



Govt protecting big fish, punishing small fry in torture/death cases: JAACT-TN

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HENRI Tiphagne, Executive Director of People's Watch, on Saturday accused the state government of protecting top police officials in all torture/death cases, including the Ambasamudram custodial torture and the Thoothukudi police shooting.

Addressing the media here on behalf of the Joint Action Against Custodial Torture – Tamil Nadu (JAACT-TN), Tiphagne said it was, however,

possible to take action in the Ajithkumar 'custodial' death case because the police personnel concerned were lower-ranking constables.

In the Ambasamudram custodial torture case, IPS officer Balveer Singh and 13 other cops were booked in four different cases. The initially-suspended Singh was posted as Assistant Commandant for 8th Battalion in New Delhi, reportedly to safeguard him and make people forget about the case, he added.



Talking about the Mayiladuthurai DSP M Sundaresh case, he said that Sundaresh was an SHRC inquiry officer who dealt with the custodial torture of two accused in a case of murder at the hands of an IPS officer, but he was suspended in a single day. In contrast, the government has not been able to take any departmental action against a collector, three tahsildars, and 17 police officers in connection with the Sterlite shootout in 2018, he alleged.