

TAMIL NADU

'District officials, police responsible for deaths'

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Children ruthlessly attacked: People's Inquest

A People's Inquest (PI) team that completed a two-day inquest into the police firing against protesters opposing the Sterlite plant has held the district administration and the police responsible for the death of 13 persons.

The PI team comprised two retired judges of two High Courts, two retired IAS officers and three retired IPS officers in addition to senior advocates, journalists and social workers.

The team recommended a ban on Sterlite with immediate effect, dismantling of the plant at Thoothukudi, clearing of the plant area and creating a memorial in honour of those who were "killed" by the police, according to a release.

The team also wanted the government to establish who ordered the shooting and make them accountable as per law. It also wanted action taken against those who were carrying out unlawful searches and assaulting and harassing the public.

During the inquest, the PI team found several gaps in the implementation of the prohibitory orders.

"Testimonies were also received which revealed that children who were part of the rally were ruthlessly attacked by the police and several children were illegally detained. Further, these brutalities towards children continued in the aftermath of the firing and during the searches conducted by the police. The PI team noted that in spite of such serious reported crimes and atrocities against children, the State Commission for Children did not take any immediate action," the release said.

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