## GOKULRAJ MURDER CASE Yuvaraj says he will prove his innocence

## Main accused surrenders before CB-CID

S.P. Saravanan

NAMAKKAL: Indicative of the deep caste overtones in the western region, S. Yuvaraj, the prime accused in the murder of Dalit youth V. Gokulraj, surrendered before the CB-CID officials here on Sunday morning amid rousing welcome from the members of his caste.

Wanted by the State police, Yuvaraj, the founder of Theeran Chinnamalai Gounder Peravai, went into hiding soon after the gruesome murder in June and had managed to evade arrest for over 100 days.

In the meantime, he had challenged the police force by releasing audio clips and giving interviews to television channels from unidentified locations.

With the CB-CID intensifying search, the caste outfit's leader announced that he would surrender on Sunday. With a few hundred supporters waiting for his arrival at the CB-CID office on Salem road, Yuvaraj, clad in black T-shirt and 'lungi' and wearing a red cap, came riding pillion on a two-wheeler

On arrival, he threw the cap in the air and switched to his usual white shirt and black trousers. He flashed a thumbs-up as members of his caste outfit raised slogans hailing him. Addressing the media, Yuvaraj said he would face the case legally and prove his innocence.

The police had a tough time in controlling the crowd as he entered the office at 11.10 a.m and submitted his surrender petition through his lawyer Pazha Anand.

In the petition, Yuvaraj claimed that he was wrongly implicated in the case. A CB-CID team, led by SP G. Nagajothi and ADSP G. Stalin, has started interrogating Yuvaraj. He would be produced in the court on Monday to seek police custody, sources said.

## **THE STORY SO FAR**

Police get custody of the prime accused after more than 100 days

**June 23, 2015**: Dalit graduate,

V. Gokulraj, from Omalur Taluk in Salem district is **abducted by a gang** while talking to a caste Hindu girl

June 24: The beheaded body of Gokulraj

of Gokulraj is found on a railway track near Pallipalayam in Namakkal district

June 25: Yuvaraj goes into hiding

July 3: Six,

including a woman, arrested

July 6: Two arrested for providing shelter to Yuvaraj

September 18:

R. Vishnupriya, Investigating Officer, is found hanging

**September 27**: CB-CID police issue **summons to Yuvaraj** for an inquiry

October 11: Yuvaraj surrenders before the CB-CID at Namakkal



Yuvaraj gets a tumultous welcome from his supporters at Namakkal on Sunday.

— PHOTO : S. GURU PRASATH