

Custodial torture case: More heads roll in police dept

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TIRUNELVELI, APRIL 5:

Following the transfer of Tirunelveli district police superintendent, P .Saravanan to the office of Director general of Police and kept on compulsory wait in connection with the alleged custodial torture case in the district, six more police personnel including three inspectors of police and a special branch sub-inspector have been kept in the vacancy reserve.

As the allegation about the human rights violations meted out to some 10 persons in custody by former Ambasamudram ASP, Balveer Singh came to light on March 23, the Tirunelveli district collector ordered an inquiry as per police standing order into the issue by Cheranmahadevi sub-collector Mohammed

Shabbir Alam. Since then more and more victims came forward to record their statement against the IPS officer, Balveer Singh, who has been suspended from service. It has been claimed that more than 48 underwent custodial torture in the hands of the former ASP.

The victims, who started coming out in the open, also complained that other officers are alleged to have been hand in glove in the inhuman act with Balveer Singh. Three inspectors, S. Chandra Mohan of Ambasamudram police station, B.Rajakumari of Kallidaikurichi police station and A Perumal of Vikramasingapuram police station, who were alleged to have played a part in the custodial torture were ordered to be kept in vacancy reserve. Further the sub-

inspector of Special branch - C I D , Ambasamudram sub-division, N.Sakthi Natarajan along with a SB-CID constable, M.Santhakumar and an additional SB-CID constable, V.Manikandam too has been kept on compulsory wait for their failure to alert their superior officers about the custodial torture committed by Balveer Singh.

The action taken against the eight officers including Balveer Singh and former Tirunelveli district police superintendent, P.Saravanan, "however is not enough" felt human rights activist, Henry Tiphagne, who added that as the officers put on compulsory wait were engaged directly in acts of torture against persons including minors and further threatened victims and witnesses not to depose.