

# Police station CCTV footages should be preserved: activist

The Collector, Superintendent of Police and the Judicial Magistrate have failed in their duties and responsibilities, says People's Watch executive director Henri Tiphagne

**The Hindu Bureau**  
TIRUNELVELI

**T**he public are entitled to get CCTV footages of police stations as per the law, according to People's Watch executive director Henri Tiphagne.

Speaking to reporters here on Saturday, he said the footages should be preserved by authorities and a notification displayed in Tamil in every police station. On the suspended IPS officer Balveer Singh's alleged actions in Ambasamudram, Mr. Henri Tiphagne said the Collector, the SP and the Judicial Magistrate had failed in their duties and responsibilities.

Citing the Police Reforms Act, 2013, he said the Collector, as the chairman of the District Police Complaint Authority, should have conducted the investigation against the IPS officer instead of dele-



**Fight for justice:** Rights activist Henri Tiphagne addresses a press conference in Tirunelveli on Saturday. A. SHAIKMOHIDEEN

gating/designating a Sub-Collector.

"People's Watch will move the Supreme Court soon," he added.

The Collector was also the chairman of the District Oversight Committee and should have ensured the installation and proper functioning of audio-video and night vision CCTV cameras in police stations under his jurisdiction as laid out by the Supreme Court.

Whenever any CCTV

camera was defunct, the Station House Officer (SHO) should inform the Collector in the monthly reports through the SP. In the absence of CCTV cameras, the SHO should explain the inquiry conducted in the station.

People's Watch, which had requested a copy of the CCTV footages of Ambasamudram police station, was yet to receive them. "We have a strong suspicion that there is foul play. If the cameras were

defunct, did the Inspector of Police submit any mandatory report to the Collector," he asked and demanded a response from the higher authorities.

Mr. Henri Tiphagne said the victims were not apparently accompanied by the remand advocate, who should have been present at the time of the accused being produced before the Judicial Magistrate for judicial remand.

Though Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had assured of proper action in the Assembly with regard to the Ambasamudram police station torture incident, he recalled the flaws in the custodial death of Vignesh in Chennai Secretariat Colony police station in April 2022. People's Watch had filed a case in the Supreme Court stressing the need for reforms in police stations, and in the next hearing, these issues would be raised, he added.