

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

General DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1376	Press
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Sd. B		
Dated	20-10-1917	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 20th October 1857.

No. 55. Read the following letter from J. URQUHART, Esq., Coroner of Madras; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 14th October 1857.

SIR,

With reference to a report which appeared in certain of the Madras newspapers of the 6th Instant, of the trial at the last Criminal Sessions of three men named Gooroosawmy, Geeroo and Rajah, in which report a Coroner's Jury is said to have returned a verdict of wilful murder, which caused these three men to be committed to prison on the 13th July last, without a particle of evidence to warrant the charge on which they were committed; I have the honor to submit for the consideration of Government the enclosed certified copies of the evidence produced before the Coroner's Court, and of the verdict returned.

I beg most respectfully to bring to the notice of Government that my public character has in my opinion suffered very greatly from this report, and that I am quite unable without permission to refute any of the assertions contained in it, as there is an express order prohibiting the communication to the public, of any information, without previous sanction. I therefore beg that such sanction may be given, in order that the facts of the case may be laid before the public in any way approved of by Government.

The case was patiently investigated for many hours and during parts of several days by six intelligent men, five of whom were respectable East Indians, and the verdict was returned after hearing all the general evidence, and the evidence of the Medical Officer of the district who examined the body. The Jury considered that the deceased died from the blows given by the prisoners and the fever thereby occasioned.

By some error of the press the case was entered in the Calendar as one of "murder" whereas the verdict of the Jury was "manslaughter." The prisoners were committed by me for manslaughter, and not for murder as stated in the Calendar.

(Signed) J. URQUHART,
Coroner of Madras.

*MADRAS, } Informations of witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on the behalf of
to Wit. } Our Sovereign Lady the Queen touching the death of Moonoosawmy Naick, near
Parcherry bazar tannah in Sathanee street at the Black Town of Madras, on the third day of
July in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, before me, John
Urquhart, Esq., Her Majesty's Coroner for Madras, on an Inquisition then and there taken on view
of the body of the said Moonoosawmy Naick then and there lying dead as follows, to wit,*

Rungasawmy being duly sworn in the Tamil language deposeth and saith, I am a compounder in Mr. Dashwood's dispensary. I live in St. Thome, I know the deceased, I am his son-in-law. The name of the deceased is Moonoosawmy Naick. I do not know the cause of the death of the deceased. I saw him last alive yesterday. He then had fever and convulsions. I saw some blood in his stools; he was purged 4 or 5 times a measure of blood in the day. I saw also marks of blows on his right shoulder. Deceased did not speak to me. He was delirious. I saw him the day before yesterday when he was delirious and in the same way. I have seen him every day for the last 4 or 5 days, from Monday last. He was all that time delirious. I had not seen deceased for two or three months before that. He was then quite well. Deceased died this morning at 6 o'clock. The deceased was a rice measurer at the beach. I saw deceased die.

(Signed) RUNGASAWMY.

(A true interpretation.)

(Signed) MAHOMED ESOOFF,
Sworn Interpreter.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 20th October 1857.

Ragoovooloo being duly sworn in the Tamil language deposeth and saith, I am a gold smith at the Mint, I know the deceased. Nine days ago about lamp light, three men now present took the deceased from the road here up to the next house in the street. I was standing here. The man Gooroosawmy was drawing deceased forward having hold of both his wrists with both his hands. The man Geeroo who was at the side of the deceased on the right hand side gave deceased a blow on the left side of his chest. Another man now present was abusing deceased, abusing his mother, after these men Gooroosawmy and Geeroo took deceased up to the part of the road opposite the next house, I went up and spoke to Gooroosawmy saying deceased was deaf "why should you meddle with him." Then Gooroosawmy let deceased go. Geeroo was not holding deceased. I saw only one blow. I do not know Gooroosawmy and Gerop. I never saw them before that evening. I do not know any thing more. I did not see any sticks or blows with sticks.

The mark + of RAGOOVOOLOO.

(A true interpretation.)

(Signed) MAHOMED ESOOFF,

Sworn Interpreter.

Rungasawmy Rajoo being duly sworn in the Teloogoo language deposeth and saith, I am a writer. I live in Town near this. On Monday or Tuesday about 5 or 6 days ago, about a little after six o'clock, evening, I was coming this road. There was a crowd here. Two or three men were striking the deceased with their fists closed. There were no weapons, no sticks used. I do not know the men who struck. It was dark. I saw two or three blows given on one shoulder. I do not recollect which. Two or three men gave a blow each. I did not see any kicks given. Deceased was standing in a doubled up position. Some one was laying hold of the hair of his head. I do not know who. This happened near this house on the road here. I left them and saw nothing more. There was a great crowd. I knew the deceased before, that was how I knew him then. I had urgent business and went away.

