

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 6.8.2016 of **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

“I write to you to bring to your attention a matter of deep concern regarding the arrest of 32 persons from Tiruvannamalai, Vellore and Chennai Districts of Tamil Nadu in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh. It is also learnt that these 32 persons were remanded to custody on 6.8.2016. It is reported that these persons were travelling from Chennai to Tirupati by Garudadri Express when they were arrested by the Andhra Pradesh Police at Renigunta Railway Station. It is also learnt that these 32 persons have been charged under Sections 109 & 120B Indian Penal Code, 1860, and Section 20(1)(d) of the Andhra Pradesh Forest Act,1967, and subsequently remanded to custody and are lodged in Chittoor Jail. These persons, who were only passengers in a train have been arrested on the suspicion of alleged forest related offences. It is not clear how they have been accused of forest related offences when they were nowhere near the forest.

I request you to urgently intervene in the matter and facilitate their immediate release. I am also deputing two advocates of the Government of Tamil Nadu to liase with your officers in securing the immediate release of the 32 innocent persons from Tamil Nadu.”

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