

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. Letter dated 25.9.2014 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is reproduced below:

"I wish to bring to your notice the pathetic plight of 4 fishermen from Tamil Nadu who were arrested and detained by the Iranian Coast Guard on 22nd September, 2014.

It is reported that four fishermen, namely Thiru Sasikumar (40 yrs) S/o Louis, Thiru Antony (29 yrs) S/o Soosainayaham, Thiru Anthony (34 yrs) S/o Samichael and Thiru Arokiam (30 yrs) S/o Stephen, from Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu were engaged in fishing in Qatar on contract basis. On September 16, 2014, these four fishermen went for fishing in a mechanized fishing boat and in the course of their fishing operations they inadvertently strayed into Iranian waters on September 22, 2014, and were arrested by the Iran Coast Guard.

The four fishermen from Tamil Nadu, who are languishing in a prison on Kish Island in Iran, are the sole breadwinners of their families and they had gone to Qatar to eke out a humble livelihood. Their prolonged incarceration will severely affect their families and dependents in India.

I request you to kindly personally intervene in the matter and direct the Embassy of India in Teheran to take effective legal steps to secure the immediate release of these poor and innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu."

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