(A true interpretation.)

(Signed) MAHOMED ESOOFF,

Sworn Interpreter.

The above information were severally taken and acknowledged on the day, year and at the place first abovementioned, the contents having been previously explained by the sworn Interpreter.

Before me,

(Signed) J. URQUHART,

Coroner.

John William Mudge, Esquire, M. D., being duly sworn deposeth and saith, I am acting Surgeon 1st District and reside in Rundall's road, I have seen the body of the deceased in the evening on which the Inquest was held in the Parcherry, on last Friday. By order of the Coroner noosawmy Naick. I saw no particular external marks of violence except on the right shoulder. The right shoulder was swelled, blackened and discoloured from the neck to the upper third of right arm. On cutting into this, the parts underneath were found much bruised and filled with dark effused coagulated blood. The lungs were found somewhat congested in the upper lobes and contained frothy fluid. The liver was in a diseased state, hard, granular and of a yellow colour, such as is found in persons addicted to the use of spirits. The gall bladder was almost black from effusion of blood in its coats and the ascending colon, part of the duodenum and pancreas and the cellular tissue around right kidney were all dark and infiltrated with effused blood. Living membrane of stomach was somewhat injected and the viens turgid but not more than might be expected in such a condition of the liver. On opening the skull, the membranes on the surface of brain were somewhat opaque, with milky effusion under the arachnoid membrane. The substance of the brain presented nothing unusual. I am of opinion that the peculiar state of the shoulder must have been caused by bruising with some instrument or substance not very hard as there was no abrasion of the surface. The first might do it if closed, a similar

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cause might account for the effused blood in the abdomen either kicking, stamping or bruising. I do not believe that a mere fall in the street would account for such injuries, even though deceased had been intoxicated. The internal effusion I believe could not have been caused without some violence. I have repeatedly seen marks of violence appearing internally on examination and yet no marks on the skin of blows or bruises. The state of the membranes of the brain depended most probably on chronic inflammation caused by fever which again might have been induced by the bodily injuries especially in a person of intemperate habits. The state of the liver of itself would not account for the fever, but if fever came on after injury the diseased state of liver would very much diminish the person's chance of recovery. The diseased state of the liver would make any injury more serious than it would otherwise be.

(Signed) J. W. MUDGE, M. D.,

Acting Surgeon 1st District.

The above information was taken and acknowledged on the seventh day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, at the Coroner's office Beach, in the Black Town of Madras,

Before me,

(Signed) J. URQUHART, *Coroner.*

Vurden being duly sworn in the Tamil language deposeth and saith, I am son of the deceased and live in the same house. I help my father to measure rice. One Mootea Pillay now present lives in our house, he had been quarrelling with the owner of the house now present a woman named Mootammah about 10 days ago. This was at the street door. The three men now present live in the next house, Mootea Pillay was seizing the woman Mootammah telling her she robbed a chemboo, this was about 6 o'clock evening. Then Mootammah made a noise and the three men now present came running from their house and laid hold of Mootea Pillay's hair and pushed his waist. Mootea Pillay was not striking Mootammah, only pulling her by the hand and telling her to come to the tannah. My father who was lying down, came up and separated Mootea Pillay from these three men now present and Mootea Pillay went into the house. Then these three men now present whose names are Gooroosawmy, Geeroo and Rajah took the deceased my father off the ground and carried him opposite their house and laid him down on the ground, knocked him down, and then they all three beat him with their closed fists on the shoulder. They all gave blows on the shoulder and chest. I did not see any one kick or stamp on deceased. Then Ragoovooloo, the 2nd witness with the assistance of another got away my father and brought him to the house. I was standing all this time on the pial crying, and saw quite well. There were many persons present after my father returned to the house; he immediately got up again and ran to the tannah and brought a peon, these three men ran into the house, and then my father returned to the house and slept. Deceased was quite well before these blows; immediately after he came home from the Tannah the fever came on and the fever continued till 8 or 9 days when he died. Within 2 or 3 days after he got fever he became delirious and had convulsions. I do not know any cause for this quarrel. My father did not drink regularly, only once in 10 or 15 days he had one fanam's worth of arrack. My father did not abuse these men. He only separated these three men from Mootea Pillay. I do not know any cause for the violence of these men except the interfering of my father with them and Mootea Pillay, Mootammah cried "Oh!" she did not call any person's name out when she cried out. Deceased never had fits before this.

