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

Lt Gen (Retd) Bhopinder Singh  
Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands  
Raj Niwas  
Port Blair 744 101  
Andaman Islands  
India

July 21, 2011

Dear Lt Gen Bhopinder Singh,

Survival International is extremely concerned that tourists are continuing to travel on the Andaman Trunk Road. 'Jarawa tourism' puts the tribe at serious risk of diseases to which they are likely to have no immunity and which could therefore devastate their population.

Despite the regulations that are in place to protect the Jarawa, you will be aware that unscrupulous tour operators regularly violate these rules by breaking away from the convoy and switching vehicles at Baratang. Survival and local organization Search have therefore called for all tourists to boycott the Andaman Trunk Road and for an alternative route to Baratang to be provided.

The boycott has been widely reported in the international press. This includes significant coverage in the UK, Israel, the US, Germany, Italy, France and the Netherlands, where many tourists to the Andamans hail from. There is clearly severe international concern about the Jarawa's predicament and the threat that tourists pose to them.

In the past, it appeared that Andaman tour operators were opposed to an alternative route to Baratang; however, this has now changed. The Andaman Association of Tour Operators is supporting the campaign against 'human safaris', as is the Andaman Holidays tour company.

We urge your administration to provide an alternative route for tourists to visit Baratang as a matter of great urgency.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Corry  
Director

Cc.

Shri Shakti Sinha, Chief Secretary, A&N Administration Secretariat  
Shri Ajay Saxena, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Tribal Welfare, Andaman Administration

Founded 1969  
Right Livelihood Award 1989

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Charitable Trust**  
Registered Charity 267444  
Company registered in England  
no. 1056317  
Registered office as above