Survival

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

Lt General Bhopinder Singh
Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands
Raj Niwas
Port Blair 744 101
Andaman Islands
India

12 January 2010

Your Excellency,

Survival is concerned to discover that a number of tour operators are promoting tours which include sightings of, or encounters with, the Jarawa tribe. Details of the companies are attached.

As I'm sure you are aware, the promotion by tour operators of sightings of the Jarawa is in contempt of orders dated 07.05.2002 of the Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration Directorate of Information and Publicity Division issued a public caution to this effect to hoteliers, tour operators, cab operators and others on 30 May 2007.

Survival believes that the promotion of 'Jarawa tourism' puts the tribe at serious risk of disease, including swine flu, to which they are likely to have no immunity and which could easily devastate the population.

In addition to those tour operators advertising visits to the Jarawa on the internet, we believe there are likely to be many more individuals promoting sightings of the Jarawa directly to tourists within the islands.

I respectfully urge you to ensure that tourism to the Jarawa is stopped. I also urge Your Excellency to close the sections of the Andaman Trunk Road running through the Jarawa reserve, and to ensure that the poachers, tourists and other outsiders are kept off the tribe's land.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Corry
Director

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