The Mark x of VURDEN,

(A true interpretation.)

(Signed) MAHOMED ESOOFF,

Sworn Interpreter.

The above information was taken and acknowledged on the seventh day of July one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, at the Coroner's Office, Beach, in the Black Town of Madras, the contents having been previously explained by the sworn Interpreter.

Before me,

(Signed) J. URQUHART, *Coroner.*

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John William Mudge, Esquire, M. D., being examined on his former oath deposeth and saith, I have heard the evidence of the witness Vurden; so far as I can judge, the fever depended on the injuries seen on the body of the deceased. He died from fever combined with inflammation of the brain, probably caused by these injuries.

(Signed) J. W. MUDGE, M. D.,
Acting Surgeon, 1st District.
(A true intrepertation.)

(Signed) T. MAHOMED ESOOFF,
Sworn Intrepreter.

The above information was taken and acknowledged on the seventh day of July one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, at the Coroner's Office, Beach, in the Black Town of Madras, the contents having been previously explained by the sworn Interpreter.

Before me,

(Signed) J. URQUHART, Coroner.

Ruthnum being duly sworn in the Teloo goo language deposeth and saith, I am wife of deceased. 13 days ago about lamp-light there was a fight in the street next house to ours. I sent deceased to go and separate. I went also. Some men I do not know, who were fighting turned on my husband and struck him. Then Ragoovooloo brought my husband from them, deceased came in and fever came on directly. I do not know any cause of quarrel between deceased and these men. Deceased was always well before this. He never had fits till after this fever came on. He used to drink arrack before but not lately. He never used to drink to excess. He has not done any work nor taken any arrack for 10 years. He was not sick but he did not work, my brother-in-law supported us.

The mark x of RUTHNUM.
(A true intrepertation.)

(Signed) T. MAHOMED ESOOFF,
Sworn Intrepreter.

The above information was taken and acknowledged on the seventh day of July 1857, at the Coroner's Office, Beach, in the Black Town of Madras, the contents having been previously explained by the sworn Intrepreter.

Before me,

(Signed) J. URQUHART, Coroner.

Balakishtoodoo being duly sworn in the Teloo goo language deposeth and saith, I am Goomastah to a boat owner. I live in Satanee street, Parcherry, where deceased lived. On a Thursday some 10 or 15 days ago, I was in a pial in this street opposite to the house of the deceased. A man went to the house of Goroosawmy, and called out for him in the street. Goroosawmy now present came out and this man told him to come as they were beating his mother. Goroosawmy came to deceased's street door and asked what was the matter, some one within the house said "they gave the chemboo and now say I stole it, they are flogging me, now I knew this was the landlady's voice. I did not see her. Goroosawmy said this is the landlady "why should you strike," a man named Mootoosawmy a cook who lived there said "what is it to you." Then Goroosawmy said, "who but the neighbours should enquire of this quarrel." Then when this was going on the deceased Moonoosawmy came out and at that time Goroosawmy and Mootoosawmy were fighting. Deceased said "who is the man who is striking him, abusing." Then Mootoosawmy told deceased "go and bring a Peon," so deceased ran. After deceased went away the men separated and Goroosawmy went away. Geeroo was present at this time, Rajah was not present at all, a Police Peon came back with Moonoosawmy from the Parcherry bazaar tannah, no one struck Moonoosawmy at all. I saw Moonoosawmy on his pial the following morning. It was about 5 o'clock evening when this happened. I do not know the exact date.

(A true intrepertation.)

(Signed) T. MAHOMED ESOOFF,
Sworn Intrepeter.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 20th October 1857.

Moonoosawmy Naidoo being duly sworn in the Teloo goo language deposeth and saith, I am Curnum to Mr. Burton, Boat-owner. I live next the house of the deceased. On the 25th of last month, about 5 or half past 5, evening, a man came opposite my house and called out "Goroosawmy." The man is here, his name is Adynarayadoo. Goroosawmy came out, and Audynarayadoo said "you come brother they are beating my mother." Then Goroosawmy came and stood at the deceased's door. Then I did not hear what was said, but a man named Mootoosawmy struck Goroosawmy and Goroosawmy struck Mootoosawmy. Then I approached the place. After I went to the place, the deceased came running, and abusing, out of the house from inside. He said "who is that fighting." Then Mootoosawmy told him to go and bring a Tannah peon; the deceased went to the Tannah, and I did not see anything more. I did not see the peon come. I did not see any one strike the deceased. I did not know anything more.

