

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR POLICE

Dated: 21-11-2018

PRESS RELEASE

**DEATH OF US NATIONAL: ANDAMAN & NICOBAR POLICE**  
**REGISTERED TWO CASES AND ARRESTED SEVEN**  
**ACCUSED PERSON**

On 19.11.2018, an e-mail was received from US Consulate General, Chennai, wherein it was stated that they have received a communication from the mother of one Mr. John Allen Chau, a citizen of United States of America, about her son's visit to North Sentinel Island and attack by the tribesmen.

Based on the email, a missing report was immediately registered in Police Station Pahargaon and a detailed enquiry was initiated. The enquiry revealed that one US national, Mr. John Allen Chau, who came to Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands on 16.10.2018, allegedly got killed at North Sentinel Island during his misplaced adventure in the highly restricted area while trying to interact with the un-contacted people who have a history of vigorous rejection towards outsiders. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 91/18 dated 20.11.2018 u/s 302/34 IPC was registered at PS Humfrygunj against unknown persons and investigation was initiated.

During the initial investigation, it got revealed that John Allen Chau who earlier also visited the Andaman & Nicobar Islands few times had reached North Sentinel Island with the help of a local friend namely Alexander, an electronics engineer, Saw Remmis, a local water sports help and 5 other fishermen namely Saw Jampo, Saw Taray, Saw Watson, Saw Molian and M.Bhumi, who actively facilitated and accompanied him to North Sentinel Island under the camouflage of fishing activity to evade the patrolling teams of Police, Coast Guard and Navy. For this, the local fishermen were paid around Rs. 25,000 by John Allen Chau. They started on 14.11.2018 around 8 PM for the North Sentinel Island and reached there by midnight. On 15.11.2018 morning, John moved to shore using his kayak which he got towed with the fishing boat. After dropping John Allen Chau at North Sentinel Island, these fishermen fixed their timings and place to meet each other between the shoreline and their high sea fishing area. In the morning of 17.11.2018, the fishermen saw a dead person being buried at the shore which from the silhouette of the body, clothing and circumstances appeared to be the body of John Allen Chau. Subsequently, they returned to

Port Blair and narrated the incident to Alexander and handed him the 13 pages of the journal written by John Allen Chau. Alexander in turn informed Bobby Parks, a friend of John Allen Chau, in USA, who in turn informed John Allen Chau's mother. They didn't inform the Police or any government authority in this regard.

Access to North Sentinel Island and its buffer zone is strictly restricted under Protection of Aboriginal Tribe (Regulation), 1956 and Regulations under Indian Forest Act, 1927. Ministry of Home Affairs, through its recent circulars also restricts movement of foreigners in these areas. Despite knowing fully well about the illegality of the action and the hostile attitude of the Sentinelese tribesmen to the outsiders, these people collaborated with John Chau for this visit to North Sentinel Island without any permission from the authorities. All seven of the aforementioned persons were, therefore, booked and arrested in a separate case registered vide FIR No. 92/18 dated 20.11.2018 u/s 282/336/304/34 IPC R.W.S 7/8 PAT, 1956 at PS Humfrygunj for violating the provisions of PAT Regulation and causing death of John Allen Chau.

On 20.11.2018, a team of A&N Police led by IGP/L&O and SSP South Andaman along with Indian Coast Guard tried an aerial survey for carrying out recce of North Sentinel Island. On 21.11.2018, again a team led by IGP/L&O, SSP South Andaman and officials of AAJVS (Andaman Aadim Janjati Vikas Samiti) and Forest Department went in an Indian Coast Guard boat to North Sentinel Island to recce and identify the place of incidence. Further investigation in this matter is on.

In addition, a committee has been constituted to go into the details of the incident and review the institutional mechanism to prevent unauthorised entry of any foreign national in the prohibited/restricted areas and also to suggest measures to prevent such incidents in future.



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