

UK charges 17-year-old with murder in Southport killings as demonstrations continue

SOUTHPORT, England/LONDON, July 31 (Reuters) - A 17-year-old male already in custody has been charged with murder for the deaths of three young girls in a frenzied knife attack in Southport, UK police said on Wednesday, while the rampage unleashed demonstrations in London with echoes of blame on immigrants.

The teen will be remanded in custody and will appear at the Liverpool Magistrates Court on Thursday, the police said.

The 17-year-old was in police custody on suspicion of murder and attempted murder after the bloody rampage on Monday at a "Taylor Swift yoga and dance workshop", a summer vacation event for children aged 6 to 11 in the English seaside town. The three girls killed were aged 6 to 9.

Police said the person charged cannot be named for legal reasons because he is under 18 years of age.

Disturbances in Southport on Tuesday took place after false information was spread on social media that the suspect behind the stabbings was a radical Islamist migrant.

In London on Wednesday, thousands gathered near the prime minister's Downing Street residence, shouting "Save our kids", "We want our country back" and "Stop the boats", as well as English football chants.

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