

Efforts to trace missing Mugilan are on: CBCID

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The CBCID police has informed the Madras high court that it has been putting maximum efforts to trace the whereabouts of Mugilan alias Shanmugam, an anti-Sterlite activist, whose whereabouts were not known from February 16, 2019.

Additional public prosecutor Iyyapparaj made this submission when the HCP filed by advocate Henri Tiphagne came up for hearing before a division bench comprising **J u s t i c e s** M.Sathyanarayanan and M.Nirmal Kumar.

When the case came up for hearing on Monday,

advocate Sudha Ramalingam submitted that the police is not conducting the investigation properly. They were not probing the whereabouts of Mugilan. Instead, when the police enquired Aasirwatham, state co-ordinate of People Watch, they asked him who is Henry Tiphagne and who is advocate Sudha Ramalingam, why she is appearing free of cost. Unnecessary questions were put to the witnesses, she added.

Additional public prosecutor Iyyapparaj submitted that based on the proceedings of the DGP dated February 25, the CBCID has taken over the investigation from the next day onwards and it has so far



examined 148 witnesses. Apart from examination of witnesses, they were also distributing pamphlets to find out the

whereabouts of Mugilan. They have been putting maximum efforts to trace Mugilan. Therefore, two more weeks may be granted to the police to continue the probe, he added.

Recording the submissions, the bench posted to March 18, further hearing of the case.

According to petitioner, Mugilan as Coordinator of Tamil Nadu Environment Protection Movement and having conducted field research studies on his own and on the basis of the documents and evidence, addressed a press meet in Chennai on February 15, 2019 regarding the killing of 16 persons in police firing at Thoothukudi during the anti-Sterlite protest on

May 22, 2018. During the press meet, he released a report and video titled "Sterlite Hidden Truth" regarding the violence that was unleashed prior to the police firing on May 22. He also stated that the violence and police firing was allegedly orchestrated by the police in connivance with the management of sterlite industries. Later, after the meeting he spoke to his friend Sridhar and informed him that he was in Nagercoil Special Train and reach Madurai by 10.30 a.m. on the next day. His mobile phone was active till 1.45 a.m. on February 16, 2019 and thereafter has lost connectivity. His whereabouts were not known thereafter, he added.