

NGO demands immediate action & accountability on custodial deaths

OP. ARULN | DC
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The recent surge in custodial deaths in Tamil Nadu has sparked widespread outrage and calls for urgent action to address systemic failures and ensure accountability.

People's Watch, a prominent human rights organisation, has raised several demands in the light of these tragic incidents, emphasising the need for immediate steps to be taken to prevent further loss of lives and to hold

those responsible, accountable.

People's Watch has expressed shock and dismay over the tragic incidents, highlighting the lack of accountability and justice in these cases.

Henri Tiphagne, executive director of People's Watch, said between April 5 and April 16, 2024, four custodial deaths have been reported, raising serious concerns about police brutality and the failure of law enforcement agencies to protect citizens' rights.

Two of these deaths occurred in judicial custody in Madurai City and police custody in Avadi commissionerate, with evidence pointing to brutal torture as the cause.

The case of Raja in Villupuram, who died after being tortured in police custody, sheds light on the grim reality faced by individuals in detention. Despite legal procedures being followed, including registration under relevant sections of the Criminal Procedure Code, justice remains

elusive for the victims and their families.

People's Watch has demanded immediate action from the Tamil Nadu government to transfer the investigation of these cases to the Crime Branch - Criminal Investigation Department (CB-CID), in line with judicial directives.

The NGO demanded that the government initiate departmental proceedings and compensate the families of the deceased, especially in cases of clear police torture leading to death.