

**Differently-abled man from Scheduled Caste dies after being taken to police station  
for interrogation**

**Preliminary Field Inspection Report**

Salem District, Omalur Taluk, Prabhakaran, a differently-abled person from Karuppur (46), His wife Hamsala (42) Others, Namakkal district, The police of Sendamangalam police station took him for questioning and beat him up., Harassment, Differently abled Prabhakaran died due to torture. past 14.01.2022 On Various Magazine, television, Based on media reports 21.02.2022, 28.02.2022 People's Watch on two days, Victims on behalf of the Coalition Against Custodial Torture, Field inspections were conducted by the Government officials., Field inspection report prepared.

**Incident Summary**

Salem District, Omalur taluk, Prabhakaran, a differently abled person from Karuppur (46). He belongs to the Hindu Paraiyar community. His wife's name was Hamsala (42). He belongs to a Christian tribal community. Joel for both (16), Jones (12) They have two sons.

The Sendamangalam police station in connection with a robbery incident at Gandhipuram in the limits of Sendamangalam police station in Namakkal district., Salem District, Omalur taluk, Prabhakaran, a differently abled person from Karuppur (46), His wife Hamsala was arrested for questioning. 08.01.2022 They took him that day. The two were taken for interrogation and tortured at the Sendamangalam police quarters. continue 08.02.2022 first 11.01.2022 They have been detained illegally and interrogated. Disabled Prabhakaran's body weakened due to police attack 11.01.2022 Prabhakaran and his wife Hamsala were taken into custody by the police.

12.02.2022 Prabhakaran, who was admitted to Salem Government Hospital for advanced treatment, died that day. After this, the relatives continued to protest for justice. Sub-Inspectors of Police Poongodi, moon, The Tamil Nadu government suspended head constable Kulandai Velu.

1. Testimony of Hamsala (42), wife of deceased Prabhakaran

My name is Hamsala (42). I belong to a Christian tribal community. I got married to Prabhakaran, a differently abled person belonging to the Hindu

Paraiyar community. I live at No. 14/1-1, Adi Dravidar Street, Karuppur, Omalur Taluk, Salem District. We have two sons, Joel, 16, and Jones, 12.

My husband Prabhakaran is 100 per cent differently abled. He was disabled due to polio attack at a young age. My husband cannot function without someone. So I have to work as a labourer to run my family. There was no case or criminal antecedent against me or my husband before.

On 08.02.2022 at around 2.30 pm, four non-uniformed men came to our house in a call taxi. One of them was a woman. My husband and I were the only ones at home at the time. I don't know the name of one of the three. But if you look at it, you will recognize it. He asked me who Prabhakaran was. Then I pointed to my husband who was nearby, saying that he was Prabhakaran. Then he said, He called me to investigate a jewellery theft case.

I said, "There was no case against my husband before. I don't know where you are the police. Whatever it is, let the local police come, we will come. Then the men who came took the cart and drove away. After a while they came back to our house and asked us to go to the local police station. Then I said we can't come anywhere without the local police coming. At that time, my neighbours This is what they said.

The police broke open the door of my house, picked up my husband from inside the house and threw him into the police vehicle. Then he looked at me and said, Will you get into the carriage? Isn't it? They threatened to beat you up and put you in a cab, so I got into the police car in fear. No one from the Karuppur police station came and enquired about us until the police took us away. Moreover, the policemen who took us away did not tell us for which case we were calling.

The distance from Karuppur is about 2.00 hours. We reached the Sendamangalam police station around 5.30 pm. Both of us were made to sit at Sendamangalam police station for about ten minutes. Then we took my husband to the bathroom and made him urinate. Then, around 6.00 p.m., he left the Sendamangalam police station at about 10 p.m. The police took us to a disused house in the police quarters, a minute's drive away. It was only after we left that they cleaned it up. My husband and I were put up in a separate room. Two policemen had been deployed to prevent us from going anywhere. They bought idlis for both of them at night. We fell asleep after eating.

