

Repost-mortem of Pudukkottai fisherman's body conducted

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The body of R. Rajkiran, a Pudukkottai fisherman, who was killed at mid-sea after an alleged skirmish with Sri Lankan naval patrolling ship personnel, was exhumed and a repost-mortem was conducted at Kottaipattinam on Thursday, as per the directions of the Madurai bench of the Madras high court.

Rajkiran (30) and two other fishermen, S. Suganthan (30), and A. Xavier (32) of Kottaipattinam in Pudukkottai district, were recently attacked by a Lankan naval ship on charge of crossing the international waters. While Rajkiran died when their boat sank in the sea, the Lankan naval force captured two other Indian fishermen and freed them later.

The body of Rajkiran was brought to Kottaipattinam on October 23 and buried there.

Meanwhile, Rajkiran's wife Brundha filed a memorandum with Pudukkottai collector Kavitha Ramu on November 3, alleging foul play behind his death and that he might be murdered by the Lankan navy personnel. She demanded exhuming of Rajkiran's body and a repost-mortem.

She also approached the Madurai bench of the Madras high court with the same prayer and the court on November 16 ordered a repost-mortem. Based on the high court's direction, the body was exhumed and a group of doctors conducted a repost-mortem on the spot on Thursday. The body was sent to the government medical college hospital, Pudukkottai, for further analysis. The repost-mortem report will be submitted to the Madurai bench on November 24, official sources told *DC*.