

# Human Rights Defenders Alert - India

National Coordination Office  
23, West Park Street, 1st Floor,  
Shenoy Nagar, Near Post Office, Chennai – 600 030 Tamil Nadu, INDIA  
Tel: +91-9994368540 Email : [hrda.india@gmail.com](mailto:hrda.india@gmail.com)

**25 June 2013**

The Chairperson  
National Human Rights Commission  
Faridkot House, Copernicus Marg,  
New Delhi, PIN 110001  
Fax No. 23384863  
E-Mail: [covdnhrc@nic.in](mailto:covdnhrc@nic.in), [ionhrc@nic.in](mailto:ionhrc@nic.in), [jrlawnhrc@hub.nic.in](mailto:jrlawnhrc@hub.nic.in)

Dear Sir,

**Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action – Tamilnadu: 51 PDK  
activists arrested & assaulted by police - Reg**

Greetings from Human Rights Defenders Alert - India!

HRD Alert - India is a Forum of Human Rights Defenders for Human Rights Defenders. It endeavours to initiate actions on behalf of Human Rights Defenders under threat or with security concerns.

We are now writing to express our grave concern regarding the arbitrary arrest of 51 activists of Periyar Dravida Kazhagam (PDK) by the police on Sunday, 23 June 2013.

**About the Human Rights Defender under attack:**

51 Periyar Dravida Kazhagam (PDK) activists, a Tamil nationalist outfit, from Pollachi and Coimbatore

**Perpetrators:** The Police

**Date and Time of Incident:** Sunday, 23 June 2013, at 9 am

**Place of Incident:** Gandhi statue in Pollachi and Lakshmi Mills Junction in Coimbatore.

**Source of Information:** The Times of India

**Incident:**

On Sunday, 23 June 2013, police arrested 51 Periyar Dravida Kazhagam (PDK) activists, a Tamil nationalist outfit, from Pollachi and Coimbatore for waving black flags at Union minister of commerce E M Sudarshan Nachiappan.

The activists were protesting against the training being provided to senior Sri Lankan military officers in the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) in the Wellington cantonment area of the Nilgiris.

Around 9 am on Sunday Nachiappan, Union minister of commerce, was on his way to Coimbatore via Pollachi to attend a meeting when the PDK activists waylaid him. The PDK activists were hiding behind a Gandhi statue in Pollachi and suddenly jumped in front of the minister's car. They waved black flags and raised slogans against the Centre for its undue favours to the Rajapakse government, which allegedly killed thousands of ethnic Tamils.

With only a few on-duty policemen present at the spot, the protest continued for about half-an-hour. As the news of the protest spread, over 150 Congress activists rushed to the spot and raised slogans against the irate PDK activists.

Soon a police team reached the spot and tried to pacify the PDK activists and urged them to withdraw the protest. After the activists refused, police arrested them.

Another group of 36 PDK activists were arrested from Lakshmi Mills Junction in Coimbatore after they tried to hold a protest and wave black flags at the minister. The spot was cleared minutes before the minister's vehicle passed through the area.

**Appeal**

We, therefore, urge you to immediately take necessary steps to ensure that:

1. All PDK activists are released immediately and unconditionally since their detention is only arbitrary as it only aims at impeding their human rights activities.
2. All necessary measures are taken to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of PDK activists.
3. The errant police are booked under relevant sections of the law and are prosecuted

4. All human rights defenders in India are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions, including judicial harassment in all circumstances.
5. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international human rights standards and international instruments ratified by India is guaranteed

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,



**Henri Tiphagne**

Honorary Working Secretary

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India

**Copy to:**

Shri A. K. Parashar  
Focal Point - Human Rights Defenders  
National Human Rights Commission  
Faridkot House  
Copernicus Marg  
New Delhi-110001  
Email: [hrd-nhrc@nic.in](mailto:hrd-nhrc@nic.in)

The Chairperson  
State Human Rights Commission  
Thiruvarangam  
143, P.S. Kumarasamy Raja Salai, (Greenways Road)  
Chennai 600 028,  
Tamilnadu.  
Email: [shrc@tn.nic.in](mailto:shrc@tn.nic.in)

The Chief Minister,  
Chief Minister's Special Cell ,  
Secretariat,  
Chennai - 600 009.  
E-Mail : [cmcell@tn.gov.in](mailto:cmcell@tn.gov.in)

Thiru.M.Karunaharan I.A.S.,  
District Collector, Collectorate Building  
Coimbatore- 641018  
Email : [collrcbe@nic.in](mailto:collrcbe@nic.in)

OMCT International Secretariat  
PO Box 21  
8, rue du Vieux-Billard  
1211 Geneva 8  
Switzerland  
Phone: + 41 22 809 4939  
Fax: + 41 22 809 4929  
E-mail: [omct@omct.org](mailto:omct@omct.org)

Front Line - The International Foundation for the Protection of  
Human Rights Defenders  
Head Office, Second Floor, Grattan House, Temple Road, Blackrock,  
Co Dublin, Ireland, Tel: +353 (0)1 212 3750, Fax: +353 (0)1 212 1001  
E-mail: [info@frontlinedefenders.org](mailto:info@frontlinedefenders.org), [caitriorarice@frontlinedefenders.org](mailto:caitriorarice@frontlinedefenders.org)

Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development  
Baan Vichien, Apartment 3B,  
220 Sukhumvit 49/12 Klongton Nua, Wattana,  
Bangkok, 10110, Thailand  
Email: [hrd@forum-asia.org](mailto:hrd@forum-asia.org)  
[yap@forum-asia.org](mailto:yap@forum-asia.org)

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders,  
Mrs. Margaret Sekaggya  
c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Palais Wilson  
United Nations Office at Geneva  
CH 1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland  
Email: [urgent-action@ohchr.org](mailto:urgent-action@ohchr.org)