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Govt protecting IPS officer from SC/ST case: People's Watch

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Madurai: Madurai-based human rights organization People's Watch has accused the state government of protecting IPS officer Balveer Singh, former ASP of Ambasamudram subdivision, from the SC/ST case by excluding non-SC police personnel from the case for which CBCID filed a chargesheet in Tirunelveli judicial court last December. Since departmental action was not initiated against him, his suspension was revoked and he could join the department again, said the executive director of the organization, Henri Tiphagne.

He was speaking to reporters showing the interim report of special officer P Amudha who probed the case of custodial torture at various stations of the sub-division. Tiphagne said the government was keeping her report secret for apparent reasons but they managed to get it through court. More truth will come out once the full report comes out in public, he said. They were given sub-collector Shabeer Alam's report on custodial torture at Kallidaikurichi station while reports on other stations were pending.

He said the interim report of Amudha finds the accusations against Balveer Singh and team prima facie true. She has also recommended action against Ambasamudram GH medical officer Dr Jaishankar for medical negligence as he did not record the injuries of the victims and issued medical memos with nil injuries. Besides, she recommended action against public prosecutor Tirumalaikumar for bribing victims and threatening the victim's wife.

Saying that Amudha probed the case fairly, Tiphagne said there is a slip in the interim report that does not mention FIR 65-2023 filed in Ambasamudram station on which CBCID investigated and filed the chargesheet against Balveer Singh and subordinates SI Murugesh, head constable Karthick Babu and Gr I Constable Esakkiraja. All these officials named in the chargesheet are from scheduled castes while Singh is from scheduled tribe.

Tiphagne alleged that since the victims were from the SC community, the non-SC officials who were present with Singh in all other cases were excluded from this case and head constable Karthik Babu and constable Esakkiraja who found no mention in any of the other torture cases were inserted in this case. "This is done to protect Singh from facing the SC/ST case and hearing at the special court for SC/ST Act. The state should be ashamed of this cover-up," charged Tiphagne.

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