



# HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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March 31, 2020

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](mailto:hrd-nhrc@nic.in)

**Dear Sir,**

**Sub: HRD Alert – India: Urgent Appeal for Action – Tamil Nadu: Threats and physical assault of HRD and negligence by the Tamil Nadu police.**

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 regarding the attack on human rights defender Mr. Ramachandran in Trichy District of Tamil Nadu and the negligence and active complicity of the local policemen.

**Source of Information:**

- Communication with the HRD
- Communication with HRDA Southern Regional Consultant
- Information from social media

**Date of Incident:**

January 22, 2021

**Place of Incident:**

Surampatti, Musiri Taluk, Trichy, Tamil Nadu

**The Perpetrator:**

Mr. S. Rajeevgandhi, Sub Inspector, Musiri Police station

**About the Human Rights Defender:**

Mr. Ramachandran (32), son of Mr. Durai Samy, is a disabled HRD who works at Pathu Rubai Nottu, an organization working for the welfare of the people by filing RTIs on various issues relating to corruption; providing community support to the local police on illegal activities; and panchayat activities.

**Background of the Incident:**

On May 01, 2020, based on Mr. Ramachandran's complaint, the Police seized the car of Mr. Kodi, who was teaching driving with more than 6 people in the car despite section 144 imposed in the locality. An FIR, No:869/2020, was filed against Mr. Kodi. The next day Mr. Kodi threatened Mr. Ramachandran by abusing him and threatened to kill him. Mr. Ramachandran approached the Musiri Police seeking protection for his life and clearly mentioned that his life was being threatened.

On August 06, 2020, Mr. Ramachandran filed a complaint stating that he had earlier informed the Police by dialing 100 regarding the illegal selling of liquor in the Serukudi Village and that the village leader Mr. Ashok Kumar and hardware shop owner Mr. Durairaj threatened him in front of eyewitnesses, when he was on his way to meet his father at Serukudi village. Facing multiple threats, he asked the local police to provide him life security. However, no security was provided to him.

Mr. Ramachandran had also filed an RTI on corruption in the Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) scheme by the government, wherein local panchayat members were showing fake accounts and taking money for construction on toilets on paper, without any village toilets being constructed. According to Mr. Ramachandran, Surampatti Panchayat Secretary, Mr. Kannan, Mr. Balaji, Mr. Mohan, Mr. Madhivanan and Mr. Aravindan are involved in corruption in the Panchayat. Mr. Aravindan and Mr. Madhivanan were arrested previously following a complaint by Mr. Ramachandran.

On January 23, 2021, an audit of the Panchayat was planned by government officials.

**Details of the Incident:**

On January 22, 2021, at around 07:30 PM, Mr. Ramachandran went to buy food from the neighbouring village Thumbalam, which is about 2 kms away.

At 7:45 pm, while returning, his vehicle was blocked by Mr. Balaji and his friend Mr. Mohan near Pambalamankovil. Four men armed with iron rods and machetes attacked him, beating him on his arms and legs. His hands and legs were wounded and the assailants left him on the road and ran away. According to him, one of the attackers, Mr. Mohan informed his brother, who took him to the Musiri Government Hospital from where he was transferred to the Trichy Hospital. Mr. Ramachandran was hospitalized at Trichy and an FIR was filed.

We believe this is a case of police negligence as the police failed to take any action against assailants despite repeated complaints and threats to his life submitted on several occasions by Mr. Ramachandran during the past one year.

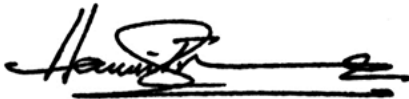
The Police failed to provide him security, despite repeated threats to his life though they were kept informed about the threats he was facing. Mr. Ramachandran alleges that the attack was planned by Mr. Balaji and other panchayat members because he was out to expose their corrupt practices. He also alleges that the local sub-inspector of the Musiri police station Mr. S Rajeevgandhi was also complicit in favouring the assailants.

**Appeal:**

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

- Direct the Superintendent of Police of Trichy to order an immediate, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the conduct and negligence by Musiri police station Sub-Inspector Mr. S. Rajeevgandhi.
- Based on the result of the inquiry, direct the Superintendent of Police of Trichy to take urgent and stern action against Musiri police station Sub-Inspector Mr. S. Rajeevgandhi for failing to perform their duty and provide protection to HRD Mr. Ramachandran.
- Direct the District Collector of Trichy to hold an impartial and transparent inquiry against the corrupt practices in the panchayat as alleged by HRD Mr. Ramachandran.
- Direct the District Collector of Trichy to provide compensation to Mr. Ramachandran and bear all his medical expenses.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Henri Tiphagne**  
National Working Secretary