

To

The Honourable Prime Minister
New Delhi.

Respected Sir,

Sub: Illegal occupation of Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala.

A group of people, mainly tribals, under the leadership of tribal leader Ms. C.K. Janu, has encroached upon a sizeable portion of the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala. Militant communal groups like the P.D.P. of Abdul Nazar Madani and some Church-supported NGO's are supporting the encroachment. The encroachers are occupying the forestland and indulging in poaching of animals and clearing of forests for over a month now. But the State Government has failed to take any action against the law-breakers under the Wildlife Protection and Forest Conservation Acts.

Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is contiguous with Muthumalai, Bandipur, and Nagerhole National Parks. These four protected areas together forms the best remaining habitat of the Asian Elephant and many other rare animals like the Four-horned Antelope. The encroachers have virtually blocked the animal path to Kabani river (a tributary of Cauvery) in Wayanad, which is the only source of water for animals, not only of Wayand, but also of Muthumalai and Bandipur during the dry months.

The encroachers have taken law unto their hands. Some of them possess fire arms and explosives. Even Forest Officers are not allowed to enter the core of the sanctuary. Gangs of elephant poachers and other forest mafias are making use of this situation.

We, the undersigned, request you to take action to evict the unlawful encroachers to avoid a grave environmental catastrophe in South India.

Yours faithfully,

Sugatha Kumari

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K. V. Suresh Nair