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Survival



Lt. General (Retd) A K Singh
Lieutenant Governor
Raj Niwas
Port Blair
Andaman and Nicobar Islands
744 101
India

4 December 2013

Dear Lt. General A K Singh,

Survival is extremely concerned at reports of the illegal provision of alcohol to the Jarawa by the settlers and of the sexual exploitation of Jarawa women.

Survival has raised the issue of local poachers supplying alcohol to the tribe for over a decade. Experience tells us that alcohol dependency wreaks havoc on tribal communities previously unexposed to the substance. The suggestion that some of those illicitly bartering alcohol with Jarawa also supply the AAJVS is particularly alarming. There are serious doubts over the policing of poaching and other interactions with the Jarawa, especially in the Tirur area.

We were also disturbed to learn of an alcohol-fuelled fight between two Jarawa. Evidence suggests that the authorities attempted to suppress news of the incident (which was only exposed due to the efforts of the local media), instead of seeking to prosecute those responsible for providing the alcohol.

Even more disturbing, are the reports of sexual exploitation of Jarawa women in the Tirur area. Allegedly, obscene films are being shown to the Jarawa, who are 'encouraged' to perform sexual acts. I urge you to investigate these allegations immediately and bring anyone engaging in these actions to justice. I also urge you to ensure that strong measures are taken against any officials who were aware of this practice, but did not take action.

In the past, the authorities have taken action against foreign poachers whilst turning a blind eye towards local poaching. However, it's clear that years of exploitation by local poachers are beginning to take their toll on the Jarawa and we fear that the recent incident of an alcohol related fight will not be the last.

We urge you to take strong action to ensure that no local poachers or settlers give alcohol to the Jarawa and that anyone found doing so be prosecuted with the full force of the ANPATR. We also urge you to immediately investigate the allegation of sexual abuse in Tirur and to ensure that the culprits be prosecuted fully.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Corry
Director

cc. Shri Anand Prakash, Chief Secretary
Shri G. Theva Neethi Dhas, Secretary, Tribal Welfare

Survival International
6 Charterhouse Buildings
London EC1M 7ET
United Kingdom
T 020 7687 8700
F 020 7687 8701
info@survival-international.org
www.survival-international.org

**We help tribal peoples
defend their lives, protect
their lands and determine
their own futures.**

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Right Livelihood Award 1989
Survival International
Charitable Trust
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