

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India

National Coordination Office

No.6, Vallabhai Road, Chokkikulam, Madurai 625 002, Tamil Nadu, INDIA

Tel: +91-452-2539520 Cell Phone: +91-9994368540 Email: hrda.india@gmail.com

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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

Dear Ma'am,

Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action-"India-Tamilnadu: Ramanathapuram District - Fabricated charges and false case filed against civil liberty activist Mr. Chandra Bose"- 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 fabricated charges and case filed against Mr. Chandra Bose, the General Secretary of Thiyagi Immanuel Peravai.

Incident

According to the information received Paramakudi is a town, a municipality in [Ramanathapuram](#) district. The region has a long history of conflicts arising out of caste discrimination dating back to pre-independence days. Thiyagi

Immanuel Sekaran was from the schedule caste struggled hard against the caste discrimination and oppression in Ramanathapuram. He was then murdered by the dominant caste people on 11th September, 1957. Every year on the day of his death anniversary lakhs of people come to Paramakudi and pay their tribute in respect of him. Since 1957 the communal violence took its different phases in and across the southern regions of Tamilnadu.

Mr. Chandra Bose, the General Secretary of Thiyagi Immanuel Peravai also constantly works to uproot the caste system and to uphold the social justice, dignity to various oppressed community in Ramanathapuram. He represents the Schedule Caste community in Paramakudi and he has a non electoral party. On September 11th 2011 Mr. Chandra Bose and the other people organised Immanuel Sekaran's death anniversary ceremony. Lots of people came to pay homage to their leader Immanuel Sekaran on the occasion of his 54th death anniversary, which turned into a battlefield between the agitators and the police personnel. Mr. Chandra Bose was very much shocked with this police firing incident whereby six persons who belonged to the dalit community were dead and 60 others were injured when the police opened fire on a stone-pelting mob at Paramakudi about 35 km from Ramanathapuram.

Meanwhile various civil societies, non governmental organisations, social activists, human rights defenders visited Paramakudi town and conducted many fact findings. After conducting proper enquiry with the concerned persons and authorities they came out with many outcomes and reports. Mr. Chandra Bose played a vital role in bringing out the genuine facts involved in the firing incidents and post firing incidents. Under Mr. Chandra Bose guidance on October 9th the birthday of Immanuel was well organised and about 2000 women took part in that ceremony. The most significant thing to be noted was that there was no police protection given and no chaotic situation arose. Hence all the people joined together to hold the ceremony with great favour and spirit.

Thiyagi Immanuel Peravai joined with the various civil societies, in particular with the civil societies and the non governmental organisations like People's Watch, Dalit Foundation, and Alliance for Dalit Rights and the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights joined together and formulated a Joint Action Committee. The entire people of the Ramanathapuram District demanded that the Human Rights Commission should investigate the case and they ignored the Sampath Commission. In this regard, all the people affixed wall posters in the villages and hoisted black flags and they ignored Sampath Commission. So the Joint Action Committee organised a Public inquest in Paramakudi on October 22nd 2011 in Paramakudi and 23rd 2011 in Madurai in order to condemn the brutal and inhuman atrocities of the police personnel. About 18 juries from different expertise were invited and they conducted the investigation. More than 40 witnesses gave their statements. The preliminary report of the public inquest was published and the final report will be published on December 3rd 2011 in Chennai.

In due course many false and fabricated cases have been filed against Mr. Chandra Bose who was the main convenor and significant person in uprooting the caste system in Ramanathapuram District. A case was filed under the Crime No: 363/2011 under sections 153A, 188 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code. Based on this Mr. Chandra Bose has been filed a writ in the High Court.

Appeal

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

- Immediately investigate into the state attack and the police atrocities faced by the oppressed community in Ramanathapuram District;
- Internally investigate the fabricated charges and false cases implicated on Mr. Chandra Bose and ensure that the perpetrators are arrested;

- Take all necessary measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security to Mr. Chandra Bose including the provision of protection;
- Ensure that adequate, effective and prompt reparation, including adequate compensation and rehabilitation is granted to the victim's family;
- Ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international human rights standards and international instruments ratified by India.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,

Henri Tiphagne

Hon'ble National Working Secretary
Human Rights Defenders Alert - India