



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

No.32, Besant Road, Chokkikulam, Madurai - 625 002, Tamil Nadu, India.
P: +91-452-2531874 & 2539520 Fax: +91-452- 2531874 Mobile: 99943-68540
E.mail: hrda.india@gmail.com Web: www.hrdaindia.org

February 17, 2019

To,

Dr. A. K. Viswanathan IPS
Commissioner of Police,
Government of Tamil Nadu ,
Chennai.
(cop.chncity@tncctns.gov.in)

Dear Sir,

Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action – Tamil Nadu - Missing of environmental rights activist Mr. Mugilan - - Regarding

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 writing to express our grave concern over the missing of environmental rights defender Mr. Mugilan from Chennai after he addressed a press conference where he alleged the role of senior police officials in Thoothukudi police firing of the rank of IG and DIG by name.

Status of Human Rights Defender:

Mr. Mugilan is an environmental rights activist and has been actively advocating against environmental issues such as sand mining, etc. He is the Coordinator of Tamil Nadu Environment Protection Organisation.

Source of Information on the Incident:

- Mr. Aseervatham
- Mr. Ponnarasan
- Mr. Sridhar

Details of the Incident

Mr. Mugilan addressed a press meet in Chennai on February 15, 2019 around 11.30 AM regarding the killing of 16 persons by police firing in Thoothukudi during the anti-Sterlite protests on May 22, 2018. During the press meet he released a report and video titled 'Sterlite Hidden Truth', regarding the violence that unfolded prior to police

firing on May 22, 2018 in Thoothukudi and had implicated that the violence and the police firing thereafter was orchestrated by the police in connivance with the management of Sterlite Industries. Mr. Mugilan also implicated that higher police officers were involved in this violence and he named the then Inspector General of Police Mr. Shailesh Kumar Yadav and Deputy Inspector General of Police Mr. Kapil Kumar Saratkar.

Later, on the same day, on February 15, 2019 he along with his colleague Mr. V.P. Ponnarasan s/o Palanisamy, Namakkal District met a few of his friends in Chennai and reached Egmore Railway Station around 10.30 PM. While Mr. Ponnarasan left to Karur in Mangalore Express train, Mr. Mugilan took boarded another train to Madurai from Egmore railway station.


His last conversations from his mobile phone included calls to Mr. Aseervatham, State Coordinator of HRDA (9994368571) around 7 PM on February 15, 2019, to whom he told that he was in a train and will reach Madurai the next morning by 10.30 AM. Later at night he spoke to his colleague Mr. Sridhar and told him that he was travelling in Nagercoil special train and will reach Madurai by 10.30 AM on the next day. Mr. Mugilan also stated to Mr. Sridhar that he is apprehending actions by police because he had exposed the role of higher police officers in Thoothukudi police firing during the press meet. His mobile phone was active till 1.45 AM on February 16, 2019 and has lost connectivity from Olukkur, Villupuram District.

Hence it is reasonably believed that he Mr. Mugilan has been abducted from the train itself after he had alleged the role of higher police officers in the Thoothukudi police firing and the violence.

We, therefore urge you to immediately take necessary steps to trace Mr. Mugilan and ensure his safety and also to take action against persons involved in this incident.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,



Henri Tiphagne
National Working Secretary

Note: Please find attached the press release issued after the press meet attended by Mr. Mugilan on February 15, 2019

Copy to:

Mrs. Girija Vaidyanathan IAS,
Chief Secretary,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
St. George Fort,
Chennai - 600 009
Email: cs@tn.gov.in

Mr. Niranjan Mardy IAS,
Additional Chief Secretary,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
St. George Fort,
Chennai - 600 009
Email: homesec@tn.gov.in

Mr. Vijay Kumar IPS
ADGP (Law & Order)
Email: adgp.lo@tncctns.gov.in

Mr. C. Sridhar IPS
IGP (North Zone)
Email: igp.north@tncctns.gov.in

Dr. A.K. Viswanathan IPS
Commissioner, Chennai City Police
Email: cop.chncity@tncctns.gov.in

Mr. Santosh Hadimani IPS
Superintendent of Police, Kanchipuram
Email: sp.kpm@tncctns.gov.in

Mr. Jeyakumar IPS
Superintendent of Police, Villupuram
Email: sp.vpm@tncctns.gov.in