

Justices in the Supreme Court
Of India,

The humble application of the
Applicants abovenamed,

Most Respectfully sheweth:

1. The Applicants are registered societies dedicated to the preservation of the ecology and also of the tribals living in the forest areas. They have filed Writ Petition No.76 of 1999 before the Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Port Blair in respect of the extermination of the Onge, a primitive tribe living in the Little Andaman islands and also in respect of the de-forestation being carried out by the Administration of the Andaman and Nicobar islands headed by the Lt. Governor, the Forest Department officials and the Andaman and Nicobar Forest Plantation and Development Corporation. They have also been impleaded as parties in a public interest petition being Writ Petition No.58/1999 in respect of the Jarwah (a primitive tribe) in South Andamans.

2. The Little Andamans forms part of the Andaman and Nicobar islands chain of 350 islands in the Bay of Bengal. These are covered by rain forests having the finest mangroves and coral reefs and is an ecologically fragile area and a hot spot of biodiversity.

3. The Onge are a Negrito tribe living in the Little Andamans. This tribe is the purest genetic species of man on earth dating back some 70,000 years.

4. Because of the destructive policies of the Administration, the Forest Department and the Forest Corporation the population of the Onge declined from 672 in 1901 to less than 100 today. Annexed hereto and marked Annexure-A(colly) are photographs of the area which indicate the indiscriminate manner in which trees are being cut in the area.

Reserved Forest