

FF Code : TN/TAN 07/JAN/07
Victim(s) : S. Kamaraj
Perpetrator(s) : 1) Almasali, DSP;
2) Padmanathan, PI, South PS;
3) Venkatesan, PI, West PS
Location : Trichy Central Jail
Date of incident : 18/01/2007

Case Details:

Victim Kamaraj was a resident of Tanjore.

The Marikulam Tank is an old one that caters to the needs of the public with regard to drinking water by collecting rainwater. Because of silt pile-up, the Tank became blocked. If the Tank were de-silted, it would greatly benefit the people of the area. Agriculture in Tanjore is wholly dependent on water sources of this kind and hence de-silting would significantly benefit the agricultural community.

However, the government was trying to convert the Marikulam Tank into an underground sewage tank without any prior announcement to or consultation with the people involved. To stop the progress of this project, the local people determined to 'fast till death'. Their protest started at around 10.00am on 17 January 2007.

Within 30 minutes, a police team led by DSP Almasali, along with PI Padmanathan and Venkatesan and several HCs and PCs, arrived in ten to fifteen police vehicles. They parked their vehicles in front of the Subramanyar Temple in the Flower Bazaar Street; the vehicles blocked access to the whole flower bazaar and hindered the public.

DSP Almasali arrested the protestors and detained them at the South PS. At about 6.00pm, the police took the detainees to court and present them before the Magistrate, who remanded them to the Trichy Central Jail. From the morning of 17 January 2007 through the morning of 18 January 2007, the prisoners did not even have any water.

On the morning of 18 January 2007, the jailor Jayaraman said that the prisoners could not fast in the jail, so they took some breakfast. While resting at around 4.30pm, Kamaraj threw up phlegm and fainted. Jail staff immediately took Kamaraj to the clinic within the jail grounds. Since there was no doctor available, the clinic staff informed the authorities that Kamaraj had to be taken outside in order to be treated. The authorities then arranged to fetch a doctor who then attended to Kamaraj. The doctor then said that Kamaraj's condition was critical due to a heart attack and that he would die on the way to the hospital.

On 19 January 2007, Kamaraj's fellow prisoners asked the warden about Kamaraj's condition, to which the warden did not give an accurate reply.

Around 300 policemen were deployed in the Flower Bazaar area when the news of Kamaraj's demise was announced. Only then did the victim's colleagues come to know of the death and that the Kamaraj had expired on the way to the hospital.

Kamaraj is survived by two sons, Rajarajan and Ponnarasu. Kamaraj's wife died the previous year after a prolonged illness.

FF Code : TN/TAN 37/Nov/ 07
Victim(s) : Akilandeswari
Perpetrator(s) : 1) Sethumanimathavan, PI;
2) Somasundaram, SI; 3) Ganesan, HC
Location : Temple Tower Hotel, Thanjavur
Date of incident : 19/11/2007

Case Details:

Victim Akilandeswari resided at Vadavalli, Coimbatore. She lived with her parents and worked as an engineer.

On 27 October 2007, after being cheated out of some money, one Raviraj filed a complaint in which Akilandeswari was named.

On 29 October 2007 a team of police headed by PI Sethumanimathavan, SI Somasundaram, and HC Ganesan went to Coimbatore and took Akilandeswari, her father Veerayi Vallatharasu, and her mother Lakshmi into their custody for enquiry. For some days, Akilandeswari and Lakshmi were kept at Guru Lodge in Trichy, while her father was kept in a rented house at Thanjavur.

On 2 November 2007, Akilandeswari and her family were shifted to the Temple Tower Hotel at Thanjavur. Akilandeswari stayed there until 13 November 2007, and again from 16 to 19 November 2007; it is unclear whether she was detained by the police or (as the police allege) she stayed there of her own accord. The Hotel staff have stated that Akilandeswari and her family had previously stayed at the Hotel, but that this was the first time that Akilandeswari had stayed there alone.

On 19 November 2007, PI Sethumanimathavan visited Akilandeswari.

Later that day, Akilandeswari was found hanging in her room. The hotel staff informed the police.

At 10.00pm, Veeray Vallatherasu filed a complaint with the police, and the police registered an FIR. The case was registered (Crime No. 368/2007) under s. 174 Cr. P.C., with the case of death listed as unknown.

On 20 November 2007, when the press reported Akilandeswari's death, the District Collector of Thanjavur ordered an enquiry by the RDO, who did as requested. The District Collector met with Akilandeswari's parents.

The RDO claims that an intimation of Akilandeswari's death was sent to the NHRC within twenty-four hours, and affirmed that an autopsy conducted by Drs. Sukumaran and Arivukarasi was videographed.

On 6 and 7 December 2007, the District Administration announced that there would be an enquiry into the cause of the death of Akilandeswari.

The SP reported to the DIG that PI Sethumanimathavan had kept Akilandeswari in illegal detention in a private lodge, so the DIG ordered the PI's suspension. Further, the DIG ordered an enquiry by DSP Mutharasi.

The DSP found that the PI had abetted Akilandeswari's suicide. The FIR on Akilandeswari's death was thus altered to invoke s. 306 IPC.

Akilandeswari's parents have stated that they were pressured to inform the RDO that Akilandeswari had committed suicide.

According to press reports, when the DSP attempted to serve the PI with his suspension notice at the SP's office, the PI fled in a police vehicle to a hideout; when the police attempted to arrest him, the PI threatened them with his service revolver. Alternatively, another officer has stated that the PI threatened to commit suicide if arrested.

The PI was eventually arrested, brought to the SP's office, and served with a suspension order. Instead of submitting himself to the formal custody of the police, the PI was admitted at the Government Hospital, complaining of chest pain.

