

Indian computer programmer shot dead in Dallas

BY A CORRESPONDENT
Dallas, TX: Saravanan R. Subramanian, a computer programmer, who moved to Dallas from New York, was shot to death on January 7 around 9:00 p.m., while working in a gas station in Arlington, TX. He was shot twice—once in the head and then in stomach. The reason for this killing and the number of people involved in shooting are unknown at this time. Saravanan doesn't have any friends or relatives in the area and no one knows much about him.

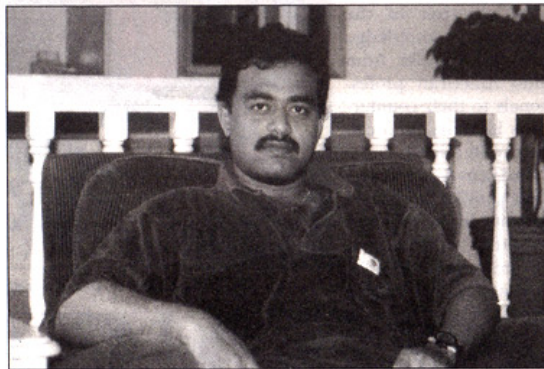
Arlington Police confiscated Saravanan's cell phone, visited the place where he was staying before and trying to get some clues to determine the motive behind this killing.

The Consulate General of India, Houston, approached Prasad Thotakura, the local Indian-American community leader, to help out in this case.

Prasad Thotakura said: "I have contacted Saravanan's

family in Tamil Nadu and found that Saravanan, 31, unmarried, an MCA graduate from Madurai Kamraj University, came to this coun-

Prasad Thotakura, with the help of the local community members, raised the needed monies to send the body to India. After all the necessary



Saravanan R. Subramanian

try five years ago. His father is a retired fitter of a spinning mill in Madurai. His parents won't believe that this happened to their son and wish to see at least his body and requested me to send it to Madurai for final rites."

documentation and formalities, the body was sent to Chennai from Dallas on January 13, by Lufthansa Airlines. The body is expected to reach there on Sunday, January 16."

Prasad Thotakura said that he

had visited the place where Saravanan was killed. "It is very surprising to see that the assailants didn't touch any cash or merchandise from the store; the whole store was intact. The entire community is in shock and anxious to know the mystery behind this killing. It is very sad to see a promising young man, who came to this country with a lot of hope and aspiration, was killed for no reason," Prasad Thotakura added.

K.G.M. Pillai, the Deputy Consul General of India, Houston, in a statement said that his office had written a letter to the US State Department to investigate the case thoroughly and find out the motive behind this killing. He commended the humanitarian service and mobilization skills of Prasad Thotakura for getting information about Saravanan and completing the formalities to send the body to India in a timely and professional manner.

Prasad Thotakura, along with other community members, will meet with the Arlington Police Department next week to with a request to speed up the investigation of this case. Prasad stated that Schepps Dairy Company has announced a reward of \$10,000 for any leads in this case.

"As a community, we stood together, worked relentlessly as a team, raised needed funds in no time, and took care of all logistics and formalities to send Saravanan's body to India. I express my special thanks to Radhika who was constantly in touch with Saravanan's family back home to updating them with the proceedings. I sincerely appreciate all team members who worked hard especially Radhika, Paul, Caldwell, Sunder, Ranga, K.K. Lal, Qazi and the kind support and guidance of CGI Office, IANT and MTS," Prasad Thotakura, said.