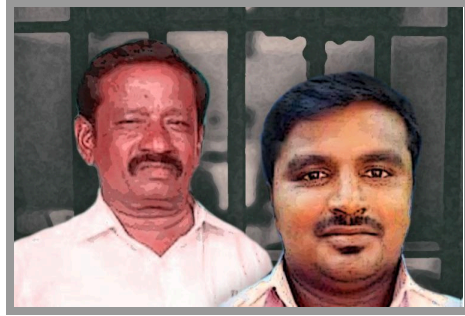


Custodial Death



P. Jeyaraj aged 58 and his son J. Fenix aged 31 of sathankulam of thoothukudi district was arrested by police on 19.06.2020. The allegation was that they did not close the shop at the end of curfew (lockdown) and thus violated the rules. The father and son entered into an argument which the police didn't relish. They took them into custody for not following the rules preventing the government officers not to perform the duty and threatening to murder. These are small violations and did not attract 7 years imprisonment for arresting a person. The police infringed the supreme court order.

During the custody both the father and son were brutally attacked with batons and they were bleeding from all over the body and they could not even stand or properly sit. They have to change their dress two or three times as it is soaked with blood. They were taken to government hospital for the medical checkup.

There the Doctor did not examine the patient thoroughly but simply certified that their health was good. Then they were brought to the Magistrate's house for the remanding them to the prison. The Magistrate did not go through the wounds nor ascertained about the health or their wounds. As provided under criminal procedure code.

They were then taken to Kovilpatti which was about 108 kilometers away even though prisons exist within 25 kilometers.

They were already bleeding and in this condition they had to travel a long distance which worsened their health. They were remanded into the prison on 21st both father and son unable to bear their heavy loss of blood and injuries and died .

This resembles the death of an American black, George Floyd at the hands of white police man.

The following are the failure by various government officials

- The police should not have booked simply for not closing the shop but warned.
- The threat to murder and to preventing the officers to perform their duty is vague one.
- All the charges should not attract 7 years imprisonment mandated by the supreme court.
- Beating up the accused by the Police station is totally in contravention of all rules and Constitution.
- The doctor should be responsible for not examining the patients and recommending to admit them in hospitals.
- The magistrate is responsible for not enquiring the accused about their health and also whether the charges against them deserve imprisonment.
- The police should be charged with murder arrested and put them into prison.

Timeline

June 19

7.30 pm: Jayaraj picked up from the shop, taken to the police station.

8.30 pm: Fenix reaches Sathankulam police station with friends.

June 20

7.05am: Father and son taken to Sathankulam government hospital.

11.25am: Two produced before Sathankulam judicial magistrate.

2.00pm: Two lodged in kovilpatti sub-jail, 108km away.

June 22

7.30pm: Fenix develops complications, is rushed to kovilpatti GH.

9.00pm: Fenix dies

10.30pm: Prison personnel notice Jeyaraj is ill, rush him to kovilpatti GH.

June 23

5.40am: Jeyaraj dies in kovilpatti GH.

An update

S. No	As per FIR	As per CCTV
1	Time of incident 9.15 pm on 19.06.2020.	Time of incident 7.40 pm on 19.6.2020.
2	The shop was open beyond 9 pm.	The shop was closed before 7.40 and all other adjoining shops were open.
3	Father and son resisted the arrest.	Jayaraj walked across the road to enter a police van. After some time Felix went to the police station on his friend's bike.
4	They fought with the police.	There was no such incident.
5	Father and son rolled over on the road and got themselves injured.	This is not true as per CCTV.
6	There was a big crowd in front of the shop.	There was no such crowd.
7	Jayaraj and son abused the police.	No such incident happened.
8	Police officers were prevented from discharging their duty.	This has not happened.
9	Father and son went to the police station together.	They were separate.

Subsequent event 1 (1.7.2020)

A case was booked under section 302 of IPC (murder charge) and Raghu ganesh (A. S. I) was arrested and lodged in prison.

Subsequent event 2 (2.7.2020)

Sridhar the Inspector of Sathankulam police station, Balance Krishnan (A. S. I) Murugan were arrested and sent to prison.