



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 91937 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: cerd@ohchr.org

REFERENCE: CERD/EWUAP

31 August 2012

Excellency,

I write to inform you that in the course of its 81st session, the Committee considered on a preliminary basis the situation of the Jarawa people in the Andaman Islands in India under its early warning and urgent action procedure, in light of information submitted by non-governmental organizations.

Information before the Committee alleges that the Jarawa people have become the subject of “human safaris” on the Andaman Road. These ‘safaris’ are trips undertaken by tourists who use the Andaman Trunk Road to drive through the Jarawa Reserve in the hope of spotting the tribes people. The Committee is deeply concerned and regrets the distinction of the Jarawa people from Indian settlers in this way as well as the attitudes of tourists visiting the region, allegedly with the involvement of the authorities. In this regard, the Committee is equally concerned that, on the information available to it, the State party has not taken any measures to redress this situation.

The Committee recalls paragraph 19 of its concluding observations on India, adopted during its 70th session in which the Committee urged “*the State party to fully respect and implement the right of ownership, collective or individual, of the members of the tribal communities over the lands traditionally occupied by them in its practice concerning tribal peoples in accordance with ILO Convention N° 107 on Indigenous and Tribal Populations. (...) Furthermore, it should protect tribes such as the Jarawa against encroachments on their lands and resources by settlers, poachers, private companies or other third parties and implement the 2002 order of the Indian Supreme Court to close the sections of the Andaman Trunk Road that run through the Jarawa reserve.*”

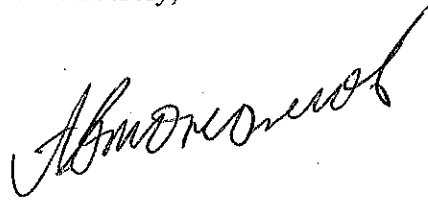
H.E. M. Dilip Sinha
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of India
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Rue du Valais 9,
1202 Geneva
Fax: +41 22 906 8696

The Committee notes that the 2002 order of the Indian Supreme Court ruled regarding the closure of the Andaman Trunk Road has not been implemented. Therefore, the Committee urges the State Party to implement this Court order promptly, as well as the recommendation of this Committee in this regard.

In accordance with Article 9 (1) of the Convention and articles 63 and 65 of its Rules of Procedures, the Committee would be grateful to receive urgently information on the issues and concerns as outlined above, before **31 December 2012**. The Committee also urges the State party to submit in a single report, its twentieth and twenty-first periodic reports without further delay, which were due on 4 January 2010.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of India, with a view to promote the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Alexei S. Avtonomov
Chair
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination