



## People's Watch

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A Network Towards Human Rights Monitoring, Intervention, Campaign, Research and Documentation  
(A Programme Unit of the Centre for Promotion of Social Concerns)

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### **People's Watch Demands The Transfer Of The Dharmapuri District Collector For His Discriminatory Action Against A 15-Year-Old Child In The District**

#### **PRESS RELEASE**

People's Watch is a non-profit organisation that works to promote human rights in India. People's Watch has been researching and documenting human rights violations for more than last two decades, as well as providing legal representation to those affected. People's Watch is an active campaigner of child rights across the country.

The 15-year-old daughter of the Dharmapuri Chief Educational Officer (CEO), Sangamapriya, is a student of the Elakkyampatty Government Girls High School. She is, at present, in the tenth grade. A nerve defect at birth had reduced the functionality of her right hand to barely 40%. She is also unable to raise her hand more than 90 degrees. Sangamapriya even has a certificate that points out that she is 40% differently-abled. Due to this Sangamapriya, along with her mother, Maheswari, sought an extension of an hour based on an examination by the Dharmapuri Medical College Hospital's Assistant Professor Dr. A. Anand Kumar in December 2016, who certified that Sangamapriya has a condition described as Congenital Manoparesis upper limb. The medical certificate issued by him stated that "she needs extra time to write her 10th public examination."

It has also come to our notice, through several news reports that Sangamapriya along with 46 other students was granted disability relief of an extra hour.

We, at People's Watch finds that there have been several human rights violations in this case. We have listed them below along with our demands.

- People's Watch condemns the Dharmapuri District Collector's discriminatory actions against the 15-year-old student, Sangamapriya.

- Sangamapriya has alleged that an officer from the revenue department had entered the examination hall and asked her if she is CEO Maheswari's daughter. She further alleges that the officer then prevented her from writing her examination and clicked 4 or 5 pictures of her. People's Watch urges that this official should be properly identified and brought to book for the mental harassment of the 15-year-old student.
- It has been brought to our knowledge that Sangamapriya was served a notice signed by the Dean of the Dharmapuri Medical College Hospital Swaminathan, asking her to appear before a Medical Board on the 24th of March to re-examine her partial functional disability of the right hand. People's Watch condemns the issuing of a notice to the minor and calls for punitive action against the Dean of the Dharmapuri Medical College Hospital.
- We also urge the Chief Secretary of Tami Nadu to take immediate action under Section 3 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, against the Dharmapuri District Collector K. Vivekanandhan. People's Watch strongly condemns the actions of the District Collector.
- People's Watch alleges that the Dharmapuri Chief Educational Officer's daughter was targeted based on a feud between the District Collector and the CEO over some unreasonable and presumably illegal financial orders, that were refused to be carried out by the latter.
- People's Watch appreciates the progressive move of the Dharmapuri CEO, Maheswari, to have both her daughters educated in government schools.
- We urge the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) to take cognisance of this 15-year-old student's complaint immediately.
- People's Watch insists that the District Collector render a formal apology to Sangamapriya for causing severe mental stress and humiliation.

With regards,



(Henri Tiphagne)  
Executive Director  
People's Watch