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World Briefing: Asia

INDIA: HINDUS ACQUITTED IN RIOT TRIAL

A court in Gujarat state acquitted 22 Hindus in the burning deaths of 14 Muslims in a bakery during religious riots last year, after most witnesses retracted their statements. The trial was the first from three months of Hindu-Muslim rioting in Gujarat that killed 1,000 people. The bakery case was handled by the local police, whom Muslims accused of being biased toward the accused or fearful of Hindus governing the state. News reports have suggested that the witnesses who recanted were afraid that the police would not protect them if they testified.

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