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

Dr Mammohan Singh
Prime Minister of India
Prime Minister's Office
South Block, Raisina Hill
New Delhi 110 001
India

9 March 2006

Your Excellency,

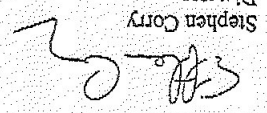
Survival was shocked and saddened to learn of the deaths of two men at the hands of the Sentinelese tribe of the Andaman Islands in January. We commend the local administration's decision to avoid further conflict by resisting pressure to retrieve the bodies. However, we feel that the incident highlights the failure of the administration to uphold the land rights of all the tribes of the Andaman Islands.

The Sentinelese people have always made clear their wish to maintain their isolation. Contact with outsiders would be likely to bring disease, exploitation and further violence. and could wipe the tribe out completely. Yet local settlers are regularly fishing in the waters of North Sentinel Island, while The Jarawa tribe are facing invasion of their land on a much greater scale.

I urge you to ensure that the laws and court orders protecting the lands of all the tribes of the islands are enforced. I would be happy to assist in this matter in any way I can.

I enclose a copy of Survival's current action bulletin on the Andaman Islands.

Yours sincerely,


Stephen Corry
Director

Cc: Lt. General, M.M. Lakhera, Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Mr P. R. K. Kyndiah, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs
Mr Sripakash Jaiswal, Minister of State for Home Affairs
Mr Kamlesh Sharma, High Commissioner for India, UK

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