



# 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](mailto:hrda.india@gmail.com) Web: [www.hrdaindia.org](http://www.hrdaindia.org)

**HRDA/UA/South/TN/03/02/2025**

07 February 2025

To,  
Mr. Indrajeet Kumar,  
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](mailto:hrd-nhrc@nic.in)

Dear Sir,

**Sub: HRDA - Urgent Appeal for Action in case of murder of EHRD Jagabar Ali  
on 17.01.2025 at Thirumayam, Pudukottai District, Tamil Nadu – Reg.**

Greetings from Human Rights Defenders Alert!

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 concern regarding murder of Environmental Human Rights Defender Jagabar Ali on 17-01-2025 at Thirumayam, Pudukottai District, Tamil Nadu.

**About the Human Rights Defenders:**

Mr. Jagaber Ali, son of Kareem, a resident of Vengalur, Konapattu (PO), Thirumayam Taluk, Pudukkottai District. He is a AIADMK functionary in Pudukkottai district, Tamil Nadu, He was also a union committee member and union minority wing secretary of the AIADMK. Apart from his political activism, he has been constantly complaining to the government authorities against the stone quarries operating illegally in Thirumayam area and has been intervening in the courts.

**Source of Information:**

- In Communication with the HRD's Family
- Human Rights Defenders' Alert - India Fact Finding
- In Communication with the other HRDs in the region
- Media Reports

**Perpetrators:**

- A. Rasu (54), (S/o) Raman, Address: Pappathi Oorani, Valaiyanvayal, Thulaiyanur (Po), Thirumayam (Taluk), Pudukkottai (District)
- B. Muruiganandham (56), (S/o) Sundara, Pandiyan
- C. Dhinesh Kumar (25), (S/o) Rasu, Address: No- 2-11, Pappathi Oorani, Valaiyanvayal, Thulaiyanur (Po), Thirumayam (Taluk), Pudukkottai (District)
- D. Kasi Nathan (45), (S/o) Ramadoss Address: 1/18c P. Geeranthai, Pananthai (Po), Kadaladi (Taluk), Ramanathapuram (District), Pin 623 528.
- E. Mr. S. Ramaiah (53) (S/o) Sankaranpillai, Address: Valayanvayal Thirumayam (Taluk), Pudukkottai (District).

Their agents and all other known and unknown conspirators for the cold-blooded Murder of EHRD Jagabar Ali.

**Date of Incident:**

17.01.2025

**Place of Incident:**

Thirumayam, Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu.

**Background:**

Mr. Jagabar Ali, an AIADMK functionary in Pudukkottai district, Tamil Nadu, had begun receiving death threats ever since he complained about illegal mining activities by RR Crusher, Punitha Arockya Mary Crusher, Eashwar Enterprises, RR M Sand Unit- 1, and RR M Sand Unit-2 in the area. The permission for the above quarries was obtained on 14.11.2018 and the permission expired on 13.11.2023. However, the quarries continue to operate illegally to this day. The EHRD Jagabar Ali on 04.1.2023 and 31.1.2023 complained against stone quarries for illegally extracting minerals to: -

- A. District Collector, Pudukkottai,
- B. District Assistant Director, Mineral Resources Department,
- C. Thirumayam Tahsildar
- D. Thirumayam Revenue Inspector,
- E. Director of State Geology and Mining Department,
- F. District Superintendent of Police

The EHRD has also sent complaints to various other government officials, but no action has been initiated by the authorities. He has filed a case in the Madurai High Court Bench (WP (MD).8946/2023) obtained an order on 5.9.2023 to investigate illegal stone quarries. However, till date the district administration failed implemented the High Court's order.

In his complaints, he had also assessed the loss to the state at approximately Rs. 840 crores. His relentless efforts brought him into conflict with the mining mafia and complicit officials in the Revenue, Geology and Mining Departments, and law enforcement agencies. He had also given an interview to this effect on the 10 th January 2025 which was available online where and he had openly announced a protest to be held on 17th January 2025.

#### **Details of the Incident:**

On 17.01.2025, Friday the Jagabar Ali went to offer Namaz (after noon prayer) at Kattubhava mosque and at about at 2.10 PM Jagabar Ali started proceeding from Kattubhava mosque to his hollow block manufacturing site on a two-wheeler vehicle bearing No. TN 55 AM 5234. Enroute at Ramandlaksh Rice Mill, the Driver of Vehicle Bearing No. TN 74 AV 5628 Mr. Kavi Anandan rammed the tipper lorry onto the EHRD's vehicle from an opposite direction. Due which the EHRD fell into the road side ditch and sustained injuries. The EHRD took out his phone to tried record the presence Muruganatham who is the owner of Arjun Tipper Service who came on a two-wheeler and called the driver Kasi Anandan and fled from the spot.

Due the attack the EHRD has sustained several external injuries, tire marks of the tipper lorry are present on his Abdomen, Right Arm and on both of his legs, ribs were fractured, both kidneys were completely shattered, the urinary bladder was torn and the EHRD succumbed due to multi organ injuries. The accused tried to cover the pre medicated murder done in a cold blood in a gruesome manner by staging it as an accident.

