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NGO seeks white paper on police excesses

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MADURAI: The state government should produce a white paper on the number of reports on police excesses received from judicial magistrates by the public secretary from January 1, 2010 to May 30, 2020, and specify what action was taken on them, the NGO Peoples Watch has said. The demand comes in the wake of the deaths of traders P Jeyaraj and his son J Beniks following alleged custodial torture at the Sathankulam police station in Tuticorin.

Executive director of the outfit, Henry Tiphagne, said there seems to be no action on excesses committed by erring policemen on those in custody over 10 years. This has only created a conducive atmosphere for such incidents to recur. Former SP Arun Balagopal has only been kept on wait as a reward for knowing everything that was illegally taking place in the police station earlier too. Disciplinary actions should be initiated against him, he said.

If the reason for choosing Kovilpatti sub-jail for Jeyaraj and Beniks was coronavirus, why were the arrested police personnel kept at the Peravurani district jail, he asked. Sathankulam DSP Prathaban has to be arrested immediately and duly investigated. He has also demanded a third party review of all criminal cases registered as FIRs in the police station since March 1.