I asked the police why they had called us. One of the policemen said, Prabhakara, we will leave you as we called you. So I thought they would interrogate us and let us go. The next morning at around 10.00 a.m., a six policemen arrived. An additional policewoman was also present. Some of those who came yesterday also came along. One of them was Prabhakara. Tell me the truth, he asked, where did you keep the 150 sovereigns of jewellery? I said, Sir, the girdle I am wearing is brass. I said we didn't have anything. At that moment, a policeman wearing tall jeans pants and a yellow shirt came with a plastic pipe in his hand. I don't know his name. But if I see it, I'll tell you the sign. That cop me 2 He was beaten. After the beating, hit the victim on the hands and soles of the feet. He said he didn't know he had been beaten. Then confess that you took the jewel; He threatened to kill her if she didn't. Then my neighbor said, Sir, don't beat my wife. I've been married for 16

years. I never hit him, he cried. Then the policeman kicked my husband on the chest with his boots. He screamed and fell on his back.

All the other policemen who were with me kept telling me to confess to the crime. When my housekeeper goes to mochan and goes to urinate, the policemen who are with me pick him up and leave him in the bathroom. Then I'll wash my neighbor. Then I pour water into the bathroom. Policemen see all this firsthand. At this stage, the police have not stopped torturing me and my family. The same policeman came back in the evening and beat him with a plastic pipe. My neighbor would trample on his feet with his boots. The nail on the left toe was broken and bleeding from the beating. I reported this injury to the judge and the collector during the hearing. After beating us, the police bought us three meals a day. But we were beaten and could not eat properly. Again on 10.01.2022 morning another policeman came and threatened me that I would tear your hair and put salt on it. You are a fool to look at my husband. He scolded and scolded me for a hundred. He then asked both of us to stole 125 sovereigns of jewellery and beat both of us with a plastic pipe. Don't hit me! Dont hit me, I screamed. My husband cried and cried uncontrollably. Similarly, in the evening, the policemen came and beat and tortured them. That night my neighbor got very tired.

The next day, 11.01.2022, at around 7.30 am, both of us were taken to Sendamangalam Government Hospital. My neighbor was in the car. Corona test was seen. I stood in line and watched. My family was tested in the car. After that, they took my family member to the doctor inside the hospital on a trolley. I'm a doctor. I would only act if I had someone to help my neighbor. Can. I said I had to take off my pants to go to the bathroom. The doctor didn't care.

Later, when the police called us to court, they threatened us that if we told the judge about our beating, Prabhakara would keep you inside for 10 years. So we didn't tell the judge anything about what happened to us. But I alone told the judge that my family could not act without the help of others. So send me to jail; I asked him to let my neighbor go, but the judge didn't care. Before my family and I went to jail, a policeman told us that we are going to get you both on bail. I don't know his name; If you see it, you will recognize it.

They were called from the court to the Sendamangalam police station. They got my signature there. Then they took my thali as well. Around 4.30 pm, my neighbour was taken to Namakkal jail. Then they called me and put me in Salem jail. They told me I got bail around 8.00 pm on Thursday . He hurriedly got my signature They left at 8:30.

When I came out of jail, my brother Kirubakaran and my younger sister's son were there. When I got into the car with them and came to Sundar Lodge, it was my brother who told me about my husband's death. I was shocked and didn't know what to do. About 9:30 p.m. I came straight to the Collectorate. Sir Thirumavalavan's party was there. That's when I got the news that my husband died on Wednesday. It was only because of the struggle of the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal party that I understood the matter of getting bail in a hurry.

Then we came to the room. My husband's brother lodged a complaint at the police station. I saw my husband's body on Saturday night. There was blood in the nose and a wound on the knee. I testified this to the trial judge. On Sunday morning, we received my husband's body at 10.30 am and buried him in our village.

