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'Why no FIR against Tamilisai in Sofia case'

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MADURAI: The fact that an FIR was not filed against BJP state president Tamilisai Soundarajan under the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act for her actions at the Tuticorin airport on September 3 will be reason enough for them to move the court for the same, said advocate and executive director of People's Watch, Henry Tiphagne.

Speaking to reporters in Tuticorin on Thursday, he said he had come to speak on behalf of Sofia's family and as their family advocate. He denied media reports that Sofia had raised slogans inside the aircraft by raising her hand. "If she had acted so and raised slogans to disturb others in the aircraft, it would have been the airhostess or steward who would have taken up the issue with the pilot who would have in turn informed the airport authorities. This was not done, and she had only made her statements when she passed seat number 3 in which Tamilisai was seated," he said.

Sofia was taken to the Pudukottai police station at 1.30 p.m on September 3 without an arrest memo or summons and asked to sign on the receipt in which cases had been filed against her under two bailable sections, 290 of IPC and 75 of the Tamil Nadu police act. But, the non-bailable section 505 was interpolated into the printed FIR with a pen, in violation, Tiphagne further said. He added that disciplinary action would be recommended against the magistrate and the inspector of police, who had not adhered to the norms at the time of remand.

The magistrate's direction that Sofia withdraw the complaint against Tamilisai was also unacceptable. He said that in view of all the violations, the government should come forward to withdraw the case against Sofia in which case they would also consider the same.

