

USJ temple issue: police detain several men for refusing to disperse

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28/11/2018

SUBANG JAYA, Nov 28 (Bernama) -- Police did not allow a group of men from gathering near the Sri Maha Mariamman in USJ 25, Putra Heights near here early today.

Media personnel including from Bernama witnessed policemen on duty at the location to prevent any untoward incidents block several groups who tried to get near the house of worship from around 11.30pm Tuesday.

They issued a number of warnings before arresting several men who refused to disperse.

The temple has been making the headlines since Monday following riots in and around it early Monday and early Tuesday, which saw 23 vehicles torched, a building damaged and a policeman and a firefighter injured, the firefighter critically.

As of yesterday, police had detained 21 people to assist investigations into the rioting, which Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has described as criminal and had nothing to do with race or religion.

The temple, which is more than 100 years old, is at the centre of a controversy following a developer wanting to reclaim the land it sits on while some devotees do not want it relocated to a new site given by the state government.

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Source: <http://www.bernama.com/en/news.php?id=1669498>