TO HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

BY

THE MEMBERS OF DMK PARTY IN PARLIAMENT

19 JULY 2012

NEW DELHI

Respected Hon'ble Prime Minister,

VANAKKAM

As you may be aware, on 16.7.2012, one of our fishermen was killed and 3 others were seriously injured in firing by the US Naval Ship "Rappahannock" near Jabel Ali Port in Dubai. All the fishermen killed and injured, in this shocking and tragic incident hail from Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu.

Though the US Authorities claim that the security staff in the ship was forced to open fire, the facts sifted from various reports clearly indicate that the firing by the warship Rappahannock was unprovoked and uncalled for.

The four poor and innocent victims have gone to Dubai leaving behind their homes in India in search of a decent livelihood and they were working as daily wagers for Dubai fishing companies.

We are greatly consoled that Government of India, under your able leadership, has immediately responded to the event, and on the quick intervention of our Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Thiru S.M. Krishna as well as the Indian Embassy in Dubai, the UAE authorities have taken up an investigation in the matter. It is reported that US Govt. has expressed regret over the incident. Nevertheless, Government of India must impress upon them for a full investigation in the case so that it would help to avoid tragic incidents of this kind in future elsewhere in the world.

At this juncture, we are pained to say that fishermen of Tamil Nadu, particularly those belonging to Ramanathapuram and Rameswaram, are not sure of safety to life when they go for fishing because of unending attacks by Sri Lankan navy. Very recently, fishermen were gunned down by the Security men of an Italian ship, near Cochin, Kerala. In this unfortunate event also, a fisherman of Tamil Nadu was killed.

All these incidents, particularly the firing by the US Naval Ship Rappahannock have caused restlessness and a sense of desolation among the thousands of fishermen communities that live all along the 1100 km long coast line of Tamil Nadu. They look forward to an effective and lasting answer to their misery.

The DMK Leader Dr Kalaignar, while echoing the concerns of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu has expressed his pain and anguish at the these recurring incidents, and is desirous that decisive action is taken by the Central Government in this matter to avoid such incidents in future.

Accordingly, we, the members of the DMK Parliamentary Party, appeal to you to expedite the ongoing efforts set in motion by the Central Government and ensure:

- Immediate bringing of the body of the victim Thiru Sekar to his house in Periyapattinam in Ramanathapuram.
- Proper medical treatment to the three injured fishermen Muniraj, Panpuvan and Murugan.
- Full compensation to the deceased and injured fishermen families to be paid by the US Administration and Dubai Companies/UAE Authorities immediately.
- Pending payment from the US Administration and Dubai iv) Companies/ UAE Authorities, an interim payment and provision of employment to the kin of the deceased and injured fishermen by the Government of India.
- A Joint investigation by UAE & Indian Authorities into the V) matter.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Leader, DMK Parliamentary Party

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S. JAGIATHERKENHUR. - S. GAMDMI SBLUAN.

S. GAMDMI SBLUAN.