The Thirumayam police have register a First Information Report (FIR) in Crime No. 9/2025 on 18.01.2024 after 24 hours of grewsome murder of EHRD and registered under section 194(1) (Unnatural death) of BNS, 2023. Despite the oral and written complaints to the Thirumayam police by the wife of the EHRD, the police were reluctant to register an FIR and insisted to categorize the incident as a road accident.

The body of the EHRD has been kept at Thirumayam Government Hospital where there are no freezer facilities in the mortuary to preserve the bodies. The family of EHRD arranged a freezer box at their own expense to preserve the body of the EHRD. The postmortem was conducted at Thirumayam Government Hospital without forensic experts after 4:00 PM on 18.01.2025 by Dr. Nedunkilli M.S., an Assistant Surgeon reportedly specializing in orthopaedics, with the assistance of a pharmacy staff. The Postmortem was conducted without following forensic protocols and guidelines issues the Hon'ble Madras High Court in Arun Swaminathan v. The Principal Secretary W.P.(MD) No. 78 of 2019.

The Family members of the EHRD approached police and Thirumayam hospital authorities seeking the post mortem report. After the delay of 10 days, on 26.01.2025 the family of EHRD was provided the post mortem report. Human Rights Defenders' Alert - India approached the Hon'ble Madurai Bench of Madras High Court representing the family of EHRD seeking re postmortem along with X-ray and CT scan in order to ascertain the nature of injuries sustained by EHRD. The Madurai Bench of Madras High Court on 30.01.2025 passed an order directing Government Medical College Hospital, Pudukkottai to conduct re-postmortem along with X-rays by 31.01.2025.

The Family members of the EHRD are facing significant threats, they have also filed a Witness Protection Application on 27.01.2025 seeking protection victim and witness protection. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had transferred the investigation to the CBCID.

#### **Explanation of law:**

1. The EHRD was carrying out one of his fundamental duties enshrined in Article 51 A (g) of the Indian Constitution which says "*It shall be duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures*". The Right to a clean environment is also one of the basic elements to ensure a welfare state which is stated in the Directive Principles of State Policy.

#### **Indian and International standards:**

2. Article 21 guarantees fundamental Right to Life and liberty. Right to environment, free of danger of disease and infection is inherent in it. The right to a clean, healthy

and sustainable environment is now recognized by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) 48/13, adopting a resolution that “recognizes the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right that is important for the enjoyment of human rights”. This resolution has been supported globally including by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).

3. The UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders 1998, seeks to protect the monitoring and advocacy functions of defenders by recognizing their right to obtain and disseminate information relevant to the enjoyment of human rights. It also highlights that each State has a prime responsibility and duty to protect, promote and implement all human rights and fundamental freedoms (Art. 2) and that everyone is entitled, individually and in association with others, to be protected effectively under national law in reacting against or opposing, through peaceful means, activities and acts, including those by omission, attributable to States that result in violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms (Art. 12).
4. According to Asian Pacific Forum Regional Action Plan 2021-2025, National Human Rights Commission of India is responsible to protect and support the work of Human Rights Defenders. Under the Marrakesh Declaration 2018 it is the duty of National Human Rights Commission to Support the State in implementing the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. This includes ensuring that the judiciary, administrative and law enforcement officials are trained to respect the Declaration and other human rights norms, and that human defenders can self-identify.

**Appeal:**

We urge the Hon’ble Commission to take cognisance of the above case and urgently:

- Direct the Director General of Police of Tamil Nadu to submit a report to the NHRC within two weeks to file a status report of the investigation.
- Direct the Director General of Police of Tamil Nadu to ensure complete physical and psychological safety of the EHRD family (two wives and sons and relatives) and assure the NHRC of the same actions within one week.
- Direct the District and Sessions Judge of Karur Pudukottai to initiate action suo motto using his powers as the Convenor of the Witness Protection scheme

2018 in the district to protect every witness connected with the case after obtaining a threat analysis report as required under the scheme.

- Direct the Government of Tamil Nadu to immediately provide a compensation of Rs. 1 core to the family of the deceased EHRD and a government job to one of his family members.
- Consider exercising Section 12 (b) of the Protection of Human Rights Act and intervene in the relevant criminal court to defend the EHRD Jagabar Ali by arranging for expert legal assistance by engaging a senior criminal lawyer to assist the prosecution from the time of investigation of this case onwards till the final report is filed and trial completed and obtain for the family of the deceased EHRD and his family members and other witnesses proper witness protection as mandated under the Witness Protection Scheme 2018.
- Issue a public statement recognizing the commendable work of the EHRD and condemn the brutal murder of EHRD.

We hope to hear from you soon,

Yours Sincerely,



(Henri Tiphagne)

National Working Secretary

Human Rights Defenders' Alert – India

**Enclosures:**

1. Order of Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court dated 30.01.2025 in Writ Petition W.P.(MD) No. 2600 of 2025
2. Detailed Complaint of EHRD dated 10.01.2025
3. Altered First Information Report
4. Post Mortem Report