

Illegal detentions, torture continue, says NGO

Relatives of those in custody running from pillar to post to rescue them'

Illegal detention and torture of people, including many students who took part in the anti-Sterlite protests, and even the general public, were continuing in Thoothukudi, alleged the Madurai-based non-governmental organisation People's Watch, which is involved in coordinating a people's inquest on the recent police firing during protests against Sterlite.

In an interview with *The Hindu* on Saturday, its executive director Henri Tiphagne said illegal detentions came to light with the rescue of more than 90 people, including many juveniles, from the Vallanadu Shooting Range following a search by the Judicial Magistrate of Vilathikulam on Wednesday night.

He pointed out that while around 30 were immediately let off by the police after the search, the remaining 60 were presented before the court for remand in judicial custody. "Many subsequently obtained bail with the help of advocates," he said.

He alleged that even on Friday night, three students were found to be illegally detained at Thoothukudi South police station.

Pat for courts

Pointing out that the subordinate courts in Thoothukudi district, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) and the advocates of Thoothukudi Bar Association were doing a commendable job in assisting the victims and ensuring due processes were followed, he said the administration must announce a toll free number for the DLSA.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/illegal-detentions-torture-continue-says-ngo/article24003238.ece/amp>