

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India

National Coordination Office

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May 10, 2012

Tamilnadu State Human Rights Commission
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Dear Sir,

Sub: *HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action - Tamilnadu/Madurai District/ Illegal detention and false charges implicated on human rights defender along with his family members- Reg*

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 now writing to express our grave concern regarding the false charges and illegal detention implicated on a human rights activist along with his family members.

Incident

Name of the Perpetrators:

1. Mr. Mani @ Kutti (32 years)
2. Mr. Vairamuthu (25 years)
3. Mr. Raju (20 years)
4. Mr. Thirupathi (35 years)
5. Mr. Paraman (20 years)
6. Mr. Rajesh (20 years)

Date of incident: May 7, 2012

Place of incident: Bethaniyapuram, Madurai District, Tamilnadu.

Human Rights Defenders Alert India has received information from the Help Line Unit, People's Watch, Madurai, concerning an auto rickshaw driver Mr. Vijayan, who is also an human rights activist was arrested under the false implications and detained under the police custody along with his wife and brothers.

Mr. Vijayan, resident of Bethaniyapuram, Madurai District and an auto rickshaw driver was actively involved in promoting and protecting human rights for the schedule caste people in his locality. He is also belonged to the same caste and working for the upliftment of the downtrodden community.

On May 7, 2012 at 10:50 a.m Mr. Vijayan had gone to Mr. Rajendran's home a resident of the same locality to take his daughter who was sick to the nearby hospital for treatment in his auto rickshaw. On their way the aforementioned six persons blocked the way and started shouting in filthy and abusive language at them. But Mr. Rajendran had pleaded to leave them as they were going to the hospital. Later at 11:00 p.m Mr. Rajendran had rang up to the police and had narrated the whole incident. Immediately at 11:45 p.m a constable named Mr. Murugan from the Karimedu Police Station came and took Mr. Mani@ Kutti (one of the perpetrator) to the police station. Mean while the other five perpetrators had called the constable and have threatened him. Whilst Vijayan had returned from his work and in the midnight the Sub Inspector Mr. Muthu Raman accompanied with Mr. Murugan, Constable came to Mr. Vijayan's house and took Mr. Vijayan, Mrs. Palaniammal (Wife of Mr. Vijayan), Ms. Lakshmi, Ms. Aiyammal to the Karimedu Police Station. At present he, his wife and his brothers, brother's wife are implicated with false charges and Mr. Vijayan is detained under the police custody.

Human Rights Defenders Alert India strongly believes that the false charges and illegal detention are directly related to their work in the defence of human rights.

Appeal

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

1. Provide physical and psychological safety and integrity to the victims' and to their family;
2. Drop all false charges implicated on Mr. Vijayan who is fighting for a social cause and render justice to the victims';
3. Conduct an impartial, thorough, transparent and departmental investigation and book the perpetrators;

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,

Henri Tiphagne

Hon'ble National Working Secretary
Human Rights Defenders Alert - India