

NGO report seeks govt to ensure proper justice to Tuticorin victims

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Madurai: People's Watch, a human rights NGO has released a report titled, "A year after Thoothukudi Burned' on Monday, which has recommended to the government various aspects relating to investigation, compensation to victims and legal help. The report comes ahead of the first anniversary of the police firing at anti-Sterlite protestors, in which 13 people were killed.

Stating that it is unfortunate that despite one year no one has been held accountable for what happened in Tuticorin on May 22 last year, the report said that the parameters of justice have been reduced to compensation and jobs. Even in providing jobs to the kin of the victims' no due diligence was adhered to, and all of them were appointed as Thalayari (village assistant) despite their skills and qualifications.

"The government is therefore urgently required to ensure that families of the deceased and grievously injured who have not been provided with employment should be immediately provided the same and those who have been provided jobs as Thalayaris need to be urgently reviewed and provided with adequate and suitable employment," the report recommended and also sought for issuing further compensation to the grievously injured.

The report also pointed out that children and youth from families of the deceased and grievously injured, discontinue their education and are forced by circumstances to contribute economically to the family. "Had the district child protection unit (DCPU) or the child welfare committee intervened and provided assistance such situation could have been avoided," the report stated and recommended government intervention in the matter.

The NGO also urged the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to urgently reopen the case, which it prematurely closed. The report further sought for the Justice Aruna Jagadeesan commission to complete its inquiry and come out with its report in the next four months.

The CBI, which took over investigation from the state police should take all steps to ensure that the investigation is completed and the chargesheet is filed within next three months, the report recommended.