



07.04.2023

Impunity rules high in Tamil Nadu to protect notorious IPS officer for his acts of gruesome torture

People's Watch expresses its deep anguish and disappointment to witness the circuitous route being undertaken by the Government of Tamil Nadu in the Ambasamudram Balveer Singh torture cases only to avoid registration of an FIR against an IPS officer and others even after a prima facie case made out in first report.

Today's press release from the Tamil Nadu Government announces the appointment of Ms. P. Amutha, a senior, most respected IAS officer to enquire into the torture cases at Ambasamudram and V.K Puram Police Stations that took place on 10th March 2023 and submit a report within one month.

When the PSO 151 enquiry appointing the Sub Collector Cheranmahadevi was made on 26.03.2023 by the District Collector, Tirunelveli the torture in Ambasamudram and V.K Puram police stations were already in public knowledge. Why did the Collector not include Cr.No. 49 of 2023 of Ambasamudram Police Station and Cr.No. 65 of 23 of V.K Puram Police Station, both dated 10.3.2023 in the same Magisterial enquiry.

It is a shame to note that after the Sub Collector's first report dated 03.04.2023 was submitted and the recommendations of the Collector dated 04.04.2023 have been received, the Government has now appointed Ms. P.Amutha IAS to enquire into these horrid incidents of brutal torture. It is clear that it is not the elected Chief Minister who is deciding matters in relation to the Ambasamudram sub-division violations but a powerful IPS lobby which has the audacity to even issue a public statement through the TNIPSA addressed "Dear All" condemning media trial of a named IPS officer.

People's Watch demands that the this process of disrespect to victims of gross violations by asking them to depose before different authorities is immediately given up and stopped. An elected Government that has a conscience has to stop this process of the wanting victims who have lost their teeth, not one, not four but in some cases even 8 without extending any free quality dental care to them or rehabilitation or counselling and

interim compensation to once again subjected them to further inhuman treatment and torture and forcing them to face, yet another enquiry process, this time by an IAS officer that will not result in any criminal investigation.

What is required urgently is an FIR against one named accused, namely Balveer Singh IPS and others and the constitution of a Special Investigation team to be entrusted with the investigation.

This indicates that this Government believes in impunity which is at its height in the State and that this is the turning of Tamil Nadu into a “police State” through the consistent resistance and refusal to register an FIR even after a prima facie case has been clearly made out by the Executive Magistrate and subjecting victims to depose once again. This, People’s Watch sees as a last minute eye wash prior to the police demand that is to take place in the budget session of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

People’s Watch calls upon the conscience of the Hon’ble Judges of the Madras High Court to step in, as it did in June 2020 [Sattangulam] by suo motto taking the case of Ambasamudram and demonstrating that the judiciary will not be party to watch such a drama unfold under its own nose. Protocol judges of the High Court for Tirunelveli District, the State and District Legal Services Authority should all put their acts together and seek pro bono legal assistance, from whatever sources and ensure that this conspiracy of silence of the state authorities is put an end to and an FIR is registered and proper investigation undertaken by a special investigation team monitored by the High Court.



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