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### *Cultural Yathra against Torture*

Living in a society where torture has become an accepted and justified practice, we believe that a torture free world is possible only with the solidarity of people with humane feelings and therefore we solicit your support. Campaign against Torture of People's Watch - Tamil Nadu was initiated in the year 2000 with the noble aim of 'Creating a Torture Free World' in today's circumstances where incidents of torture are on the rise.

138 of the member nations of the UN have signed on the Convention against Torture, drafted many plans against torture and have agreed that they would uphold and implement international guidelines and in particular they would uphold the guidelines that are related to human rights. But it is sad that even today torture is being practiced and approved by the Society. What is particularly saddening is that even children are being affected. This is the biggest bane of the civilized world. Out of these 138 member nations 56 nations have just signed on the International Convention against Torture but have not ratified it. It is unfortunate that India is also one among these countries.

We have been conducting Cultural Yathras every year, commemorating the UN Day in Solidarity with Torture Victims – June 26 and this year the **Cultural Yathra** has been scheduled to take place from the **2<sup>nd</sup> of June to 22<sup>nd</sup> of June with 13 cultural teams** that will travel **10 regions** each, covering the **30 districts of Tamil Nadu**. The yathra will reach Madurai District on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May and will hold programs for a period of three days starting in Valayankulam and ending at Usilampatti. On the 14<sup>th</sup> the yathra will stage a program at Therku Vassal – Hajiman Street. Mr. Nanmaran – MLA, Madurai East Constituency and Mr. Kouse Badsha, State Joint Secretary, TMMK will address a gathering.