## 1. Joel (16), S/o Testimony of Prabhakaran

My name is Joel (16). My father's name is Prabhakaran. My mother's name is Hamsala. My younger brother's name is Jones, 12. I am studying in 12th standard. We live in Karuppur. My father is 100 percent differently abled. We live on the earnings my mother goes to work every day.

On 08.01.2022 at around 2.00 pm, I came to know that my father and mother had been picked up by the police and it was only after I reached home around 5.30 pm that day . When I heard this, I was scared and cried. I didn't know what to do.

My cousin is a lawyer in Chitling, Dharmapuri district. I told him what had happened. He was the one who told me to file a complaint online immediately.

My brother immediately took me to a computer centre. It was from there that I sent my father to the Salem District Superintendent of Police. I also filed a complaint that the police had illegally taken away my mother. Then I came to know that my father and mother were in jail by the police.

On 12.01.2022, my uncle informed me about my father's death only after a policeman called my uncle Sakthivelu and told him.

On 11.01.2022 at around 8.30 pm, my mother was released from Salem jail.

After the news of my father's death, our relatives and members of the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi staged a protest in front of the Collector's office.

Government officials and policemen held talks. TV, All the papers carried reports that my father had been beaten to death by the police. Journalists interviewed me and my mother and I told them everything I knew. It was on Sunday, 17.01.2022, that my father's body was handed over from the hospital.

After that, my father was taken to our village and buried. Now my brother and I are without a father.

2. Sakthivel (50), S/o Statements of Allimuthu (brother of the deceased Prabhakaran)

My name is Sakthivel (50). S/o Allimuthu I am a resident of 14th Ward, Karuppur, Omalur Taluk, Salem District. I belong to the Hindu Adi Dravida Paraiyar community. I live by working as a labourer.

My younger brother Prabhakaran is a differently abled person. She has been doing hand-operated tailor work at home. My brother's wife, Hamsala, belongs to a tribal community. My younger brother has two sons, Joel and Jones.

On 08.01.2022 at around 2.30 pm, an upper caste police officer in Namakkal district, whose name came to be known, was arrested. Chandran, Sub Inspector of Police 2. Poongodi, Sub Inspector of Police 3. Constable and two identifiable persons barged into my brother's house and beat up my differently abled brother Prabhakaran in front of my eyes. They also abused Hamsala, his brother's wife. They beat my brother and pushed him to the ground, pulled my brother's wife by her hair and brutally tortured both of them.

Along with me, my neighbours were also pained to see the differently abled person being beaten and tortured. Since it was the police who beat and tortured, we were unable to stop the torture. One of the policemen saw us and said, If someone stops us, it will be different. We wont leave you alone, he shouted. After a while, two policemen from Karuppur police station arrived. The Namakkal police took him to the police station in the vehicle. When I and some of my relatives went to Karuppur police station and enquired, my brother Prabhakaran and his wife Hamsala were not in the police station.

When we enquired about it at Karuppur police station, they said we don't know.

Then we searched all the courts in Salem and Namakkal districts. My brother and his wife Hamsala were not available.

My brother's son Jones filed a complaint online on 10.01.2022 seeking to find my brother and brother's wife who were abducted on 08.01.2022 as the Namakkal district police illegally abducted my brother and brother's wife Hamsala were not produced in any court. In this case on 12.01.2022 at about 11.00 pm Around 10 a.m., a man called me and called me saying that he was a policeman. He told me that your brother Prabhakaran was battling for his life and was undergoing treatment at the Government Mohan Kumaramangalam Hospital in Salem.

I immediately came to Salem Government Hospital. My brother Prabhakaran was found dead there. On 11.01.2022, the Sendamangalam Police Station, Namakkal District produced my brother and his wife before the Namakkal Judicial Magistrate and sent my brother to Namakkal jail. His wife has also been lodged in Salem jail. I came to know that my brother Prabhakaran was admitted to Salem Government Kumaramangalam Hospital as his health deteriorated and my brother died in the hospital.

