

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	713	Press
		<u>MIS.</u>
12-13		
Dated	1. 6. 1861	19

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
1st June 1861.

No. 12. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Madras Police; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Rajahmundry, 24th May 1861, No. 700.

General Department.

I have the honor to submit a report, by the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Cuddapah, of a gallant act on the part of one Boë Vasongadu.

2. A formidable gang of robbers attacked the house of one Kumsala Subadu in the village of Mullada, about midnight of 28th April 1861. While they were brutally torturing the owner, his neighbour, the said Boë Vasongadu ran to his assistance. He was however knocked down and severely wounded by the gang; but, nothing daunted, he ran back for his gun and boldly faced the gang again, and shot one* of them; when the whole decamped.

3. I beg the Government to permit me to disburse 50 Rupees, as recommended by the Assistant Superintendent of Police to Boë Vasongadu.

4. The effects of the recent rewards granted by Government in this District in cases of gallant resistance, has been almost to check crime in Cuddapah. The reward is a small matter, but the effect of advertizing people that they are supported in defending their own homes and property and the honor of their families which is so frequently attacked by these brutal marauders, will be magical.

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Monday, 6th May 1861—Pedda Teppasamoodrum.

Yesterday I passed at Guttbroog and Cotacotah, and I came on to this place this morning. I have been occupied in making a very full and particular inquiry into the circumstances connected with the gang robbery at Mullada, which occurred on the night of the 28th ultimo.

The gang numbered about five and twenty, and they attacked and forcibly entered the house of one Kumsala Subadu at about midnight. A man who lived close by named Boë Vasongadu ran out of his house on hearing the noise to ascertain the cause of it. He was immediately knocked down with stones, receiving three severe wounds, one on the leg, another on the arm, and a third (slighter than the other two) in the face.

During this time others of the gang had severely beaten Kumsala Subadu with sticks and stones, burning him also with their lighted torches on the shoulder and hand. Boë Vasongadu having recovered himself a little, got up and entering his house returned with his gun and fired at a man who held a lighted torch close in front of Kumsala Subadu's house. The man fell immediately, and on hearing the report of the gun and seeing one of their number fall, the remainder of the gang ran away, not even attempting to remove the body of the fallen man, nor would they have been able to do so had they made the attempt; as by that time the inhabitants, aroused by the screams of the unfortunate victim Kumsala Subadu, had collected, and came from all sides to the rescue.

The man was a resident of Pedda Teppasamoodrum, which is about six miles off. He lived only until the next day, when he died about 12 o'clock, and unfortunately from the first he was unable to speak, and thus no information could be elicited from him. He was thus killed in the very act of gang robbery by one of his victims, who although cruelly maltreated and injured, had still the courage to return and face the gang, and from the timely assistance of this single individual the unfortunate Kumsala Subadu was released from the grasp of the men who held him not however until he had been severely burnt and injured. Before the assembled population of Teppasamoodrum, I expressed my admiration and approbation of his conduct, promising to recommend him for reward.

I recommend accordingly that he should be given the same reward as was lately given in Chitvail (and I do so in the full hope that it will be granted), viz., Rupees fifty. The Sub Collector agrees with me in considering that such a reward is well deserved, and it will be well laid out.

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Such calls on Government will be but few ; but every 50 Rupees thus expended will have a magical effect, and lastly contribute to the preservation of peace and order throughout the District.

Gang robbers do not and will not bargain to risk their lives, and when they find that they must be prepared to do so, gang robberies will become few and far between.

The people throughout the Sub Division have heard of the Chitvail case and the rewards bestowed there, but I doubt whether they as yet quite realize it, but this if sanctioned will dispel all doubts and convince them that on the occurrence of such heinous outrages, to repel force by force is not only justifiable but meritorious in the extreme. But I need say no more, as I am convinced the Inspector General will sanction the amount I ask for.

(Signed) W. KNYNETT,
Assistant Superintendent of Police.

Passed on for favorable consideration of Inspector General.
11th May 1861.

(Signed) G. B. BROWN.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Inspector General of Madras Police.

No. 13.

ORDER THEREON, 1st June 1861, No. 713.

The Government sanction payment of a reward of (50) fifty Rupees to Boë Vasongadu, for his gallant conduct on the occasion of the house of his neighbour in the village of Mullada, Cuddapah, being attacked by a gang of robbers.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

N^o 713 - 1st June 1861

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The Inspector General
of Police.
Magistrate of Cuddapah. 22/6/61.
Civil Paymaster
Accl. Genl.