

NEO-NAZIS, PROTESTERS CLASH IN CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO: A white nationalist group's rally outside the California state Capitol building turned violent as fighting broke out with a larger group of counter-protesters, leaving 10 people injured with stab wounds, cuts and bruises. Fights erupted when about 30 members of the Traditionalist Worker Party gathered to rally around noon Sunday were met by about 400 counter-protesters, California Highway Patrol Officer George Granada said.

As people tried to leave the area, smaller fights broke out, Granada said. Sacramento Fire Department spokesman Chris Harvey said nine men and one woman, ranging from 19 to 58 years old, were treated for stab wounds, cuts, scrapes and bruises. Of the injured, two were taken to the hospital with critical stab wounds, but they were expected to survive.

"There was a large number of people carrying sticks and rushing to either get into the melee or see what was going on," Harvey said. Police were investigating two assaults that happened outside the Capitol grounds, but no arrests have been made, the Sacramento Police Department said in a statement.

The Capitol was on lockdown until protesters cleared the area. Videos from the melee posted on social media showed mounted officers dispersing a group of mostly young people, some with their faces covered, while some throw stones toward a man holding a stick and being shielded by police officers in riot gear.

A KCRA-TV reporter and his cameraman were caught in an altercation with protesters who shouted "no cameras" as they tried to grab their equipment and shove them away from the crowd.

The victims were all present while the protest took

place, said Sacramento Police spokesman Matt McPhail but he said it was still unclear whether and how they were involved. The Traditionalist Workers Party had scheduled and received a permit to rally for two hours in front of the Capitol.

Law enforcement was aware of the counter-protest effort and police deployed more than 100 officers to the Capitol, McPhail said.

The Southern Poverty Law Center has described TWP as a group formed in 2015 as the political wing of the Traditionalist Youth

Network, which aims to "indoctrinate high school and college students into white nationalism."

Matthew Heimbach, chairman of the Traditionalist Worker Party, told the Los Angeles Times that his group and the Golden State Skinheads organized the Sunday rally. Heimbach said that in the clash, one of their marchers had been stabbed in an artery and six of the counter-protesters had also been stabbed.

Vice chairman Matt Parrott, who was not

present at the Sacramento rally, blamed "leftist radicals" for instigating the violence.

A message left at a phone number for the Traditionalist Worker Party was not immediately returned to The Associated Press.

A post recently uploaded to site of the Traditionalist Youth Network said TWP members planned to march in Sacramento to protest against globalization and in defense of their right to free expression.

They said they expected to be outnumbered 10-to-1 by counter-protesters. "We con-

cluded that it was time to use this rally to make a statement about the precarious situation our race is in," the Traditionalist Youth Network statement said.

"With our folk on the brink of becoming a disarmed, disengaged, and disenfranchised minority, the time to do something was yesterday!" The clash follows a confrontation in March between Ku Klux Klan members and counter-protesters in Anaheim, California in which three people were stabbed. — AP

CLINTON SWIPES AT TRUMP OVER BREXIT

WASHINGTON: Democrat Hillary Clinton on Sunday took a swipe at Republican rival Donald Trump's stance on Brexit, saying that "bombastic comments" do more harm than good during such times. Trump has hailed Britain's vote to leave the European Union as "fantastic," telling reporters during a visit to Scotland on Friday that he thinks the Brexit is "a great thing."

Clinton, who was speaking to the US Conference of Mayors, did not mention Trump by name, but told city leaders that the United States should be governed by those "who put the interest of the American people ahead of their personal business interests." Trump was in Scotland for the ceremonial re-opening of his refurbished Trump Turnberry golf course.

America needs leaders "who understand that bombastic comments in turbulent times can actually cause more turbulence," Clinton said. "And that's why steady, experienced leadership is so important at times like these." Trump, who has relied on populist fervor and anti-immigrant rhetoric in his presidential bid, has said Britain's anti-EU movement had parallels with his own quest to become the US president.

Clinton acknowledged Sunday that "just as we have seen there are many frustrated people in Britain, we know there are frustrated people here at home too." But, she told the mayors who gathered in the midwestern city of Indianapolis, "no one should be confused about America's commitment to Europe, not an autocrat in the Kremlin, not a presidential candidate on a Scottish golf course." New polls released Sunday showed Clinton taking a lead in the presidential race.

According to a Washington Post-ABC News survey, 51 percent of respondents said they would vote for Clinton, versus 39 percent for Trump. A Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll showed a slimmer lead for Clinton with 46 percent to Trump's 41 percent. —AFP



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