

**PRESS RELEASE**

Text of the D.O.Letter dated 23.9.2014 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is reproduced below:-

"I write to bring to your kind attention a tragic incident which took place in the seas off the coast of Bahrain and Qatar in which a fisherman Thiru Karthikeyan S/o. Thiru Thangarasu from Thiruppalaikudi Village, Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu, currently based in Bahrain was shot dead by the Qatari Coast Guard while fishing along with three other persons. The three other fishermen, Thiru Aiyappan, Thiru Raju and Thiru Samayamuthu, also from Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu, have been arrested by the Qatar Coast Guard. These fishermen from Ramanathapuram District in Tamil Nadu were working in Bahrain on contract basis when this unfortunate incident took place in the early hours of 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2014.

It has been ascertained that these four fishermen, in the course of their fishing activities, inadvertently strayed into Qatari waters when the Qatar Coast Guard opened fire killing one fisherman and arresting three others. The other three fishermen have been detained in the Doha Jail, Qatar. It is learnt that the body of the deceased fisherman is also in the custody of Qatari authorities.

These poor, innocent fishermen who strayed inadvertently into Qatari waters had gone to Bahrain to earn a meager livelihood and support their families. The family of the deceased fisherman is shattered and seek the early return of his body. The arrested fishermen are the sole breadwinners of their families and if their immediate release is not secured the fishermen and their families will be put to great financial and mental hardship.

I request you to direct the Indian Embassies in Qatar and Bahrain to take urgent steps to arrange for the transportation of the body of the deceased fisherman Thiru Karthikeyan and also secure the early release of the other three fishermen. I also request you to kindly direct the Indian Embassy at Bahrain to take up this matter with the employer company and to ensure that the terminal monetary benefits due to Thiru Karthikeyan are released to the family without any delay."

\*\*\*\*\*

Issued by: Director, Information and Public Relations, Chennai – 9.  
Date: 23.9.2014