



12.10.2016

Dear all,

Greetings, we kindly request you to release/publish the news given below in your daily/weekly/monthly publications and television channels.

**Srikanth Balaji, from Chennai is battling for his life at the Royapettah Hospital resulting from police and prison torture**

People's Watch strongly condemns the torture of Srikanth Balaji by Manali police and Puzhal prison officials and calls for urgent quality treatment to save his life in the Government Multi Speciality hospital in Chennai

On 03.10.2016, at around 7:00 AM the Manali Police officers came to Srikanth Balaji's house and took him to the police station, stating that he was required for an inquiry. Then at around 8:30 PM the same day, Sub Inspector Gurusurthy of the said PS came to the house in an autorickshaw and said that during the inquiry, the shirt of Srikanth Balaji had torn and hence that he required a fresh shirt. The family provide him with a shirt and were also asked for Rs. 2,000/- money by the SI as expenses. Srikanth Balaji was seen sitting in the autorickshaw.

Srikanth Balaji was then remanded to the Puzhal Central Prison and the family obtained bail for him on 05.10.2016. On 06.10.2016, the next day they went to the jail but Srikanth Balaji was not released. However a prison officer told the family that Srikanth Balaji was not well and was taken to the Chennai, Royapettah Government Hospital. On rushing to the hospital the family saw that Srikanth Balaji was on a ventilator. There were no movements in his body. The doctors informed the family that he only had 10% chance of surviving.

**People's Watch condemns** this as a case of Police and Prison torture and a violation of gross human rights. The incidents listed below serve as evidence to the fact that in

Tamilnadu in general and Chennai, its capital city suffers from serious human rights violations.

1. Last month, the custodial death of Meen Kozhambu Karthik in the Kannagi Nagar PS, Chennai.
2. Last month Ramkumar, arrested for the Swathi case, lodged in Puzhal Central prison allegedly committed suicide.
3. Last month the fatal attack on Perivalan while in Vellore Central prison.
4. Three months ago, Social Activist Piyush Manush was attacked in the Salem prison.

Now Srikanth Balaji is battling for his life at the Royapettah Government Hospital after being attacked by the law enforcement officials.

Who took Srikanth Balaji in such a state to the Royapettah Government Hospital?

Was he injured before he was admitted in the Puzhal Central prison?

The Police and Prison department have a duty to reveal this information regarding his health status to the family members and the court that remanded him to judicial custody.

These incidents listed above serve as evidence to the fact that in Tamil Nadu's prisons, violations are galore which People's Watch strongly condemns and demands immediate medical attention of special quality to be provided to Srikanth Balaji at state cost and an immediate explanation on the incident by the ADGP Prisons Mr, Vijayakumar IPS.

With regards,



(Henri Tiphagne)