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Produce people who convinced man to withdraw case: HC

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Madurai: The Madras high court has directed the Madurai city commissioner of police to secure and produce four people who were allegedly responsible for withdrawal of a case filed by a man in connection with the custodial death of his son at Avaniyapuram police station in Madurai district.

A division bench of justices T S Sivagnanam and S Ananthi directed the commissioner to secure and produce Athi Narayanan, Ramesh, Loganathan and Kathir before the court since they were alleged to have convinced the man to withdraw the petition.

P Muthukaruppan had filed a writ petition before the HC Madurai bench in 2019, seeking to register an FIR and to transfer the investigation of the case where his son M Balamurugan, 22, died in judicial custody, to the CBI . Subsequently, Muthukaruppan withdrew his petition.

After withdrawal of the petition, an advocate Henri Tiphagne in a letter to the court in 2019, indicated that police officers are coercing the parents of the deceased not to depose against them. He also alleged that the petition was withdrawn by the father because of threats from local police. He also submitted several audio recordings in a sealed cover to the court.

Since Muthukaruppan withdrew the petition, the court had initiated suo motu proceedings in this case.

It maybe recalled that Balamurugan was arrested by the police as he was one of the accused in the abduction of R Parthiban, a resident of Villapuram Housing Board for a ransom of Rs 20 lakh. Balamurugan who sustained injuries in police custody succumbed at the Government Rajaji Hospital.