

Trichy court to decide on YouTuber's custody today

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Chennai: The state women's commission has so far received 17 complaints against arrested YouTuber Savukku Shankar including 16 from policewomen. "I have been getting complaints from Chennai, Coimbatore, Trichy and other districts. All have been forwarded to DGP Shankar Jiwai," said A S Kumari, Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women chairperson.

In the complaints, the policewomen explained their nature of work with male colleagues and said their family members and husbands got dejected after the interview. "I have recommended stringent action against Shankar," Kumari told TOI.

DGP Shankar Jiwai said the complaints would be sent to the jurisdictional officers for action. These are in addition to the eight criminal cases already registered against Shankar, and his preventive detention under the Goondas Act.

Shankar was arrested on May 8 for making derogatory statements about TN policewomen during an interview on a YouTube channel whose promoter Felix Gerald has also been arrested. Police registered a fresh case against the two on Wednesday.

Shankar was remanded in judicial custody by a Trichy court till May 28. When police sought Shankar's custody for seven days, the magistrate adjourned the hearing to Thursday and ordered police to lodge Shankar in the Lalgudi sub-jail for a day.

On his part, Shankar accused policewomen escorting him of twisting his broken hand and assaulting him during transit. The policewomen denied the charges.

The magistrate ordered Shankar taken to Trichy govt hospital to check if his hand was twisted. She also noted names of the six policewomen accused of assaulting Shankar.

Meanwhile, Joint Action Against Custodial Torture condemned the alleged custodial torture of Savukku Shankar and said the arrest of Felix Gerald was illegal.

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