



12.10.2016

Dear all,

Greetings, we kindly request you to release/publish the news given below in your daily/weekly/monthly publications and television channels.

**Srikanth Balaji, from Chennai is battling for his life at the Royapettah Hospital
resulting from police and prison torture**

People's Watch strongly condemns the torture of Srikanth Balaji by Manali police and Puzhal prison officials and calls for urgent medical treatment to save his life at the Government Multi Speciality hospital in Chennai.

On 03.10.2016, at around 7:00am the Manali Police officers came to Srikanth Balaji's house and took him to the police station, stating that he was required for an inquiry. Then at around 8:30pm the same day, Sub Inspector Gurumurthy of the said police station came to the house in an autorickshaw and said that during the inquiry, Srikanth Balaji tore his shirt and asked the family for a fresh shirt. The family was also asked to pay 2000 rupees as expenses. Srikanth Balaji was seen sitting in the autorickshaw.

Srikanth Balaji was then remanded to the Puzhal Central Prison and the family obtained bail on 05.10.2016. On 06.10.2016, the next day they went to the jail but Srikanth Balaji was not released. However, a prison officer told the family that Srikanth Balaji was not well and was taken to the Royapettah Government Hospital in Chennai. On rushing to the hospital, the family saw that Srikanth Balaji on a ventilator. There was no movements in his body. The doctors informed the family that he only had a 10 percent chance of surviving.

People's Watch condemns this as a case of police and prison torture and a gross violation of human rights. The incidents listed below serve as evidence to the fact that Tamil Nadu suffers from serious human rights violations.

1. Last month, the custodial death of Meen Kozhambu Karthik in the Kannagi Nagar PS, Chennai.
2. Last month Ramkumar, arrested for the Swathi case, lodged in Puzhal Central prison allegedly committed suicide.
3. Last month the fatal attack on Perivalan while in Vellore Central prison.
4. Three months ago, Social Activist Piyush Manush was attacked in the Salem prison.

Now Srikanth Balaji is battling for his life at the Royapettah Government Hospital after being attacked by the law enforcement officials.

Who took Srikanth Balaji in such a state to the Royapettah Government Hospital?

Was he injured before he was admitted in the Puzhal Central prison?

The Police and Prison department have a duty to reveal this information regarding his health status to the family members and the court that remanded him to judicial custody.

These incidents listed above shed light on the poor state of Tamil Nadu's prisons, where human rights violations are galore. People's Watch strongly condemns and demands immediate medical attention of special quality to be provided to Srikanth Balaji at state cost and an immediate explanation on the incident by the ADGP Prisons Mr, Vijayakumar IPS.

With regards,



(Henri Tiphagne)