



## People's Watch

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Date: 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2011

### **PRESS RELEASE**

## **“Paramakudi a police engineered violence and firing”**

People's Watch strongly condemns the totally 'uncalled for' police initiated trigger action at Paramakudi on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 leading to consequential violence in different parts of Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai, Thoothukudi and Madurai districts resulting till date in 8 deaths, several injured and a few cases of disappearances. The preliminary reports of People's Watch's fact finding team lead by its Tamil Nadu Director, Mr. C.J.Rajan reveals that all deaths arising out of the Paramakudi firing have not been deaths due only to the police firing since there are clear cases of brutal police torture of some selected Dalit activists led by the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mr. Senthilvelan (deputed for this purpose from Adyar, Chennai) and the Paramakudi Police Inspector Mr. Sivakumar.

The conduct of the post mortems without the members of the family having the slightest access to the bodies of their kith and kin with high police security in Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Sivagangai are further indicative of what the police have to hide in the process of the post mortem.

People's Watch therefore urgently calls for a re-post mortem of all the bodies to be conducted by a team of Doctors only in the presence of family members or their authorised representatives and in the presence of

human rights defenders willing to be present. People's Watch has gathered sufficient evidence to conclude that the police firing was not preceded by the mandatory lathi charge and use of tear gas. Most of the injuries and bullets have also been above the waist.

People's Watch also calls upon the members of the Dalit community to maintain calm at this critical time and refrain from resorting to any retaliatory violence for the sake of peace and tranquillity in the State and calls upon the relevant District Collectors to ensure that quality medical treatment is provided to the injured in the Government hospital or to undertake a transfer of these patients at Government's cost to private hospitals.

People's Watch calls upon the Hon'ble Chief Minister to be sensitive to rumours making the rounds in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu that this police violence has been singularly engineered from quarters close to the Hon'ble Chief Minister with or without her knowledge. We say this with total respect to the Office of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and do hope that her immediate intervention to stop interference in matters relating to the police and law and order persons considered to be close to the Chief Minister are immediately brought to an end. We welcome the judicial enquiry ordered.



**(HENRI TIPHAGNE)**

Executive Director