

के.एस. मणि  
महासचिव  
K.S. MONEY  
Secretary General



राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार आयोग  
फरीदकोट हाऊस, कोपरनिकस मार्ग  
नई दिल्ली- 110 001 भारत  
National Human Rights Commission  
Faridkot House, Copernicus Marg,  
New Delhi - 110 001 INDIA

D.O. No.4/7/2008-PRP&P

769/2009/Pet  
11/9/2010

1<sup>st</sup> September, 2010  
6th

The National Human Rights Commission is concerned about deaths in the course of police action. The Commission had laid down detailed guidelines to be followed by State/UT governments in case of death in police action.

The Commission has further revised these guidelines, which have been conveyed to Chief Ministers/ Administrators of all the States/UTs by the Chairperson, NHRC vide letter of even number dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010 (Copy enclosed).

It is requested that the concerned authorities may be given appropriate instructions to follow the revised guidelines scrupulously in all cases where death is caused in police action.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- GIB/M.Pet.B  
for informant.

Sd/-  
(K S Money)

Recd Office  
for

Shri R Chandra Mohan,  
Chief Secretary,  
Government of Puducherry,  
Puducherry

INSPECTOR OF POLICE  
GRAND BAZAAR CIRCLE  
PUDUCHERRY

Copy to :

Director General of Police, Government of Puducherry,  
Puducherry

(K S Money)

SSP (K-0)  
SSP (HQ)

Office of the Sr. Supdt. of Police  
Law & Order, Pondicherry  
No. 464/Pet/2010  
Date: 17.9.2010

OFFICE OF THE  
SUPDT. OF POLICE (NORTH)  
No. 721/SSR (N) Pet 10  
Dated: 17.9.2010 Time: .....

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CPIS for information

SUPDT. OF POLICE (NORTH)  
PUDUCHERRY.  
14/9

*Justice G.P. Mathur*  
*Acting Chairperson*  
*(Former Judge, Supreme Court of India)*



*National Human Rights Commission*  
*Faridkot House, Copernicus Marg*  
*New Delhi-110 001*  
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D.O. No.4/7/2008-PRP&P

12<sup>th</sup> May, 2010

Dear Chief Minister,

The National Human Rights Commission is concerned about the death during the course of a police action. The police does not have a right to take away the life of a person. Under the scheme of criminal law prevailing in India, it would not be an offence if the death is caused in exercise of right of private defence. Another provision under which the police officer can justify causing the death of a person, is section 46 of the Criminal Procedure Code. This provision authorizes the police to use reasonable force, even extending up to the causing of death, if found necessary to arrest the person accused of an offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life. Thus, it is evident that death caused in an encounter if not justified would amount to an offence of culpable homicide.

The Commission considered the issue and recommended a procedure to be followed in the cases of encounter death by all the States/UTs in the country. The guidelines were conveyed to all the States/UTs vide letter dated 29.3.1997, which were further revised vide letter dated 2.12.2003.

The Commission finds that most of the States are not following the recommendations issued by it in the true spirit. The matter was again considered by the Commission and it was felt that the existing guidelines require some modifications. After a careful consideration of the whole matter, the Commission has revised the procedure to be followed by the States/UTs in all cases of deaths in the course of police action. Revised guidelines are enclosed herewith.

It is requested that the concerned authorities of the State/UT may be given appropriate instructions to follow the enclosed guidelines in all cases where death is caused in police action.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

*G.P. Mathur*  
(G P Mathur)

Shri K. Rosaiah,  
Chief Minister,  
Government of Andhra Pradesh,  
Secretariat,  
Hyderabad-500 022.

*and as per list attached*

**Revised Guidelines/Procedures to be followed in cases of deaths caused in police action.**

- A. When the police officer in charge of a Police Station receives information about death in an encounter with the Police, he shall enter that information in the appropriate register.
- B. Where the police officers belonging to the same Police Station are members of the encounter party, whose action resulted in death, it is desirable that such cases are made over for investigation to some other independent investigating agency, such as State CBCID.
- C. Whenever a specific complaint is made against the police alleging commission of a criminal act on their part, which makes out a cognisable case of culpable homicide, an FIR to this effect must be registered under appropriate sections of the I.P.C. Such case shall be investigated by State CBCID or any other specialised investigation agency.
- D. A magisterial enquiry must be held in all cases of death which occurs in the course of police action, as expeditiously as possible, preferably, within three months. The relatives of the deceased, eye witness, witnesses having information of the circumstances leading to encounter, police station records etc. must be examined while conducting such enquiry.
- E. Prompt prosecution and disciplinary action must be initiated against all delinquent officers found guilty in the magisterial enquiry/ police investigation.
- F. No out-of-turn promotion or instant gallantry rewards shall be bestowed on the concerned officers soon after the occurrence. It must be ensured at all costs that such rewards are given/ recommended only when the gallantry of the concerned officer is established beyond doubt.
- G. (a) All cases of deaths in police action in the states shall be reported to the Commission by the Senior Superintendent of Police/ Superintendent of Police of the District within 48 hours of such death in the following format:
1. Date and place of occurrence
  2. Police station, district

P.T.O.

