

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Following the murder of two Hindu Front / BJP leaders in Vellore and Salem, leaders of various Hindu organisations have made statements that Hindu leaders have been targeted regularly in the recent past, and no action has been taken by the Police in this regard. These views have also been reflected in sections of the print and visual media.

In this regard, details are given below to clarify the situation:

On 28.10.2011, a bomb placed underneath a culvert near Thirumangalam, during the visit of Thiru L.K.Advani to Madurai, was unearthed and de-activated. In a case registered in this regard, seven accused have been arrested and remanded. One of them was arrested last month after persistent trailing for over two years. Efforts are on to track down the remaining three accused.

On 04.07.2012, Thiru Pugazhendhi, BJP, General Council member, was murdered at Nagapattinam owing to money transaction and land dispute. In this case, Sekar, Karthikeyan and Santosh Kumar of Nagapattinam were arrested. Chandrasekar and Muneeshwaran surrendered in the court. Chandrasekar was detained under the Goondas Act. Charge sheet has been filed in the court. The deceased was a person categorized as a Rowdy in view of his past activities.

On 23.10.2012, Dr.Aravinda Reddy, BJP State Medical Wing Secretary, was murdered at Vellore over a dispute on money transaction. Vasoor Raja, Udayakumar, Thangaraj, Chandiran, MLA Raja, Pitchai Perumal and Dharani Kumar of Vellore were arrested. The case was charge sheeted.

On 06.11.2012, Anandan, RSS Taluk Secretary, was assaulted at Mettupalayam, Coimbatore. This was in the nature of a retaliatory attack. A case was registered and Syed Abudhagir was arrested.

On 19.03.2013, 'Thengaikadai' Murugan, BJP Town Secretary, was murdered at Paramakudi over a land dispute. Raja Mohammed, Manoharan, Rafique Raja and Shahul Hameed were arrested and all the four accused were detained under NSA. Charge sheet has been laid in the case.

On 13.04.2013, some miscreants hurled ignited petrol-filled bottles on the residence of Arjun Sampath, Hindu Makkal Katchi, State President, at Coimbatore City. A case was registered.

Accused Umar Farooq, Sadam Hussain and eight others were arrested. Of the 10 arrested, six have been detained under the Goondas Act.

On 14.04.2013, Manjunath, Hindu Munnani District Secretary, was assaulted at Ooty by Riyas Ul-Haq, Faizal, Abdul Rahim, Firose and Imtiyaz objecting to a speech made by him in a public meeting, allegedly offending religious sentiments. All the five accused were arrested and remanded. A case was registered against Manjunath also on a complaint about his speech and he was also arrested. Both the cases have been charge sheeted.

On 16.04.2013, Hariharan, Hindu Munnani Town Secretary, was assaulted for pasting Hindu Munnani wall posters on the wall of a mosque at Coonoor. The accused Ayub, Sadam and 10 others were arrested and remanded. The case has been charge sheeted.

On 21.04.2013, M.R.Gandhi, BJP State Administrative Committee member, was assaulted at Nagercoil in Kanyakumari district by Abdul Aziz, Abdul Shameem, Shaji, Mohammed Salin, Syed Ali Niwas. All the accused were arrested. Three of them were detained under NSA.

**“On 07.07.2013, Kuttai Nambu, Hindu Munnani member was assaulted at Rameswaram in Ramanathapuram district by Ramachandran and Shanmuganathan over personal enmity. He died in the Government Hospital, Rameswaram. Both the accused were arrested. The case is under investigation.”**

On 01.07.2013, Vellaiyappan, Hindu Munnani State Secretary, was murdered at Vellore. On 19.07.2013, Auditor Ramesh, BJP State General Secretary, was murdered at Salem by three unknown assailants. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced the formation of a Special Investigation Division (SID) under the supervision of the Director General of Police, CB CID, to probe these two cases. A cash reward of Rs. 5 lakhs has been announced for those who furnish useful information to arrest each of the four absconding persons (total Rs.20 lakhs). Apart from this, a cash reward of Rs.2 lakhs has also been announced for those who furnish clues for arrest of any other persons involved in these murders.

As may be seen from the narration above, the Tamil Nadu Police have taken proper steps and arrested the accused in cases of

assault on leaders of Hindu organizations. Some of the arrested accused have also been detained under NSA or Goondas Act.

Necessary Police protection has been provided to persons and offices considered to face threat.

In the incidents listed above, some were due to personal motive. In some cases, the accused belonged to the same religion as the victim. Statements seeking to create an impression that a large number of targeted attacks have gone unchecked or undetected or that the Police have failed to take action are misleading and contrary to the truth.

Effective action is being taken and will continue to be taken against anyone who attacks any individual for whatever motive, or causes harm to any organisation or tries to disturb communal harmony.

**Director General of Police  
Tamil Nadu**

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