After coming out of Salem jail, my brother's wife Hamsala came to know about the incident where my brother was beaten and tortured by the police. My brother died because the police beat him up and tortured him without even caring about him being a differently abled person.

After that, our relatives and Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi continued to protest in front of the Salem Collectorate. Only then did the government look into our problem. Action was taken against the police who acted illegally. Then the



District Collector held conciliatory talks with us. He assured strict action against the culprits. We buried my brother's body that day on Sunday 17.01.2022 at about 11.00 am.

3. Mr. Jayachandran, Municipal Secretary, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi

My name is Jayachandran. I am the city secretary of the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi. On 08.01.2022, a differently-abled person Prabhakaran living in Karuppur, Omalur Taluk, Salem District, was illegally abducted, tortured and murdered by Sendamangalam Police Station, Namakkal District. The deceased Prabhakaran belonged to a Scheduled Caste. Ever since we heard the news of Prabhakaran's death on 12.01.2022, we have been on the ground and mobilizing people. Our party president also immediately brought it to the notice of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister. Due to our continuous agitation and the efforts taken by our leader, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu immediately intervened and took action by suspending the policemen involved in the crime. Also, He announced relief assistance to the victim's family.

There is a growing trend of some people in the police force acting illegally. It was a mistake to kidnap Prabhakaran illegally for questioning in a theft case. The aim of the Viduthalai Panthers is that no one should suffer like this in the future. The Honble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has said that we demand on our behalf that the police force should be made a law abiding police force.

4. Advocate Anand Babu, Namakkal District

My name is Anand Babu. I am practising as an advocate in Namakkal court. If I have to conduct a case in Salem court, I will hand over the case to Bhoopal, a lawyer from Salem. We have a relationship based on this industry.

It was on professional grounds that Durgadas, who works in the office of advocate Bhupal, contacted me on mobile phone and asked me to bail out a

client named Prabhakaran. I have not met Prabhakaran in person. I don't know what he looks like. Later, based on the news in newspapers and television, I came to know that Prabhakaran was a differently abled person.

The court proceedings were online due to the Corona period. Bail proceedings, in particular, were all online. I also bailed Prabhakaran online. I didn't notice what happened after that. I want to categorically state that no police has approached me to bail Prabhakaran.

5. Durgadas (Law Student, Andhra Pradesh)

My name is Durgadas. I have studied engineering. I am currently studying law at SDM College, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh. I am working under Advocate Bhoobalan. I often go to the Namakkal court in connection with the case. That's how on 11.01.2022 at about 11.00 a.m. I went to the Namakkal court around noon. At that time, Prabhakaran, a differently abled person, said outside the court that the police had filed a false case against me. Somebody save me, he was shouting. When I saw this, I came forward to help him because he is differently abled. I have already helped like this. I went up to Prabhakaran and asked him his name. After that he said nothing. I immediately contacted advocate Anand Babu over the phone and asked him to bail him. He and Bail He has put it. I don't know what happened after that. I didn't follow the bail as there was a continuous holiday. Later, he said he came to know about Prabhakaran's death through news reports on television and newspapers.

**Government officials who met in connection with the incident**

1. Mr. Sathish, Inspector of Police, Sendamangalam Police Station, Namakkal District (Spoke on mobile phone)

My name is Satish. I am working as a police inspector in Sendamangalam police station in Namakkal district. It is not known that Prabhakaran was

brought to Sendamangalam police station for interrogation before remand. On the day of the incident, a few CCTV cameras in our police station were being repaired. We don't have a record of what happened. Appropriate action has been taken in this case. "I can't comment further on the case as the CB-CID is investigating the case," he said.

