

Custodial torture: Six more police personnel placed in vacancy reserve

TNN | Apr 6, 2023, 06.52 AM IST



MADURAI: Six more police personnel were placed in vacancy reserve on Wednesday in connection with the alleged custodial torture involving suspended Ambasamudram ASP Balveer Singh. With this, the number of police personnel against whom disciplinary action was taken in this connection

has risen to 10.

Meanwhile, two of the torture victims who are from scheduled caste community, narrated their woes to reporters and said they plan to file a police complaint seeking action against Balveer Singh under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The six police personnel to be placed in vacancy reserve on Wednesday were S Chandramohan, inspector, N Sakthi Natrajan, SI, special branch, M Santhanakumar and V Manikandan, special branch staff, all from Ambasamudram station, and B Rajakumari, inspector, Kallidaikurichi circle, and A Perumal, inspector, Vikramasingapuram circle. ASP Balveer Singh has been accused of plucking the teeth and squeezing the testicles of several people in custody.

Two victims of custodial torture from an SC community, a 17-year-old and his brother, told reporters in Madurai that the ASP used gravel stones to torture them, and thrashed them with lathis. The two and their two friends were booked in an attempt to murder case along with the opposite party, a group of six who are also custodial torture victims. "Balveer Singh used a lathi to hit me repeatedly all over my body while saying something in Hindi. He then put gravel stones in my mouth and ground it, which left my mouth and lips bleeding. My friend's little finger was also broken," said the 17-year-old boy. He said he also saw his brother and seven others standing dressed in bloody underwear.

K Arunkumar, 22, accused Balveer Singh of thrashing him even while he was recovering from a head injury. He alleged that five of his teeth were removed by the ASP using gravel stones. He was unable to eat properly for days. K Rajeshwari, the victims' mother, claimed that she was forced to pay Rs 2,500 to the police via GPay for travel and food expenses. Henri Tiphagne, executive director, People's Watch, said the treatment meted out to the minors is in violation of the principles of Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/madurai/custodial-torture-six-more-police-personnel-placed-in-vacancy-reserve/articleshowprint/99281294.cms>