



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

No. 555, West Cross 4th Street, K.K.Nagar, Madurai - 625 020, Tamil Nadu, India.

Mobile: 99943-68540

E.mail: hrda.india@gmail.com Web: www.hrdaindia.org

December 28, 2021

To,
Mr. C S Mawri,
Focal Point - Human Rights Defenders & Assistant 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: Murder of Advocate Tamarvan for raising issues of drug dealings and other illegal activities in the locality of Needamangalam - Thiruvarur District

Greetings from Human Rights Defenders Alert - India!

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

We are writing to express our grave concern regarding the killing of Advocate Tamarvan for raising issues of drug dealings and other illegal activities in the locality of Needamangalam

Source of Information:

- Communication with the HRDs in the region
- Communication with our Southern Regional consultant
- Information from social media and newspapers

Date of Incident:

November 10, 2021

Place of Incident:

Needamangalam - Thiruvarur District, Tamil Nadu

The Perpetrators:

- Rajkumar and gang
- Murugesan – Inspector (Needamangalam Police Station)

About the Human Rights Defender:

Advocate Tamarvan was a practicing lawyer and was the Secretary of the Needamangalam Union of the Communist Party of India. He focused on issues relating to illegal land encroachments and drug dealings for the societal good.

Background of the Case:

Advocate Tamarivan was a practicing lawyer who was handling cases relating to illegal drug dealings, illegal land encroachments and sale of marijuana in the surrounding areas of Needamangalam. He also regularly informed the local police regarding the illegal activities in the neighbourhood, that put students and youth at the risk of drug addiction. This was informed to the police on multiple occasions by the villagers, and the police did not take any action on the sale of marijuana in the locality. The kingpin of the drug peddling gang in the area was alleged to be a certain Ravi's son Rajkumar from Poovanur village. Since Tamarivan was handling cases relating to these issues, Mr. Rajkumar had threatened Tamarivan and the villagers are aware of it and Tamarivan has informed police on threatening he was receiving.

Details of the Incident:

On November 10, 2021 at around 3.50 PM Tamarivan got out of his car at the entrance of Cholan Supermarket to go to the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Bank for crop insurance which is opposite Cholan Super Market on Needamangalam. A gang consisting of 6 members came and killed him brutally with the weapons they had and fled from the place. Rajkumar was one of the main members identified in the gang as he was also previously threatening Tamarivan.

As a lawyer, Mr. Tamarivan had informed the Needamangalam police station inspector -Mr. Murugesan multiple times about the sale of drugs in the locality in the past and informed that he is being threatened for his life. As a result, he started receiving death threats from the drug peddlers. He also reported the threats and calls received to the police but did not give the complaint in writing to the police as he was anyway informing the authorities.

Mr. Stalin barathi, son of Mr. Tamarivan, and the people in the village allege that the police are aware of the illegal activities in the area and the sale of ganja in the area. Furthermore, criminals were extremely angry with Mr. Tamarivan raising voice against the illegal activities. The police of Needamangalam Police Station, have registered FIR Crime No. 659/2021 US 147(Punishment for rioting),148(Rioting, armed with deadly weapon),324(Voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons),302(Punishment for murder) and have arrested six accused till now.

We believe that this murder happened due to the inaction by the local police. Though they were informed repeatedly about the drug gangs operating in the region by Mr. Tamarivan they took no steps to arrest or investigate the criminals. They were also told by Mr. Tamarivan about the threats received by him but failed to take any action to provide security to him. Their negligence has been responsible for the brutal death of a fine young man who was working for public good.

Appeal:

We urge to the Hon'ble Commission to immediately take necessary steps and:

- Order the DGP of Tamil Nadu to take stern action against the police officials of Needamangalam Police Station and Murugesan – Inspector, who failed to take action against the death threats made on the life of Mr. Tamarivan.

- Order the DGP of Tamil Nadu for an immediate, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into illegal activities in the locality and the local police's indifference towards them, even after being informed.
- Order security for the family of Mr. Tamilarvan as they face threats from the Navamani's gang.
- Direct the Chief Secretary, Tamil Nadu to take necessary steps for providing congenial atmosphere to human rights defenders and journalists for smooth working in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henri Tiphagne', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Henri Tiphagne
National Working Secretary