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(A true interpretation.)

(Signed) T. MAHOMED ESOOFF,
Sworn Interpreter.

Mahomed Khan being duly sworn in the Hindoostanee language, deposeth and saith, I am a Police peon, No. 262, attached to the Parcherry Tannah. Nine days ago about 6 in the morning when I was at my Tannah, the first witness came and reported the death of the deceased. I went to the house of the deceased and saw deceased lying dead, when the body was seen by the Coroner and Jury. There was a blue mark on the right shoulder, I do not know what was the cause of this blue mark. I heard at the time I went to see the body that there had been fighting. I do not know anything more.

محمّد يوسف

(A true interpretation.)

(Signed) T. MAHOMED ESOOFF,
Sworn Interpreter.

Vurden being examined on his former oath deposeth and saith. When my father ran to the Tannah he brought with him a Police peon, named Ramasawmy. I do not know where Ramasawmy is now.

The mark of x VURDEN.

(A true interpretation.)

(Signed) T. MAHOMED ESOOFF,
Sworn Interpreter.

Goolam Rassool being duly sworn in the Hindoostanee language deposeth and saith, I am a Police Duffadar Major attached to Parcherry bazaar Tannah. On the 25th June last, about 8 o'clock I returned to my Tannah when Peon Ramanah No. 116 came to me and reported to me that Moonoosawmy the deceased had come to the Tannah about ½ past 6 o'clock that evening and complained against the three men now present, Rajah, Geeroo, and Goroosawmy, that they had struck Mootoosawmy. I did not hear of the deceased having been struck. The Peon No. 116, went to the house of the deceased with the deceased and found all quiet but a crowd assembled. I did not hear that night that the deceased had been struck. On July 1st, the witnesses Ragoovooloo and Vurden, told me that there was a quarrel or a fight on the 25th evening of June, and that these three men Goroosawmy, Geeroo and Rajah struck the deceased. A woman named Balamah now present also told this to me. I do not know anything more.

The mark of x GOOLAM RASSOOL,

(A true interpretation.)

(Signed) T. MAHOMED ESOOFF,
Sworn Interpreter.

Fort St. George, Judicial Consultation, 20th October 1857.

Balamah being duly sworn in the Tamil language deposeth and saith, I am a petty bazaar keeper and live in the house with the deceased. On a Thursday evening about 3 weeks ago there was a quarrel about 6 o'clock in our house between the landlady and Mootoosawmy who lives also in the house. This was in the entrance to the house. I was at the outer door. Then the deceased came to separate the two who were fighting, he separated them and then the three men Goroosawmy, Geeroo and Rajah, came of their own accord and struck deceased, and dragged him and took him away to the street facing their own house, they struck him there. I saw all the three striking. I told this to the Duffadar some days after when I was asked. I did not see deceased strike any of these three men, I have known deceased 4 or 5 months. He was a quiet man, unemployed. I have never seen him drunk since I went there 5 months ago. I see him every day. Deceased was quite well before the striking and ill directly after. He did not complain of pain but had fever that night.

The mark of x BALAMAH.

(A true interpretation,)

(Signed) T. MAHOMED ESOOFF,

Sworn Interpreter.

Mootoosawmy Pillay being duly sworn in the Tamil language deposeth and saith, I am a Conicopillay on the Railway, I was a cook before. I live in the house of the deceased. On 11th day of Anee about half past 6 o'clock evening, the landlady of the house and I were quarrelling. She had hidden one of my chemboos in her waist cloth and I was dragging her to the Tannah. Then she threw the chemboo into the house and began making a noise and ran into the street, then the neighbour house people Goroosawmy, Geeroo and Rajoo came and struck me. The deceased came out and dragged me away and the witness Ragoovooloo took me away and I saw no more. I did not see deceased struck.

முத்துசாமிபிள்ளை.

(A true interpretation,)

(Signed) T. MAHOMED ESOOFF,

Sworn Interpreter.

Ruthnum being examined on her former oath deposeth and saith, Deceased was attended by a Native doctor who came once three days after deceased was struck. Deceased never went out after he was struck except once the day after, I believe to the place where he was summoned. He got a summons from the neighbour house people, the three men present, for striking. He went to the Monygar Choultry the day before his death, but did not remain. He was carried in a palanquin to the Choultry.

The mark of + RUTHNUM,

(A true interpretation,)

(Signed) T. MAHOMED ESOOFF,

Sworn Interpreter.

