

# Madurai prison ruckus: Plea seeks directions to CJM

TNN | Apr 26, 2019, 04.52 AM IST

Madurai: Following the recent protest by inmates inside the Madurai Central Prison demanding better facilities in prison and the subsequent violence, human rights organisation, People's Watch has moved the Madurai bench of the Madras high court on Friday seeking directions to the chief judicial magistrate, Madurai along with two advocate commissioners to immediately visit prison and ensure non-escalation of further violence.

I Aseervatham, state co-ordinator of People's Watch, stated in his petition that he learnt of the sudden violence inside Madurai prison, wherein few remand prisoners who were allegedly beaten up, climbed up the prison walls to show their bodily injuries to the public and threw stones on the road.

The petitioner contended that it is common practice in prisons to send extra police force under the pretext of curbing violence and indulging in physical and mental torture of prisoners. The petitioner stated that he sent an e-mail to the prison authorities the same day addressing the issue and noted that the Supreme Court had time and again, held that prisoners, like all human beings, deserve to be treated with dignity.

A division bench of justice N Kirubakaran and justice S S Sundar admitted the petition.

On April 23 (Tuesday), the Madurai city police booked 25 remand prisoners after the protest by them.

The prisoners had created a ruckus, when the officials conducted an intensive check for ganja. They scaled up the wall on an unused building and hurled stones against the security personnel and motorists travelling on the New Jail Road, forcing the city police to suspend traffic for a couple of hours. A few of them even inflicted themselves with injuries to deter the police and prison authorities from approaching them.

The Karimedu police booked the inmates under sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)- 147- punishment for rioting, 148- rioting armed with deadly weapons and 341- punishment for Wrongful Restraint and Prisons Act.