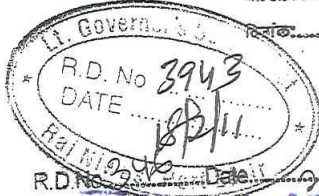


# Survival

for tribal peoples



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Lt Gen (Retd) Bhopinder Singh  
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Secretary (Labour and  
Administration)

Survival is a worldwide  
organisation supporting  
tribal peoples. It stands  
for their right to decide  
their own future and helps  
them protect their lives,  
lands and human rights.

January 28, 2011

Dear Gen Bhopinder Singh,

Survival welcomes the recent crackdown and arrest of poachers, particularly those in the waters close to the Jarawa reserve and North Sentinel Island, by the Coastguard, navy and police. Poaching both by Burmese nationals and the local Indian population is a grave threat to the Jarawa and the Sentinelese. It depletes the forests and marine resources that are essential to their survival. It also brings outsiders into their forest homes and onto their shores, risking disease, violence, dependency and exploitation.

The number of poachers who have been caught in recent months is a testament not only to the commitment of the Coastguard but also to the extent of the problem. However, we remain extremely concerned that local poachers, who are equally dangerous to the Jarawa and Sentinelese, are not being targeted with the same vigour. We know that local poachers are regularly going into the Jarawa reserve to hunt for wild pig, which is essential to the Jarawa, and that fishermen lay their nets close to the shore of the Jarawa reserve.

On Little Andaman, overhunting by settlers has severely diminished the population of wild pig, which is so important to the Onge tribe. Reports from the Jarawa suggest that they are already finding it much harder to catch wild pigs than in recent years. We urge you to ensure that poaching is stopped before it is too late.

We are also extremely concerned about local poachers fishing in the waters around North Sentinel Island. Please find enclosed, photographs taken in 2005 and 2007, which are available on the internet

(<http://www.flickr.com/photos/christiancaron2000/1361022984/in/set-72157601952750450/>).

Poachers illegally took a photographer to the shores of North Sentinel to see the Sentinelese, and can also be clearly seen fishing. The caption that goes with one of these photographs says, 'The place is little fished, catches are waiting for you. The two fishermen, who join us, come regularly around the island. Some even spend the night at a safe distance from the shore...'

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Right Livelihood Award 1989  
Survival International  
Charitable Trust  
Registered Charity 267444  
Company registered in England  
no. 1056317  
Registered office as above