



People's Watch

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21st April, 2015

Sri. Nara Chandrababu Naidu
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Govt. of Andhra Pradesh,
Secretariate,
Hyderabad
Andhra Pradesh.
E.mail: cm@ap.gov.in

Dear Sir,

Sub: Seeking Responses to the Fact Finding Report on 'Encounter Killing of 20 People by the Andhra Pradesh Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Special Task Force' on April 7, 2015

A high level fact finding team was commissioned by People's Watch into the 'alleged encounter on 7th April, 2015, in Seshachalam forests leading to the killing of 20 people from Tamil Nadu' has undertaken the mission on 14th and 15th of April, 2015. The fact finding team under the leadership of Justice Hosbet Suresh, formerly Judge of the Bombay High Court included members consisting of Shri Satyabrata Pal, former member of the NHRC, Shri E.N. Ram Mohan, former DGP of the BSF, Dr. Prof. Jawahirullah, current Ramnathapuram MLA from Tamil Nadu, Advocate B.S. Ajeetha from the Madras High Court and Dr. Savior Selva Suresh, Professor of Forensic Medicine, Vellammal Medical College Hospital and Research Centre, Madurai undertook the fact finding mission. Justice H. Suresh was the Convenor of the team. The Executive Director of People's Watch, Shri Henri Tiphagne, the Director Programs of People's Watch. Shri Mathew Jacob and other staff of People's Watch and Dr. Perumal Krishnamoorthy, Secretary, Working Group on Human Rights in India and UN, New Delhi accompanied and assisted the fact finding team.

As an impartial and thorough enquiry must, the team had wanted to present all sides of the story, and above all to give officials of the Andhra Pradesh Government every opportunity to refute or clarify points which cast doubts on their claims. Hence the team proposed to visit the officials in AP first and the spot where the 'encounter' is alleged to have taken place. Followed by it, the team visited 19 victims' families in two Tamil Nadu districts of Thiruvanamalai and Dharmapuri.

The interim report of the fact finding mission is being submitted to the –

- all the concerned officials in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Government of India [President of India, PMO's Office, Home Minister];
- the Governors and CMs of both the states of AP and TN together with their respective Chief Secretaries, DGPs and Home Secretaries;
- the Principal Conservator of Forests of AP.;
- the NHRC, the NCST and the SHRCs of AP and TN;
- the Patron-in-Chief, the Executive Chairman and the Member Secretary of the National Legal Services Authority ;
- the Patron-in-Chief, the Executive Chairman and the Member Secretary of the TN and AP Legal Services Authority;

The fact finding team requests the concerned officials from the State of Andhra Pradesh to furnish comments and clarification on this report within a period of 7 days i.e., 28th April, 2015. The comments can be furnished by email to – henri@pwtn.org or by post to People's Watch, 6, Vallabhai Road, Chokkikulam, Madurai – 625002. The comments will be incorporated and published in the final report which will then be submitted to concerned judicial and quasi-judicial bodies, investigation agencies/teams incharge of the concerned case and concerned members of the administrations in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and the Government of India.

Regards

Henri Tiphagne
Executive Director
People's Watch

Copy to:

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