

# L. F. VIOLET NETTO

L. F. Violet Netto  
M. Ravi

A Law Firm

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Your Ref: TBA

**URGENT**

Our Ref: MR.6392.13/MR.6390.13/MR.6369.14/MR.6393.13

8 January 2014

Internal Affairs Office  
Singapore Police Force  
New Phoenix Park  
28 Irrawady Road  
Singapore 329560

**BY EMAIL, FAX AND BY HAND**  
Fax No. 62561296  
Email Add: [Florence\\_koh@spf.gov.sg](mailto:Florence_koh@spf.gov.sg)

Attn: ASP Florence Koh

Dear Madam,

**ALLEGATIONS OF ASSAULT BY MEMBERS OF THE POLICE FORCE**

1. We act for the following individuals in the above mentioned matter: -
  - a. Arun Kalamurthy ("*Arun*") (FIN NO:
  - b. Rajendran Mohan ("*Rajendran*") (FIN NO:
  - c. Ravi Arun Vengatesh ("*Ravi*") (FIN NO:
  
2. We are instructed to write to you to file a formal complaint with regards to the way in which our clients were treated during the different stages of their arrest.
  
3. The purpose of this letter is therefore to urge your good office to investigate these allegations in a fair and just manner. We also call for those involved in the ill treatment of our clients to be appropriately dealt with for their actions.

**EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE ASSAULT**

4. All three (3) of our abovementioned clients were physically assaulted and verbally abused during the course of their arrest. Derogatory terms were used on them and insults were hurled at every opportune moment.

#### ARUN KALIAMURTHY

5. Arun was apprehended at a 24 hour restaurant, LK Maju, on the night of 8 December 2013 where he was forcefully grabbed by the neck and pushed forward towards the car park outside Rochor Police Station. After which he was continuously called derogatory names by Tamil speaking police officers. One of the officers had even threatened to lock him up for 48 hours for no good reason. When asked to use the washroom, he was curtly denied and forced to wait an entire hour before he was allowed to relieve himself.
6. He was then brought into a room with two officers. The transcriber was a female officer of Indian origin and the other was a Chinese male officer wearing spectacles. He was sat against a pillar in the middle of the two officers while they questioned him. During this time, he was repeatedly told to admit to his involvement in the riots. When he denied these allegations, the female officer, of Indian origin, punched Arun in the ribs with her fists. The female police officer also told Arun that 5 police officers have been killed and that he was to be hung. He was further told that even if he kissed her foot, he would still be hanged.
7. Later that night, before his fingerprints were taken, Arun was pulled into a separate room by Investigation Officer ("IO") Chris Lee. This happened on the 16<sup>th</sup> floor of the building he was then held in. His hands were bound together in front of him and he was carrying his belongings in a plastic bag. IO Chris Lee then slapped him. He dropped his belongings on the floor and tried to reach for them but was told not to.

8. Arun braced himself for the next attack by raising both hands (still bound) to his face. Upon seeing this, another officer entered the room to hold his head in place so he was now staring straight at IO Chris Lee. He could no longer defend himself in anyway. In addition to slapping him, IO Chris Lee also punched him in the gut.

### RAJENDRAN MOHAN

9. Rajendran was arrested next to the temple and was brought to the Criminal Investigation Department ("*CID*") Headquarters at Cantonment. He was then handpicked by two officers and an interpreter and was brought into an interrogation room. One officer slapped him and asked him to remove his shirt and undershirt. He was bare from waist up. He was then told to kneel on the floor.
10. At this point, Rajendran was asked to admit to his involvement in the riots. When he refused to admit to something he had not done, the IO inflicted a backhanded punch on him in the stomach. He was then told that if he chose not to admit to his involvement at this stage, the punishment he would receive would be a lot more severe. Following this denial, the IO then poured a bottle of cold water over him and lowered the temperature in the room. The IO also used the bottle to whack him on the head, albeit not viciously.
11. He was left in this condition for half an hour upon which a Tamil-speaking IO entered the room and asked once again if he wanted to plead guilty. This IO then argued that since only Tamils were involved in this incident that he should just admit to being involved so as to accept the blame for the other Tamils who did indeed participate in the riots. He was further told that if he continually refuses to confess, he would be sent home in a body bag.
12. While he was still kneeling, this same IO then went to him, raised his boot up to Rajendran's face and asked him if he could see the mud on his shoes.

Rajendran replied in the negative and said that he did not make any mistakes that night. The IO then told him that if he did not, then his mother must have made a mistake.

13. Rajendran was questioned a second time. The police showed him a number of photos and asked to identify who the ringleaders were. He was told that if he pointed Arun or any of the others out as one of the ringleaders, he would be allowed his freedom back.

### RAVI ARUN VENGATESH

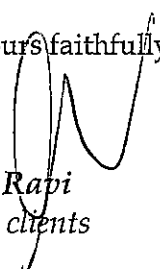
14. Ravi was arrested at 11pm on the night of 8 December 2013 at Chander Road near the Little India MRT station. He was then transported to the CID headquarters where he was subsequently brought into an interrogation room and was asked to sit on the floor. Even before any questions were asked, he was slapped 4 to 5 times. When he protested to the physical abuse and declared his innocence in the riot, the IO at the time told him, even before being tried in a court of law, that he must be guilty if not he would not have been arrested in the first place.

### CONCLUSION

15. The conduct of the officers involved is deplorable at best and we ask that your good office investigate these matters in a fair and just manner.
16. Our clients are happy to meet with you to discuss any outstanding questions you may have with regards to these incidents. However, we would also like to emphasize that our clients are coming forth voluntarily to assist your investigation.

17. If you so wish to interview them, please revert to us in writing by 5pm on 9 January 2014. They will be represented by counsel at all times and will be treated with the dignity and respect they were previously denied.

Yours faithfully,

  
*M Ravi*  
*cc. clients*