

Dear friends!

This report has been published in Andaman Herald daily dated 28th June 06.

**"Jarawa Tourism" Who's The Main Culprit?
Tour Operators Make Use of 'State Transport Service'
To Promote Jarawa Tourism**

Port Blair, June 28: In spite of all hues and cries at various levels, in order to stop treating the Jarawa as a tourist attraction, 'Jarawa Tourism' in Andamans continues to be the best selling package for the tour operators. The issue has been raised many times by the NGOs and the like minded people working to preserve one of the last, endangered, ancient tribe living in the Andaman Islands. But it appears that all voices have fallen into deaf ears.

After weeks of investigation on the present status of Jarawa Tourism, this paper is able to conclude that 'it is none other than the Andaman Administration which has been promoting the Jarawa tribe as a tourist attraction'.

Responding to the pressure from the international arena, the Andaman Administration issued a press release which read, "Tour Operators Cautioned". All private tour operators were cautioned against promoting Jarawa as tourist attraction in any form. To add to it, restrictions were imposed on private/tourist vehicles for same-day-return trips to Middle Strait or to Baratang. Further, to misinform that the Administration is concerned about the welfare of the aboriginal tribe, notices were issued on "Do's & Don'ts while entering into the Jarawa reserve". It's indeed an irony that the Andaman Administration while imposing restrictions on private tour operators has allowed them to hire Government vehicles for to promote Jarawa Tourism.

If you are a tour operator and you wish to take your customers to see the Jarawa, all you have to do is hire a 'State Transport Bus' just by paying a discounted fare of Rs. 5, 200.00. There are no