

'This is a good opportunity for the government to bring the Jarawa to civilised life'

...being only 101, they are reduced to working as bonded labourers on a plantation in return for food. Their land is now reserved for logging and tourism and the wild boar that play such an important part in their festivals, such as the initiation of boys into adulthood, are being wiped out by poaching.

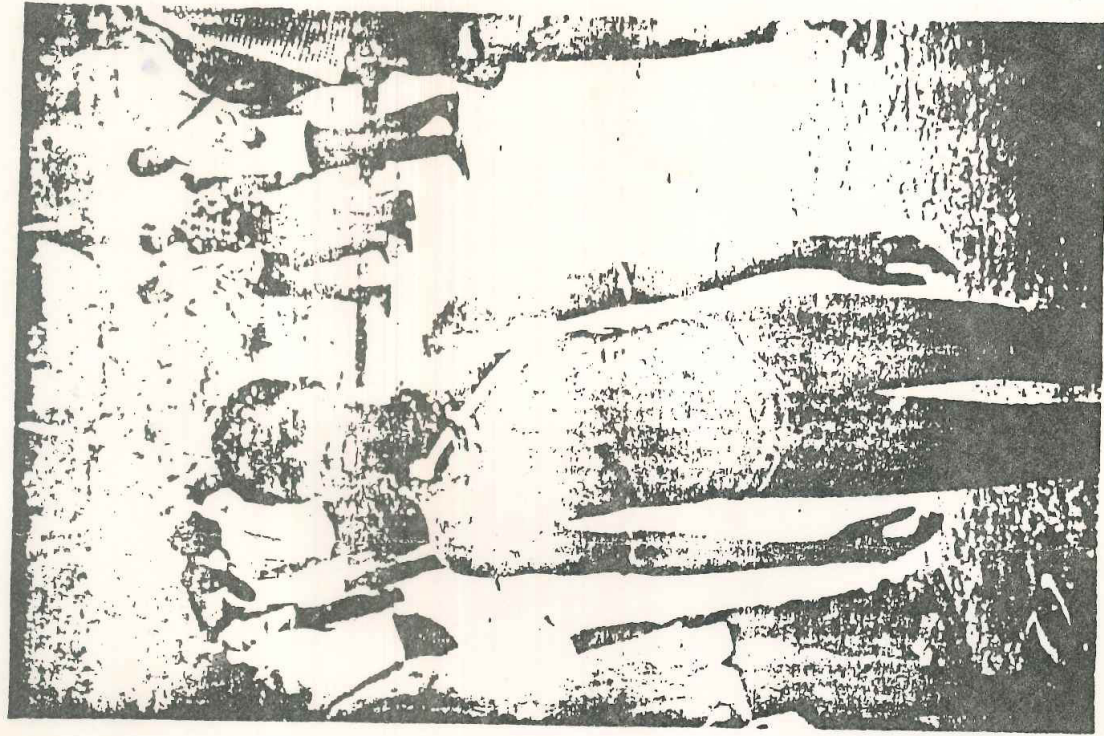
...the Indian government set up a reserve for the Jarawa to live in. It was called the Jarawa Reserve. Since the 1970s, however, the reserve has been reduced in size and the Jarawa have been forced to live in a smaller area. Inevitably, the Jarawa and the settlers have come into conflict. There have been many deaths and the Jarawa are being hunted for their land and for their forest products. The Jarawa are now in a state of great danger and it is urgent that the government should take steps to protect them.

...it would be a tragedy if the history of the genocide of the Great Andamanese and the Onges under the British authorities were to be forgotten. In fact, the Indian government should have taken steps to protect the Jarawa and the Onges from the settlers and the forest guards. The Jarawa and the Onges are now in a state of great danger and it is urgent that the government should take steps to protect them.

...Indian government has not finalised its policy towards the Jarawa, but officials appear to believe that the Jarawa need to be assimilated into the settled Indian society.

'developed' by being settled and taught agriculture, and so that they must eventually be assimilated into mainstream Indian society. The government's Master Plan (1991-2021) for the welfare of the Jarawa and the Onges of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is a step in the right direction. It is a scheme which is designed to help the Jarawa and the Onges to develop their own culture and to live in a settled life with a surplus economy based on agriculture and fishing. There shall be two Jarawa village settlements, one in the South Andaman and the other in the Middle Andaman.

Survivors of the genocide of the Great Andamanese and the Onges have the right to decide their own future and to live in their own lands. At a minimum, the Jarawa reserve should be protected to its 1957 limits, the land which is their territory must be closed and all settlers and forest camps within the area must be relocated. We are asking the government to recognise that the Jarawa and the Onges have the right to live in their own lands and to be respected by the government and the settlers.



The Jarawa have become figures of fascination for the Indian settlers who now live on the Andaman Islands.