

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 21.6.2018 of Thiru **Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

I write to bring to your direct attention the plight of 21 fishermen from Tamil Nadu who are reportedly stranded in Iran, neither allowed to return to India nor allowed to continue fishing for which they were engaged as contract fishing labourers. They were engaged in fishing in the 3 boats belonging to their Iranian employers, Mr.Mohammed Shallah and his brothers, for more than 6 months. These 21 fishermen include 8 from Kanniyakumari District, 7 from Tirunelveli District and 6 from Thoothukudi District.

In the recent past, the Iranian employers did not pay the fishermen their share, as per terms of employment. Hence these fishermen were struggling to make their ends meet as well as unable to send money to their families back home.

They had lost hope of receiving a fair remuneration from their employers and requested the employers to facilitate their return to India which was summarily refused by them. It is reported that the passports of the fishermen are in the custody of the local employers who is neither allowing them to continue work nor allowing them to return back to India. In addition, the employer chased the fishermen out of their accommodation and abandoned them in the streets without any shelter, food and security.

I request you to direct the Embassy of India in Iran to take all measures to ensure the immediate repatriation of these poor innocent Indian fishermen. Necessary steps may also be taken to ensure that the fishermen receive their just and due wages. I request immediate action in this matter as their families and dependants in Tamil Nadu are anxious about the safety and early return of these fishermen.

Issued by: Director, Information and Public Relations, Chennai-9.
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