

FF Code	: TN/CHE 62/AUG/07
Victim(s)	: Ravi; Guna
Perpetrator(s)	: Team of POs headed by Jangid, Additional Director General of Police, Chennai
Location	: Chennai
Date of incident	: 01/08/2007

Case Details:

Victim Ravi lived with his wife and children, and did coolie work with his parents. They were all of the Parayar (SC) caste. Ravi's associate, victim Guna, lived with his wife and children, and ran a vegetable store.

Ravi had a long criminal record dating from 1991; there were twenty-five pending criminal cases against him for a variety of charges. The police thus began to trouble him frequently. However, Ravi sought to reform his ways and informed the police that he had begun to lead a crime-free life.

In 1998, Ravi served as secretary of the youth wing of the Revolutionary Bharath Party. In 2001, Ravi and a fellow former criminal, Seraw, declared to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Shakil, that they had mended their ways. Ravi also sought election to the Legislative Assembly for Perambur constituency, but did not win.

Despite these supposed improvements, many complaints were lodged against Ravi, stating that he was threatening cable television proprietors and extorting money from them. The police considered Ravi to have a bad reputation, and began to file criminal charges against him. The then-Commissioner of Police for Chennai, Ms. Lathikacharan, apparently threatened Ravi's mother that Ravi would be shot if he entered Chennai.

Notwithstanding these developments, Ravi began to work for the welfare of the people of the Viyasarbody area, spending his own money to solve social problems and protect them. These acts began to reduce the number of complaints filed against Ravi – which angered the police.

To restore Ravi's bad reputation, a story was run in many news dailies on 29 May 2007 about the kidnapping of an industrialist named Rajkumar, alleging that Ravi was responsible. Though this news was supposedly false, the police organised a special team under the leadership of Jangid, the Additional Deputy Commissioner for Chennai, to secure Ravi's arrest. The team searched for Ravi in several states.

On 1 August 2007, the team supposedly received secret information that Ravi, Guna, and others were planning to kidnap an ex-MLA, Vankatasamy, in order to extort money from him. According to the police team, it rushed to Jayandravanam Forest, the spot of the supposed kidnapping. On seeing the team, Ravi,

Guna, and their associates attacked it. The police team returned fire to protect itself. Ravi and Guna were said to have been killed in this encounter at about 5.30pm.

However, other sources and the victims' families maintain that both Ravi and Guna were arrested by the police team on 31 July 2007 at about 2.00am. Further, the families point to an interview that Vankatasamy gave on 8 August 2007 stating that he had received no police protection, which would not have been the case had there been any genuine threat against him. Vankatasamy believes that the police have unnecessarily involved his name in the deaths of Ravi and Guna, and has written a telegram to this effect to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

The bodies of both victims were autopsied at about 5.10am on 2 August 2007 at the Government Hospital, Hozur, Krishnagiri District, before the bodies were given to the victims' families for cremation.

Tamil Nadu
61 There are sufficient contradictions between the stories of the police and of the victims' families to create suspicion about this alleged encounter death. Ravi's mother has lodged a complaint before the PI of the Bagalur police station, requesting that a criminal case be registered as per the NHRC guidelines on encounter deaths; the RDO, Hozur, has conducted an extensive enquiry but the results have not (yet) been released. Complaints have also been sent to several other persons and organisations.