

Non-tribal man sires a baby from unwed Jarawa woman

- Baby killed, two 'civilized' men arrested
- Authorities in a quandary over arrest of murderer Jarawa man

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PORT BLAIR, JAN 13/- In quite bizarre a case which has forced the law enforcing agencies to scratch their collective head, unable to understand what action should be taken if a member of the primitive Jarawa tribe commits a murder. In the past, killings of the so-called civilized people by the hostile Jarawas was not quite uncommon, but what now when the Jarawas have willy-nilly joined the mainstream of society? Well, the authorities are groping for a plausible answer to the vexing question - should the law of the land apply to the primitive tribe? What if the members of the other primitive tribes committed the similar 'crime'? The case relates to the alleged murder of a 5-month old baby boy by a man of his own Jarawa tribe in November last year. The case took an even murkier turn since the Jarawa community suspected that the baby born of an unmarried Jarawa girl was sired by a non-Jarawa. Who could be the man responsible for exploiting the girl? There is a deafening silence about that. Mr. M. Janagi Saburiyammal, Tribal Welfare Officer, Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti (Tirur) is learnt to have lodged an FIR with the SHO, Ograbraj, on 16th No-

vember, 2015 about the mysterious death of a 5-month old baby boy which was evidently a murder committed by a Jarawa man named Tatehane. The baby born of an unwed woman and suspected to be sired by a non-Jarawa man, was initially hated by the tribe but later they started liking him. But Tatehane still seemed to continue harbouring a hatred for the baby and that might have been the motive behind the murder of the baby, said the TWO in his complaint. Intriguingly, Tatehane was abetted and aided by a 'civilized' man Subramanias Munna. Narrating the sequence of event, the TWO said in the FIR that two DRMs M/s Mahesh Mazumdar and Rajesh who had gone to old JPP Tirur No. 4 to shift the Jarawas from Collinpur Dinghi Ghat to Tirur No. 4, in the morning of 16th November, 2015 came to know from a Jarawa named Anjaley that the baby of Thaweythaja (unwed mother) had expired the same morning. The DRMs immediately informed the TWO over phone and also tried to bring the dead body to Collinpur but the Jarawas did not allow. Later in the afternoon, the TWO and three other staff of AAJVAS reached Tirur No. 4 where on

enquiry they were told by Jarawas named Loley and Aninja that Subramanias Munna had come to Tirur No. 4 in his oars dinghy on the night of 15th Nov and took Tatehane and Tuhitive to Jarawa Camp across the creek in his boat. Once there, Munna offered liquor to them and later dropped Tatehane back to Jarawa Camp at Tirur No. 4 and returned to spend the night with Tuhitive. Next morning, on 16th November, when all the Jarawas were still asleep, Tatehane picked the baby and tried to move away stealthily but was noticed by Loley who enquired as to where the baby was being taken. Tatehane told him that he was taking the baby to Jhaukona because Enotawateheya wanted to see him. Later when Tatehane returned to the camp, Thaweythaja, mother of the baby, asked about the baby to which she did not get any convincing reply. Soon after he went away in Munna's boat and got down at Jhaukona. Anjaley later informed that the bay's body was lying in the sand at Bada Nallah and that he had died of drowning forcibly. Meanwhile, it remains a mystery as to who is the non-tribal man who has sired the baby. "It's noteworthy that

Thaweythaja, mother of the baby is unmarried and the Jarawas believe that the baby's father is not from the Jarawa community," said the TWO in his complaint to the police copies of which were also sent to the Secretary (TW), Director (TW), Director (ANTRI) and the Executive Secretary (AAJVAS). According to sources, Subramanias Munna was arrested under SC, ST Act and sec. 302 for instigating the murder of the baby and is under judicial custody since Nov. 2015. Another accused, Raja, arrested by police under SC, ST Act, Sec 376 for having illicit relation with the Jarawa woman. He is also under judicial custody since Dec. 2015.

Meanwhile, the family members of both the accused are demanding the arrest of Jarawa murderer. When contacted Mr. Tiwari, Executive Secretary, AAJVS said that legal opinion is being sought in this case and if legally advised the Jarawa man too will be arrested. Dy. SP, Mr. M. Naushad said that crime is crime it doesn't matter who has committed it. "We have already approached the AAJVS for their advice and further course of action will be taken on hearing from them."