

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 8.1.2018 of **Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, New Delhi.

"I wish to bring to your kind notice the pathetic plight of fifteen fishermen from Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi Districts of Tamil Nadu, who were arrested and detained by the Iranian Coast Guard. These fishermen were engaged in fishing from the Emirate of Dubai fishing base. They ventured into sea for fishing on 22.10.2017 in two mechanized fishing boats and were apprehended by the Iranian Coast Guard on 24.10.2017, when they inadvertently strayed into Iranian waters. The apprehended fishermen are reportedly detained in their fishing boats in KISH Island, Iran for the past two months.

It is ascertained that the Iranian Court imposed fine on these fishermen and the same has to be paid by the fishermen with the financial support from their local sponsors from Dubai, UAE.

It has been further reported that one of the fisherman Thiru.Vinistan S/o John Bosco of Kanniyakumari District is diabetic and is also suffering from hypertension. Another fisherman Thiru. Kirostin, S/o. Mariadoss of Thoothukudi District is reportedly having heart problem and is seeking medical intervention.

The prolonged incarceration of these poor fishermen who went abroad for earning their humble livelihood, would severely affect their families and dependants in India. Hence, I request your personal intervention by instructing the Ambassadors of India in Tehran and United Arab Emirates to provide necessary medical attention and to take effective legal steps to secure the immediate release of these poor innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu."

Issued by: Director of Information and Public Relations, Chennai – 9
Dated : 8.1.2018