



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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Ref No: HRDA/South/TN/03/10/2019

October 15, 2019

To,

Mr. Khaleel Ahmed

National Focal Point - Human Rights Defenders & Deputy Registrar
National Human Rights Commission
Manav Adhikar Bhawan,
Block-C, GPO Complex, INA,
New Delhi – 110 023
Email: hrd-nhrc@nic.in

Dear Sir,

Sub: HRD Alert - India -Urgent Appeal for Action - Tamil Nadu - Attempt to life on journalist Mr. Muthuvel in Tamil Nadu - 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 attempt to life on journalist and human rights defender Mr. Muthuvel in Tamil Nadu.

Status of Human Rights Defender:

Mr. G. Muthuvel is a journalist and works as a television reported at Polimer TV covering up Srivaikuntam Assembly Constituency. He has been covering various social, political and human rights issues.

Source of Information on the Incident:

- Communication from the HRD Mr. Muthuvel
- State Coordinator for HRDA in Tamil Nadu

Perpetrators:

1. Mr. Gajendran, Inspector of Police
2. Mr. Shanmugam and two others

Date of Incident:

19.06.2019

Details of the incident:

Mr. Muthuvel recently reported about an alleged case of sexual harassment by one Mr. Gajendran who has been working as an Inspector of Police in Thattaarmadam Police Station comes in Thoothukudi District. It was alleged that Mr. Gajendran has sexually harassed a wife of a police personnel subordinate to him and also other women. Upon receiving information of these cases, Mr. Muthuvel collected information on the alleged incidents and reported in the news television channel he works with. As Mr. Muthuvel telecasted the news about Mr. Gajendran he planned to kill him and hired some henchmen to kill Mr. Muthuvel.

On 19.06.2019, at around 9.30 pm while Mr. Muthuvel was working in his office which is located near Thattaarmadam police station, a gang headed by one Mr. Shanmugam and two others brutally attacked Mr. Muthuvel with an iron rod. They shouted at Mr. Muthuvel that how dare he telecast news against Police Inspector Gajendran and told him that he belongs to 'our Naadaar community'. They also told Mr. Muthuvel that Inspector Gajendran has ordered us to kill him and also abused him using his caste name and further attacked him and tried to kill him. Mr. Muthuvel who escaped with serious injuries was admitted in the Government Hospital in Saathaankulam and then he was shifted to Tirunelveli Government Medical College Hospital. Though it is clear that Mr. Gajendra, the Inspector of Police is the prime accused in this attempt to murder of journalist and human rights defender Mr. Muthuvel, no departmental enquiry or action has been taken against Mr. Gajendran and no criminal charges have also been filed against him especially under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 2015.

Appeal:

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

- Order an immediate, independent, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the above-mentioned incident of attempt to life of journalist and human rights defender Mr. Muthuvel.

- Ensure that all the false complaints filed against the HRD to harass and threaten them should be quashed
- Ensure that the perpetrator in this incident Mr. Gajendran, Inspector of Police is added as an accused in the attempt to life on Mr. Muthuvel and booked under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 2015
- Ensure physical safety of the HRD who continues to face threats and risk of further attacks by the perpetrators

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,



Henri Tiphagne
Honorary National Working Secretary

Copy to:

Tmt. Justice T. Meenakumari,
Hon'ble Chairperson,
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