The above informations were severally taken and acknowledged on the eleventh day of July one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, at the Coroner's Office, Beach, in the Black Town of Madras, the contents having been previously explained by the sworn Interpreter.

Before me,

(Signed) J. URQUHART,

Coroner.

(True Copies,)

(Signed) JOHN BRUCE NORTON,

Clerk of the Crown.

MADRAS, } An Inquisition taken for our Sovereign Lady the Queen, in Sathanee Street
to Wit. } near Paracherry Tannah at the Black Town of Madras, on the third day of July in
the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, before me John Urquhart,
Esquire, Coroner of our Lady the Queen, for the said town of Madras, and places thereunto ad-

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jacent, on view of the body of Moonoosawmy Naick then and there lying dead and by adjournment at the Coroner's office, Beach, on the seventh, and eleventh and thirteenth days of the said month of July in the year aforesaid. Upon the oath of Messieurs Francis Mann Moraes, Thomas D'Ramos, Henry Yettie, George Goodman, Lazaro Texeira Martin, and Pondicherry Ponnosawmy Moodelly, good and lawful men of the said town, duly chosen, and who being then and there duly sworn, and charged to enquire for our said Lady the Queen, when, how, and by what means the said Moonoosawmy Naick came to his death, do upon their oath say, that Goroosawmy, Geeroo, and Rajah of Madras, labourers, on the twenty-fifth day of June in the year aforesaid in Sathanee Street near Paracherry tannah at the Black town of Madras aforesaid and within the local limits of the Criminal Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Judicature at Madras aforesaid in and upon the said Moonoosawmy Naick in the peace of God and of our said Sovereign Lady the Queen then and there being feloniously, wilfully, and unlawfully did make an assault and that they the said Goroosawmy, Geeroo, and Rajah with their right hands him the said Moonoosawmy Naick then and there feloniously, wilfully and unlawfully did strike and beat him the said Moonoosawmy Naick in and upon the right shoulder and breast of him the said Moonoosawmy Naick, thereby then and there giving unto him the said Moonoosawmy Naick in and upon the right shoulder and breast divers mortal bruises, of which said mortal bruises and of the fever thereby occasioned, he the said Moonoosawmy Naick from the twenty-fifth day of the said month of June in the year aforesaid until the third day of July in the same year, in Sathanee Street aforesaid and also in his dwelling house in Sathanee Street aforesaid did languish and languishing did live; on which said third day of the said month of July in the year aforesaid, he the said Moonoosawmy Naick in his house in Sathanee Street aforesaid of the mortal bruises aforesaid and of the fever thereby occasioned did die, and so the Jurors aforesaid upon their oaths aforesaid do say that the said Goroosawmy, Geeroo, and Rajah, him the said Moonoosawmy Naick in manner and by the means aforesaid feloniously, wilfully and unlawfully did kill and slay, against the peace of our said Sovereign Lady the Queen Her Crown and dignity. In witness whereof as well the said Coroner as the Jurors aforesaid have to this Inquisition set their hands and seals on the thirteenth day of July in the year aforesaid, at the Coroner's office Beach in the Black town of Madras aforesaid.

(Signed)	J. URQUHART, Coroner.	(L. S.)
(")	F. M. MORAES, Foreman.	(L. S.)
(")	H. YETTIE.	(L. S.)
(")	T. D'RAMOS.	(L. S.)
(")	G. GOODMAN,	(L. S.)
(")	L. T. MARTIN.	(L. S.)
(")	P. PONNOOSAWMY MOODELLY.	(L. S.)

A true Copy.)

(Signed) JOHN BRUCE NORTON,

Clerk of the Crown.

ORDER THEREON, No. 1376; dated 20th October 1857.

No. 56.

Government are not able to withdraw the prohibitory order, which forbids persons in public employ writing on official matters in the newspapers, but if the course meets the Coroner's wishes, his present letter and its enclosure, will be placed for perusal on the Editors' table in the Government office.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Not to be
re-circulated.

8th 13/6.

Govt are not able to withdraw
the prohibiting order which forbids
persons in public employ writing
on official matters in the newspaper
but if the course meets the
Comer's wishes, his present letter
& its enclosures will be placed
for perusal on the Editor's table
in the Govt. Office - C. W.

To Mr. George,
October, 1857

P. 4.0

This kindly meets the
objection - he must peruse the
paper. But cannot write down the
prohibitory of the Govt on this subject - but the
enclosures might be placed on the table
for perusal - but if not desired