

Friday 26th April 2013

Dear Sir or Madam.

Survival International, the worldwide organisation supporting tribal peoples, is launching a boycott of tourism to India's Andaman Islands. We will maintain the boycott until the Andaman authorities put an end to the 'human safaris' along the illegal road through the land of the Jarawa tribe, and provide an alternative route which does not cut through the tribe's land.

The Jarawa have only had friendly contact with their neighbours since 1998, so tourists risk passing on diseases to which the tribe has little immunity, and which could decimate them. The convoys of tourist vehicles also stop the Jarawa from being able to move freely around their forest to hunt and gather.

Thousands of tourists, both Indian and international, travel along the road each month, treating the Jarawa like animals in a safari park. Some operators have even made members of the tribe dance in return for sweets and biscuits. One tourist described his trip thus: 'The journey through tribal reserve was like a safari ride as we were going amidst dense tropical rainforest and looking for wild animals, Jarawa tribals to be specific'.

The 'human safaris' have been widely condemned by the highest authorities. India's Minister for tribal affairs has called them, 'disgraceful', 'obnoxious' and 'an embarrassment'. The UN wrote to the Indian government in 2012 to inform them they were 'deeply concerned' about the human safaris, and urged them to close the sections of the road that run through the Jarawa's reserve.

The Andaman authorities were ordered by India's Supreme Court to close the road where it cuts through the Jarawa's land in 2002, but they have ignored this order. In January this year they were given the opportunity by India's Supreme Court to do the honorable thing and take tourists off the road. Instead, they changed their own laws in order to allow the human safaris to continue: the Supreme Court order was revoked in March, and the degrading human safaris have been allowed to start again. It is in response to this that Survival is launching a boycott of Andaman tourism.

Survival's campaign against the human safaris has already drawn worldwide attention. More than 10,000 people have used our website to send letters and emails to the Indian government and Andaman authorities in support of the

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

Founded 1969 Right Livelihood Award 1989

Survival International Charitable Trust Registered Charity 267444 Company registered in England no. 1056317 Registered office as above Jarawa, with 100,000 signing our petitions. More than 200,000 will receive our monthly updates with news about the boycott. Many hundreds of thousands more have learnt about the campaign through the huge Indian and international media coverage of the story. News of Survival's boycott of the road was featured in all the key countries where international tourists to the Andamans come from.

We understand that your company offers tours to the Andaman Islands. We urge you not to offer these tours until the human safaris are stopped and an alternative route is put in place. We will be happy to publicize the news of any companies who stop offering tours to the Andamans, or any travel advice websites which provide a link to our boycott campaign.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Corry

Director

Survival International

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