

Condemn the arrest of Murugan

According to the Report released by the Team of Lawyers constituted by the Indian Association of Peoples Lawyers (IAPL) Ayyanan Murugan, a young lawyer practicing in Madurai Bench of Madras High Court was arrested from his residence on January 8, 2017., under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). No incriminating documents and material was found apart from records of cases and some homeopathic medicines. Murugan is also the secretary Committee for the Protection of Civil Liberties, Tamil Nadu. He was accused in the same criminal trial wherein he was defending the two accused persons. Since then he was in the jail.

Ms. Kala and Ms. Chandra were arrested under UAPA alleging that they are working for outlawed Maoist party. Murugan is their defence lawyer. On very flimsy ground of hearsay, the police arrested Murgan on the same charges in the same case faced by his two clients. A bail petition was moved in the High Court. The Judgement is pending after final arguments were over. Anticipating that Murugan may be granted bail, the police took custody of Murugan in another UAPA case on the same charges based on confessional statements of the accused one in the case, which has no evidential value.

After perusing the evidence cited by the prosecution, the Team concluded that it is preposterous even to consider any prosecution can succeed. In fact, the very intention of state to prosecute Murugan is questionable. It is against the law to identify the lawyer with the cause of his clients. By hindering Murugan to fearlessly practice his profession and defend his client, the state has also violated the fundamental right guaranteed by the constitution, ie. right to practice any profession.

The “*Class Struggle*” strongly condemns the arrest of Murugan and demands his immediate and unconditional release.
