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Action to evict former estate workers flayed

The Hindu Bureau

MADURAI

People's Watch, a Madurai-based Human Rights Organisation, represented by its Executive Director Henri Tiphagne and advocate I. Robert Chandrakumar on Saturday condemned the Tirunelveli district administration for trying to take steps to evict former workers of Manjolai tea estates, days after the court ordered restoration of the forest.

Mr. Chandrakumar said the authorities should grant time to the people. But, they put pressure on the people and came to the place in large numbers, urging them to leave the place. The authorities

should talk to the people and come up with a time frame on relocating them only after the rehabilitation measures had been made ready for implementation, he said.

Mr. Tiphagne said they would be filing a review petition before the Madras High Court and seek clarifications on the judgment. The authorities should drop the action as the judgment did not speak about relocating the people within a particular period. The National Human Rights Commission had urged the State to provide basic amenities to those people. Steps should be taken in this regard and the action against the people should be dropped, he added.