ban showed authorities were still extremely concerned about further unrest, after Muslim Uighurs rampaged through the streets and attacked Han Chinese one weekend.

BSF officials protested the unprovoked firing of BSF.

In another incident, BSF troops from Gobindapur camp of Nadia district opened fire on three Bangladeshi cattle traders when they were returning home through the Baradi border point of Chaudanga at about 5:00am, BDR sources said.

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He claimed that bin Laden is hiding in Afghanistan itself.

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against our government. We try to win people's hearts, then one drone attack drives them away," he said.

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