

# 29 Remanded for Misusing 'Human Rights'

**Express News Service**

**Madurai:** The Tamil Nadu police have registered as many as 142 cases and remanded 29 people in a span of two weeks for their association with organisations using the term 'Human Rights', the NGO People's Watch has alleged.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, the NGO, whose associated organisation, the Citizens for Human Rights Movement (CHRM), was one of the first organisations to be booked, took strong exception to the alleged indiscriminate action by the police following a recent court order.

An amendment made to the Tamil Nadu Registration of Societies Act in 2010 prohibited the usage of words 'Human Rights' in the name

of private organisations following a recommendation by the State Human Rights Commission that was investigating a case against a fraudulent organisation that was projecting itself as a statutory body.

The recent police crackdown was triggered by a follow up by the HC on February 21 asking the Home Secretary and Director General of Police to submit reports on the action taken against such organisations.

Henri Tiphagne, the executive director of People's Watch, however said that the court order issued by Justice Kirubakaran was in spirit about the organisations that are cheating people and not the ones that are genuinely fighting against human rights violations.

He also said that the

amendment to the Act applies only to those registered under the Act and not the unregistered ones.

He pointing out that even the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) that is functioning for four decades against human rights violations is an unregistered organisation.

He added that while the organisation supports action against the fraudulent NGOs, in almost all the cases presently registered by the police, there are no complaints by public that they were cheated by the respective organisation.

People's watch also made a series of demands, including revocation of the amendment and the withdrawal of all the cases registered against organisations operating genuinely.