

# Five arrested for attack on house of leader's daughter

They have been remanded in judicial custody

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Thiruvananthapuram: Police in Kerala have identified and arrested five people in connection with the attack on the house of senior Communist Party of India Marxist leader T. Sivadasa Menon's daughter, at Manjeri. The attack came on the heels of the recent setback for the party in the local body elections in Kerala.

The five arrested were identified as Abdul Rahman, Gireesh, Mohammad Sharif, Akbar and Sirajudeen, all of who are reportedly associated with the Marxist Party.

Political observers say that the arrest exposes the ongoing factionalism in the party.

Menon's daughter's house, where he has been staying, was attacked last Saturday and the window panes were shattered. It was initially considered to be a case of political vendetta or a rowdy act, but the arrests reveal that the attack may have to do with internal feuds in the party.

CPI-M state secretary Pinarayi Vijayan had condemned the attack and blamed the Indian Union Muslim League for the attack.

Reports say the police zoomed in on the accused after having examined hundreds of mobile phone calls in the area that night. The five accused were produced before the Manjeri chief judicial magistrate and have been remanded in judicial custody.

A tense situation prevailed when the accused were produced before the magistrate, and a cameraman of a local television channel was attacked while covering the incident. A Left activist, K. Kishore, was taken into custody with regard to the attack on the media person.