

JAACT slams extra-judicial killing of history-sheeter

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT. 23

The Joint Action Against Custodial Torture (JAACT) has strongly condemned the extra-judicial killing of history-sheeter 'Seizing' Raja by the Greater Chennai Police. Raja was shot dead in Neelankarai early on Monday, raising serious concerns about the state's continued reliance on extra-judicial measures to enforce law and order, it said.

According to police reports, Raja was apprehended in Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, and brought to Chennai for investigation. Officers claim that Raja fired a hidden country-made gun while being taken to recover weapons, leading to his fatal shooting. However, JAACT noted that this account mirrors the recent killing of another history-sheeter,

JAACT urged the Madras high court and the State Human Rights Commission to launch independent investigations

Thiruvengadam, in July, raising suspicions about the credibility of the police narrative.

JAACT said this is the third such killing under the leadership of Arun, Commissioner of Greater Chennai Police, since he assumed office in July. His statement that the police would "speak in a language that rowdies will understand" has drawn criticism for promoting a culture of impunity. JAACT expressed concern that such statements undermine the rule of law and promote unlawful police actions.

JAACT emphasised that

extra-judicial killings do not serve justice but instead erode public trust in law enforcement. The organization highlighted that this is the 16th extra-judicial killing in Tamil Nadu since the DMK government came to power in 2021.

JAACT urged the Madras high court and the State Human Rights Commission to launch independent investigations into this and other recent incidents, calling for the immediate suspension of the police officers involved, including Arun and Davidson Devasirvatham, additional director general of police (law and order).

JAACT reiterated that the use of extra-judicial killings is a violation of constitutional morality and urged the state to restore faith in the legal system by prosecuting offenders through lawful means.