

Subsequent to the Addendum dated 10.6.2016 (Page 201/c) issued by this Directorate, allowing movement of Ambulance carrying serious referral patients and rescue / recovery of vehicle in the event of its breakdown without convoy as exception and special case, we have now received requests from the various stake holders to allow corpse (dead body) to cross Jarawa Reserve Area without convoy in case of emergency. Including the Police Department has also requested us to take a decision in this regard.

It is submitted that in order to protect and secure the Jarawa tribes, the concept of convoy system has come in existence from the Jarawa Policy of 2004. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has expressed satisfaction on the submission of existing convoy system on ATR passing through the Jarawa to regulate vehicular traffic on ATR in the SLP 12125/2010. Any violation of the regulatory order issued by the Administration and duly upheld by the Apex Court will have serious repercussion.

As per the present convoy system, exemptions have been given to the following under proper Police escorts:

- 1) The Dy Commission North & Middle Andaman in the event of any emergency situation like law & order, natural calamities
- 2) Ambulance carrying serious referral patients to GB Pant Hospital, Port Blair
- 3) Rescue/ Recovery of vehicle in the event of its breakdown within Jarawa Reserve

Inclusion of provision to allow corpse (dead body) to cross Jarawa Reserve Area without convoy in case of emergency in the regulatory order of Convoy system seems to be genuine and could be considered on humanitarian ground.

There is a Judgement of the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad, which, inter-alia says that *"the State must respect a dead person by allowing the body of person to be treated with dignity and unless it is required for the purposes of establishing a crime to ascertain the cause of death and be subjected to postmortem or for any scientific investigation, medical education or to save the life of another person in accordance with law, the preservation of the dead body and its disposal in accordance with human dignity"*