

## Violation of human rights in Ponmudi raid.. Illegal investigation happened at night!"Henry DeBain Action | Henri Tiphagne spoke about Ponmudi house raid

**LOCALSorrell Local** 18 July 2023 **REPORT**



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CHENNAI: Human rights activist Henry DeBain says that the dawn investigation of Minister Ponmudi is a blatant violation of human rights.

He also argues that it is illegal to interrogate a senior citizen at night. While the opposition parties allege that the ED raid was conducted against the law, his claim that human rights were not respected has sparked controversy.

What happened in Minister Ponmudi case? Has he been prosecuted according to law? We wanted to answer various questions. To that end, Henry DeBain presented his views.

"First I want to say 2 things. One, Ponmudi is now 72 years old. His son is 49 years old. He is a senior citizen.

While a case against him was pending in Villupuram, he was transferred to Vellore on the grounds that it should not be tried in Villupuram and he was released at the end of June. That means he gets acquitted in Prevention of Money Laundering Act case.

Similarly, a case is going on against him in a special court for legislators and parliamentarians functioning in Chennai.

In that Ponmudi is released. Against that, in 2017, after going to the High Court and getting permission, the investigation is being conducted again. He will be released from that in the first week of July.

Why I say this is to mention that he has been acquitted of two cases that have been going on for years. It is against this backdrop that ED officials come in using the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

They have the right to engage in legal proceedings. It has the right to conduct a similar investigation. Under Section 4 of the PMLA Act, a person can be punished for a maximum of 3 years to 7 years.

So, no matter what stage they are arrested, under Section 41A, action can be taken only after giving a notice. It is an arresting procedure. There is no need to discuss this in detail at this time. Because Ponmudi has not been arrested yet.

The IT department searches Ponmudi's house. How should the Income Tax authorities check under Section 133A? All the rules are strictly laid down. If the raid is conducted under that rule, the officers will be there from morning to evening. There is no record of the trial continuing at night after that. So far this is not the case.

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