

## Rights outfits hold protest to trace Mugilan

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MADURAI: A large number of people from human rights organizations and various political parties took part in a protest in Madurai on Thursday organized to urge the state government and the police department to find the whereabouts of social activist Mugilan.

The protesters said that Mugilan took part in a press conference held in Chennai on February 15, where he claimed that the Sterlite violence was instigated by the police. He also released a documentary in connection with the firing incident. He went missing the same night when he was on his way to Madurai on the train.

Around 200 people from more than 30 human rights outfits and political parties took part in the protest organized at Bethaniyapuram. The protestors raised slogans against state and central governments for allegedly being insensitive towards Mugilan's missing incident. They also raised slogans against Sterlite copper smelter unit in Tuticorin holding posters of Mugilan.

Talking to media persons, noted human rights activist Henri Tiphagne warned that the issue will be raised in the United Nations Human Rights Council if the whereabouts of Mugilan is not found by the police.

He also raised suspicion on the government's hand behind the incident. "BJP is receiving funds from Sterlite for the party development. Now AIADMK struck an alliance with BJP. We suspect that the ruling AIADMK government is behind it. If it is not so, the chief minister and deputy chief minister have the responsibility of answering the issue," he said.

He also warned that the issue will become a political issue for the upcoming election if he is not traced soon.