

**F.No.1-752/2009-TW/
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
DIRECTORATE OF TRIBAL WELFARE**

Port Blair, dated the 11th November, 2013

Field Assessment Report

Given the last few days development in Tirrur region whereby settler was found responsible for taking 05 Jarawas out from Reserve Territory to Tarmugli Island near Wandoor. This case was promptly followed up by AAJVS field staffs and concerned Police Authorities. However, on 08.11.2013, Nitai Mondal was left on bail inspite of being booked under PAT charges by the Judiciary system.

2. Given the developing problematic background of Jarawas at Tirrur region, a team comprising of Director (Tribal Welfare), Research Associates of ANTRI in coordination with AAJVS staff at Tirrur met together, conferred and made assessments on 9.11.2013. A day long programme to assess the field situation was planned and undertaken on 09.11.2013. The group first went to Jhaokhuna from Tirrur AAJVS office to evaluate possible fall outs and ramifications of the 05 Jarawas who were brought back from Tarmugli island. But the 05 Jarawas had gone further interior. The team came back with a Jarawa lady by the name of Thorwatal who was suffering from serious head and hand injury (supposedly hit by daw). This incident has been recently misrepresented as Jarawas (men) who got into a brawl as they were intoxicated. It cannot be established if they were really drunk or if it was an inter-community conflict with the above lady in focus. The Jarawa lady has been taken for further medical treatment.

3. Upon returning back to Tirrur, AAJVS office, the Director (Tribal Welfare) had pre-arranged a meeting with SHO, Tushnabad, In-charge, Police Outpost Tirrur, Forest Range Officer, Tushnabad and field staff of AAJVS. Prof Visvajit Pandya, Honorary Director, ANTRI also participated in the meeting.

4. The points which have emerged from this meeting are given below -

- (i) Director (TW) strongly drove the point that the Police and Forest Department will have to take responsibility and be more pro-active in safeguarding the integrity of Jarawa Reserve Territory.
- (ii) The Forest official seems to be ignorant if they are supposed to conduct any preventative or cautionary operations in the forest associated with Jarawas. This also appears to be "turning a blind eye" to visible signs of installed fish lines and rampant along the creek at Harbatbad Nallah.