



25.11.2023

Press release

People's Watch appeal to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Madras High Court and Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Human Rights Commission to take suo-moto action in the case of POCSO victim hand cuffed by women police

People's Watch, a human rights organization functioning across the country with Madurai as its headquarters and, in the past, with offices in different parts of the country. It has been actively engaged in the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Tamil Nadu since December 1995 and just recently completed 28 years of its history. It has sought to hold the State accountable to its citizens for the abuses of their rights and has worked to advance a human rights culture disposed to safeguard both the welfare and the freedom of all peoples. It has actively been involved in the past in the field of human rights monitoring, legal intervention and assistance, documentation and publication, training campaigns and networking and human rights research and education.

Peoples watch has been monitoring women and Child rights-related violations in many parts of India, especially in the state of Tamil Nadu, through news and media. On November 21, 2023, A news article has been circulating in the News all over the state. It states that on November 7, 2023, a woman constable took the 15-year-old POSCO victim has been taken to the court to record a statement in the case. The Victim was accompanied by a Women police constable from Annai Sathya Home to the magistrate court in Kotagiri to record a statement under section 164. The women police constable took the victim in a bus to Kotagiri from Ooty. Once they deboarded the bus at Kotagiri bus stand, the Women police constable handcuffed the victim and, walked nearly 400 meters and reached the court. The Handcuffs were removed only at the entrance of the court, and after recording the statement, the women police constable handcuffed the victim again near the court premises and made her walk to the bus stand on the public road, which caused mental agony to the victim.

On November 15, 2023, the mother of the victim lodged a complaint to the superintendent of police in Ooty, which was written by the victim regarding the handcuffing. In the name of inquiry into the complaint, a higher police official visited

the victim at Annai Sathya Home at Ooty and threatened the victim, saying that, “*She will be detained in the home till she turns 18 years old.*” then he obtained the sign of the victim on a paper, without allowing the victim to read it.

Later, the police used the letter, purportedly written by the child, stating that she gave a false statement about handcuffing, and the victim asked her mother to withdraw the complaint lodged with the Superintendent of Police of Nilgiris.

People’s Watch sent representation to seeking suo-moto action to Chief Justice of Madras High Court and urged Tamil Nadu State Human Rights Commission to take suo-moto cognizance under section 12 (a) of the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019

With regards,



(Henri Tiphagne)
Executive Director

Enclosure:

1. Representation to Chief Justice of Madras High Court to take suo moto action
25.11.2023
2. SHRC Suo-Moto appeal - Ooty - POCSO victim hand cuffed Nov 2023