

Standing Up

Written by Nanda

Monday, 01 November 2010 19:32 - Last Updated Wednesday, 03 November 2010 00:20

There was a loud rapping of knuckles, rattling the front door at around 10pm, 25th October 2010. Five personnel identified themselves as police officers demanded that the door be opened. Startled, a man in his *sarong* went to look for the keys while his wife and his kids were looking, terrified at the sudden ongoing at their house. The police officers were in no mood to wait for the keys. They decided to break it open and storm into the house, their actions punctuated with generous ammount of profanity.

Soon after, the man in the *sarong* was detained and beaten in front of his wife.

His wife was then told to bring her husband a pair of pants and to change her husband's *sarong* there and then. The kids were perplexed and being kids, they began to ask questions. "Where are you taking my dad?". "What's happening?". The questions were met with more profanity from the cops and the man was then beaten up in front of his wife and his kids before being taken away, leaving his family members with no clue as to what just happened and where were they taking him and on what grounds.

The narration above is not the opening scene for a Hollywood movie. It took place at K. Selvachandran's home. Earlier that day, the coroner's court gave an "open verdict" into R Gunasegaran's inquest stating that the cause of his death while in police custody could not be conclusively proven. K. Selvachandran had testified during the inquest, stating that he witnessed one Lance Corporal Mohd Faizal Mat Taib assaulting Gunasegaran before the suspect collapsed and died.

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Following a [press conference](#) organised by [SUARAM](#) and [Lawyers for Liberty](#), a call for action was made to the members of the public, urging them to show their solidarity and to stand together with K. Selvachandran's family and concerned citizens to demand the details of detention and whereabouts of Selva and to make a stand against the apparent high-handed manner in which the police acted, bringing forth claims of abuse of power and police brutality. A [memorandum](#) was prepared and was brought to Bukit Aman on 30th October 2010.

Five days without news about the whereabouts of her husband, Saraswathy (Selva's wife) seemed brave but tears did flow.

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can't really understand why. Around the people, he was looking for the Hindu, Saturday, and going to the Hindu temple and

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Tired, we might be, but that is not going to stop us from standing up and speaking out.

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And it was silent but their questions and demands were loud enough to be heard by all in

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With everything that's happened here, I feel like I should be the one to stand up for those who are still in the back

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Below is only a selection of the photos and videos that were taken on the day of the protest. The photos and videos are not meant to be a complete record of the protest, but rather a selection of the most interesting and significant moments.