

Police return passport to research scholar

Sofia decides to withdraw case as hearing was based on confiscation of the passport



Copy of fresh passport

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EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Thoothukudi

THE THOOTHUKUDI police on Friday returned the passport belonging to research scholar Lois Sofia. They had seized the document on September 3.

The officials had earlier seized an expired passport. They had summoned Sofia's father Dr Samy to hand over the new passport at Pudhukottai police station on Friday. Sofia also filed a case praying for a direction to return the passport, in order to pursue her academic career undisturbed. On Friday, when Dr Samy reported to the Pudhukottai police station along with his counsel, the inspector of police Thirumalai returned the old passport that had the American Visa valid till 2026. In spite of the summon, Dr Samy submitted a photocopy of the new passport of his daughter attested by a notary.

When the case filed by Sofia at Thoothukudi court, praying for a direction to the police to return the passport came up for hearing on Friday, the hearing was adjourned till Monday.

Speaking to reporters, advocate Athisayakumar said that since the police had returned the old passport, they have decided to withdraw the case. "We have submitted a photocopy of new passport and a written statement with regards to the case," he said. Athisayakumar also extended gratitude on behalf of the Sofia's family to the political parties who extended voluntary support for the cause of the scholar.

The 28-year-old research scholar Lois Sofia doing her PhD at University of Montreal, Canada, entered with a verbal altercation with BJP Tamilisai Soundararajan, in a flight to Thoothukudi. Sofia who is also a writer, was booked under two sections of the IPC based on the complaint lodged by Soundararajan. Sofia was remanded for 15 days, however, the JM-3 released her on bail the next day. The scholar came to Thoothukudi for two month vacation.

On Thursday, People's Watch director Henri Tiphagne visited Sofia at her house in Kandan colony and extended his moral support.

He also flanked Sofia for media appearance so as to put an end to the rumours that she returned abroad, while appealing media persons to not to throw any questions at her as she is already under stress.

