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Sub: An appeal to save the Chakma, Marma, Tripura and other tribes of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) from the total annihilation being carried out by the Bangladeshi regime.

Dear Rudi,

May I present to you the following information about the Baghaichari Massacres, the Jumma refugees and the precarious situation of the Jumma people (the people of the CHT) at the hands of the Bangladeshi Government:

1. A report under the title, "A Genocide on the Jumma people in Baghai Chari (Kassalong), CHT, committed by the Bangladesh Army and (the Bangladeshi) Infiltrators on 8-9 August, 1988", issued by the Jana Samhati Samiti (the only political party in the CHT) on 30 August, 1988.
2. A second report under the heading, "The detailed report of the ill-fated Jumma people who have fallen victim in the genocide carried out by the Bangladesh Army and the Bengali Muslim infiltrators on 8-9 August, 1988, in Baghai Chari (Kassalong valley). The victims in this report are in addition to those of the previous report published by the Jana Samhati Samiti (JSS) on 30 August, 1988", compiled by the JSS on 5 October, 1988.
3. A news, "500 tribals killed in Bangla action", from the Times of India of Nov. 2, 1988.
4. A letter, "Beleaguered tribals", published in the Far Eastern Economic Review of 6 October, 1988.
5. Two articles, "Talking with the tribals", and "History of harassment", from the Far Eastern Economic Review of 1 September, 1988.
6. A report under the caption, "Bangladesh: Refugees from an unknown war", written by the Bangladesh Groep Nederland and published in the IWGIA (International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs) Newsletter, No. 53/54, May/August, 1988, Copenhagen, Denmark.

#### A. BAGHAICHARI MASSACRES

Since July 20, 1988, the Bangladesh armed forces had been terrorizing the Jumma people in the Baghai Chari Upazilla (Sub-District) in the Kassalong Valley as part of the Bangladesh Government programme to depopulate the area for the resettlement of the Bangladeshi people belonging to the majority community of Bangladesh. They tortured the Jumma people, stole their stocks and other valuable things, burnt their houses, raped their women, detained many innocent Jummas without charge or trial, and even murdered some of them. The Bangladesh security forces often opened fire at the Jumma villages on both banks of the river, Kassalong, from speed boats. For example, on 4 August, 1988, Lt. Mohammad Jehangir and soldiers of 5 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army from the Army camps at Baghai East and Jarul Chari attacked the Jumma villages - Naga Bihari Karbari Para and Jarul Chari. They beat the villagers most inhumanly, set fire on the houses of i) Mr. Srihari Lal Karbari, ii) Mr. Badsha Chakma, iii) Mr. Nirmal Kanti Chakma and so on of Jarul Chari village and gang-raped i) Mrs. Nayan Tara Chakma, 25 yrs, wife of Mr. Sushil Chakma, ii) Mrs. Mila Chakma, 35 yrs, wife of Mr. Chitta Ranjan Chakma, iii) Mrs. Shoibalini Chakma, 25 yrs, wife of Mr. Kumatta Chakma, and iv) Miss Sneha Lata Chakma, 14 yrs, daughter of Mr. Ananda Kumar Chakma, of Naga Bihari Karbari Para village. On the same day Captain Akram and soldiers from the Karengatali Army camp let loose a reign of terror in the village of Duluchari. One of the innocent victims of his terror was Mr. Atul Bikash Karbari, a Member of the local Union Parishad...page 2/-

Parishad (Council). He was arrested, beaten with a rifle butt, dipped into water a number of times till he was half-dead, and then taken to the Army camp. His fate and the fate of other arrested Jummas are not yet known. Most possibly all of them have been tortured to death.