## Findings

1. On 08.01.2022, the Sendamangalam police went to the house of the differently abled Prabhakaran in Karuppur in Salem district to bring him for questioning. The police have abused Prabhakaran, who is 100 percent differently abled in the house, for his physical deformities. They also threatened his wife Amsala by abusing her as a woman. The house and bureau of the differently-abled Prabhakaran were vandalised. Prabhakaran and his wife Amsala and Prabhakaran's brother Sakthivel S/o were forcibly abducted in a police vehicle. This is known from the testimony of Allimuththu.
2. Amsala K/P. Prabhakaran and Karuppur Sub-Inspector of Police Thiru. Ravi's statement shows that on 08.01.2022, the police station did not make any effort to prevent the illegal abduction of a differently abled person Prabhakaran who lives about half a km away from Karuppur police station. Ravi.
3. Senthamangalam Police Station, Namakkal District It has been revealed that Prabhakaran and his wife Amsalah of Karuppur in Salem District were abducted on 08.01.2022 in the name of investigation and brought to Sendamangalam Police Station at about 5.30 am without taking any proper legal action. Prabhakaran and witness statements Basically, we know.
4. The Sendamangalam police of Namakkal district, who had kidnapped Prabhakaran and his wife Amsala of Karuppur in Salem district in the name of investigation, on 08.01.2022 from about 6.30 pm to 11.01.2022 They were illegally confined in a separate room in the police quarters till early morning and subjected to various tortures. Especially with flask pipes. Boots were trampled on Prabhakaran's thigh. The testimony of Amsala K/o Prabhakaran shows that they insulted her disability and threatened to kill her.
5. Amsala K/P, who was subjected to torture, revealed that many people including Sendamangalam Police Inspector Thiru Sathish were involved in the abduction, illegal confinement and torture of Prabhakaran and his wife Ambala. But now 1. Poongodi, Sub Inspector of Police, 2.Chandran, Sub-Inspector of Police, 3. A case has been registered against Kulandai Velu and

- the head constable. This shows that no action has been taken against all the perpetrators.
6. When the Sendamangalam police took Prabhakaran to the Namakkal Medical College Hospital for a medical examination, the doctors who examined him issued a medical fitness certificate without conducting a proper test. While the differently-abled person was taken to the Namakkal Magistrate Court, Amsala has been remanded to judicial custody without investigating the torture meted out to him. Prabhakaran's confession It is known through the means.
  7. It is evident from the statement of Amsala K/P. Prabhakaran and the performance of the Magistrate and the Prison Officers of Namakkal that no action was taken to assist the differently abled Prabhakaran in his day-to-day functioning despite his wife requesting the Magistrate and the Namakkal Prison Officer.
  8. The Sendamangalam police station in Namakkal district have kidnapped Prabhakaran and his wife Amsala for investigation in a theft case, illegally confined, tortured them and filed a false case and jailed them. The police have also assured Amsala, the wife of the differently-abled Prabhakaran, to bail him out. On the basis of this, the differently abled Prabhakaran has no connection with the ignorant Amsala K/o shows that the bailout was arranged through an unseen lawyer. Prabhakaran, advocate Anand Babu and law student Durgadas have been identified through the statements.
  9. On 11.01.2022 at about 07.30 am, Prabhakaran received the fitness certificate at the Government Medical College Hospital and was remanded in judicial custody at the Namakkal sub-jail at about 4.30 pm that evening. The next day, 12.01.2022, he was admitted to Salem Medical College Hospital for higher treatment and died.
  10. In this case, Amsala K/P, who saw the body of the differently abled Prabhakaran before the autopsy, said, "My husband had bleeding in his nose. He confirms through his statement that there were injuries on his knee and back. This gives the field inspection team the suspicion that Prabhakaran, a differently abled person, may have been assaulted by the guards in Namakkal sub-jail.
  11. Prabhakaran, who was admitted to Salem Government Medical College Hospital for advanced treatment, died on 12.01.2022. While the differently abled person was in judicial custody, the police did not properly inform the family of the differently abled Prabhakaran after his death in the hospital. Amsala K/P. Amsala K/o said that Prabhakaran and his children were not

informed. Prabhakaran and Joel S/o This is known from the statements of Prabhakaran.