On 21 December 2007 in the evening, Judicial Magistrate No. 1 Uma Maheswari of Thanjavur went to the Hospital to remand the PI into judicial custody.

FF Code	: TN/CHE 117/DEC/ 07
Victim(s)	: Syed Ali
Perpetrator(s)	: 1) Adhimulam, PI 2) Subash Thiruvengadam, HC
Location	: Vadapalani R8 PS, Chennai.
Date of incident	: 12/12/2007

Case Details:

Victim Syed Ali (50), residing at Vadapalani, Chennai, ran a tea shop at Vadapalani. On 12th December 2007 at 10.00 am, Vadapalani PI Adhimulam had tea at Syed Ali's tea shop and bought a packet Cigarette. When Syed Ali asked for money, PI Adhimulam, arrested Syed Ali took him to the PS. PI Adhimulam beat Syed Ali until he fell unconscious. Syed Ali was taken to the hospital where he died.

Members of CPM (I), DPI, and TMMK, the Malayali's Association and the owners of the tea shop protested. RDO Subramanian promised to punish the responsible people. An enquiry was launched and PI Adhimulam and HC Subash Thiruvengadam were suspended.

FF Code	: TN/CHE 77/SEP/ 07
Victim(s)	: Saravanan
Perpetrator(s)	: PI Sivamani and the police PCs of Chembiam PS
Location	: Chembiam PS
Date of incident	: 10/06/2007

Case Details:

Victim Saravanan (19 years-old) and his friends were involved in an altercation at TASMAL, a government liquor shop on 10th June 2007. After their arrest, they were taken to the Chembiam PS and beaten. SI Anandan used his boot to kick Saravanan in the stomach, causing damage to the young man's internal organs. Saravanan was then taken to KMC Hospital by a PC and then dropped off at his home.

Saravanan's condition worsened, and at 5.30am the morning of 11th June 2007 he was taken to another hospital near his home and administered first aid. Later, he was taken to Stanley Hospital to undergo surgery for a blood clot. Four days later, on 15th June 2007, Saravanan died.

Saravanan's parents and other relatives engaged in a protest against the police by blocking traffic and lodging complaints against the PCs' actions. They lodged complaints with higher officials, but no action was taken on their behalf.

FF Code	: TN/SAL 62/AUG/ 07
Victim(s)	: Murugesan
Perpetrator(s)	: Unnamed POs
Location	: Central Prison, Salem, Salem District
Date of incident	: 22/02/2007

Case Details:

Victim Murugesan, age 38, belonged to the Hindu Adi-Dravidar-Parayar community (Scheduled Caste). He lived with his family and worked as a farmer.

A land dispute between Dalit peoples and those of the dominant Gounder caste resulted in a false charge filed by the latter against the former. Murugesan was thus arrested by police officers, remanded before a court, and sent to the Central Prison in Salem.

On 15 February 2007, Murugesan's parents saw him when he was produced before the court for a hearing. They observed that he was healthy, and happy that he would soon be released on bail.

On 22 February 2007 at around 4.30pm, Murugesan's mother received a telegram stating that Murugesan was not feeling well.

At about 5.45pm, two policemen informed Murugesan's mother that Murugesan was in serious condition.

At about 7.00pm, Murugesan's mother went with two relatives to the Government Hospital and searched for Murugesan.

At 1.00am, not having found Murugesan, Murugesan's mother and her relatives returned home. There, the son of the Panchayat ex-President told them that Murugesan had died.

On 23 February 2007 at about 7.00am, Murugesan's mother and relatives returned to the Government Hospital. When Hospital officials tried to block them from entering the mortuary, they forced their way inside and saw Murugesan's body. The body had nail scratches on the neck, bleeding injuries on the abdomen and midsection, and a swollen penis. Murugesan's mother cried aloud that her son had been tortured and killed by prison officials. A post-mortem was conducted.

At about 5.30pm, an RDO arrived, conducted an enquiry, and promised to take immediate action. Murugesan's mother lodged a complaint before the RDO demanding justice against those who had killed Murugesan.

The police of Rasipuram PS registered an FIR (Crime No. 68/2007), dated 22/02/2007 under s. 174 Cr. P.C. instead of under s. 176 Cr. P.C.

Complaints were sent to the NHRC, the SHRC, and the NCSC.

FF Code	: TN/CHE 4 /JUNE/ 07
Victim(s)	: Saravanan
Perpetrator(s)	: Anand, SI
Location	: Sebbiyam PS, Perembur
Date of incident	: 10/06/2007

Case Details:

Victim Saravanan lived with his family. On 10 June 2007, he went to Tasmac with his friends. There, he was involved in a quarrel with the Tasmac workers. The owner of Tasmac informed the police, who took Saravanan and his friends to the station. There, SI Anand kicked Saravanan hard in the stomach. The police then took Saravanan to the hospital (KMC) before leaving him in front of his house at 1.30am.

Saravanan's father heard him shouting in front of his house and brought him inside. Although Saravanan had received treatment, he could not bear the pain. His family took him to Vignesh Hospital and later to Stanley Hospital. Saravanan continued to shout that the SI had kicked him in the station. He underwent an operation.

The SI came to the hospital, spoke to the doctors, and asked for Saravanan's parents' signature. Saravanan succumbed to his injuries despite the operation.

Saravanan's parents believe that something happened between the SI and the doctors. They are also suspicious because one of Saravanan's friends who had earlier said that the SI had kicked Saravanan later retracted his statement and said that the police did nothing.

The SI asserts that by the time the police reached Tasmac, the workers had thoroughly beaten Saravanan, who was then taken to the hospital for treatment.