Eventually the Baghai Chari massacres took place on 8-9 August, 1988. The Bangladesh armed forces and the Bangladeshi settlers jointly attacked many villages in Baghai Chari Upazilla such as i) Jibanga Chara, and ii) Jibtali of Marishya Mouza; i) South Khagra Chari, ii) North Khira Char, iii) East Khira Char, iv) South Khira Char, v) South Sarbuatali, vi) Chinnya Ram Chara, vii) North Sarbuatali, and viii) Khagra Chari of Sarbuatali Mouza; i) North Sijak, and ii) Sijak Mukh of Sijak Mouza; i) North Bangaltali of Bangaltali Mouza; i) Baghai Chari of Baghai Chari Mouza; i) Ugal Chari Mukh of Ugal Chari Mouza; i) Pabla Khali Mukh, ii) Durchari, iii) Bara Durchari, and iv) Madhya Pabla Khali of Khedar Mara Mouza; i) Kattali of Tintilla Mouza; i) Dulu Banya of Dulu Banya Mouza; i) Tulaban of Tulaban Mouza and so on.

The attacks were led by Lt. Imran (41 East Bengal Regiment, Sarbuatali Army camp in Baghai Chari Upazilla), Major Ishtiaq (41 EBR, Tangum Army camp in Baghai Chari Upazilla), Lt. Zaman (41 EBR, Amtali Army camp in Baghai Chari Upazilla), Major Firdaus (41 EBR, Durchari Army camp in Baghai Chari), Lt. Col. Abdus Samad (5 Field Artillery Regiment, Baghaihat Army camp in Baghai Chari Upazilla), Army Officers from the Maini Mukh camp, Army Officers from the Massalong camp in Baghai Chari Upazilla, and other military officers from various military camps. Among the Bangladeshi settlers who participated in the raids were i) Nur Mia, son of Omar Ali, ii) Bacchu, son of Omar Ali, iii) Abdul Huq, iv) Majid, v) Luqman and many others from Durchari Bazar in Baghai Chari Upazilla. Many Bangladeshi infiltrators from Bat Tali and other places in Baghai Chari Upazilla also took part in the attacks. They were led by i) Delwar, ii) Aziz and other Bangladeshi settlers' leaders to murder the Jumma men, women and children in the Baghai Chari Upazilla.

As usual the Bangladeshi security forces and the Bangladeshi settlers combinedly attacked the Jumma villages, stole stocks and valuable goods, set the houses on fire, raped women and girls, destroyed non-Muslim places of worship, and killed some five hundred innocent Jumma people. Thousands of villagers fled to the nearby forests for their safety. They could not take shelter in India because the Bangladesh Government "has barricaded the border along Tripura to prevent tribals' exit to India". The Bangladeshi regime is trying to get rid of the surviving Jummas by starving them to death. Now it is distributing the Jumma villages and agricultural lands to its co-religionists.

The Government of Bangladesh wanted to hush up the Baghai Chari massacres because it feared that foreign aids would be stopped if the donor countries knew about these premeditated killings. It instructed the Bangladeshi press and other public media not to publicise the incident. At the same time the Bangladeshi regime strictly restricted the movement of the Jumma people in the affected areas of the Baghai Chari Upazilla. In spite of all sorts of difficulties and risks, the intrepid Members of the Jana Samhati Samiti have been able to gather some information about the said massacres. On the basis of available information, the JSS has issued the first list of victims on 30 August, 1988, and the second list on 5 October, 1988. These lists show i) 48 cases of murder, ii) 50 cases of serious injuries, iii) 9 cases of rape, iv) 50 cases of arson, v) 6 cases of detention and vi) 25 cases of missing Jummas. The injured persons were left for dead. However, they survived miraculously. It is very likely that all the missing persons were killed. Many women, girls and men were taken to the military camps. For example, on 5 August, 1988, the Army personnel removed 20 Jumma passengers including women and girls from the motor launch that was coming to Rangamati from Baghai Chari. It is feared that all men were tortured to death and all women and girls were raped. Possibly most of the women were killed after being gang-raped and some women and majority of the girls were forcibly converted to Islam. This information is just the tip of the iceberg. It will take a long time to find out the full extent of the Baghai

Chari massacres. The following Jummas were among the victims of the above-mentioned mass-killings:

#### 1. MURDER

i) Miss Sumita Chakma, 18 yrs, and ii) Miss Geeta Chakma, 16 yrs, daughters of Mr. Anuruddha Chakma of South Khagra Chari in Sarbuatali Mouza, were gang-raped and then bayoneted to death by the Army personnel. iii) The Bangladeshi soldiers also gang-raped Mrs. Tilattama Chakma, 45 yrs, wife of Mr. Madhu Sudhan Chakma of South Khira Char in Khedar Mara Mouza, and then killed her and her two sons, iv) Master Jagadish Chakma, 8 yrs, and v) Master Cizi Chakma, 5 yrs, with their bayonets. vi) Mr. Kalendar Chakma, 75 yrs, son of late Dhira Dhan Chakma, of Jibanga Chara in Marishya Mouza, was murdered by the Bangladeshi settlers. vii) The Army personnel gang-raped Mrs. Padma Rami Chakma, 25 yrs, wife of Mr. Bali Chakma of South Khira Char village in Khedar Mara Mouza and then bayoneted her to death.

#### 2. RAPE

On 8 August, 1988, i) Miss Dipti Rani Chakma, 15 yrs, daughter of Mr. Manoram Chakma of Shijak Mukh village in the Shijak Mouza, ii) Miss Shukla Chakma, 13 yrs, daughter of Mr. Madhan Mahan Chakma of the said address, and iii) Miss Bithika Rani Chakma, 14 yrs, daughter of late Prafulla Ranjan Chakma of the said address, were going to the Market at Durchari. The Army men forcibly took them to the local Army camp and gang-raped them causing serious injuries to their private parts. Major Firdaus and soldiers of 41 East Bengal Regiment from the Durchari Army camp in Baghai Chari Upazilla, gang-raped many Jumma women and girls. Two of the victims were iv) Mrs. Kina Bala Chakma, 28 yrs, wife of Mr. Sugata Chakma of Shijak Mukh village in Shijak Mouza, and v) Mrs. Chandra Sashi Chakma, 40 yrs, wife of Mr. Bijay Mahan Chakma of the same address.

#### 3. SERIOUSLY INJURED JUMMAS

i) Mr. Laxmi Kumar Chakma, the Chairman of the Baghai Chari Upazilla, ii) Mr. Smritendu Bikash Chakma, 35 yrs, a Lecturer of Baghai Chari College at Baghai Chari, iii) Mr. Surya Kumar Khisa, 80 yrs, the son of late Giri Nanda Khisa, of Tulaban in Baghai Chari Upazilla, iv) Mr. Mihari Bindu Chakma, 30 yrs, the son of Mr. Sumesh Ranjan Chakma, of South Khagra Chari village in Sarbuatali Mouza, and his sons, v) Master Jagreeti Chakma, 8 yrs, and vi) Master Tripura Chakma, 6 yrs, have been severely wounded by the Bangladeshi invaders.

#### 4. MISSING JUMMAS

i) Mr. Mrittunjoy Chakma, 65 yrs, and ii) Mr. Dhulu Chakma, 35 yrs, son of Mr. Chitra Sen Chakma, of the East Khira Char village in the Sarbuatali Mouza, iii) Mr. Sneha Chakma, 54 yrs, son of Mr. Sashi Mahan Chakma, and iv) Master Santu Mani Chakma, 15 yrs, the son of Mr. Purna Mahan Chakma, of the South Khagra Chari village in the Sarbuatali Mouza, v) Mr. Bibekananda Chakma, 30 yrs, a teacher of the local Junior High School and the son of Mr. Hirendra Lal Chakma, and vi) Mr. Bandra Chakma, 18 yrs, the son of Mr. Aswini Kumar Chakma, of the South Sarbuatali village in the Sarbuatali Mouza, and all other missing persons are feared to have been murdered by the Bangladeshi raiders.

#### 5. DETENTION

i) Mr. Bhaja Gala Chakma, 32 yrs, son of Mr. Chuchyang Khula Chakma, of Kattali village in Tintilla Mouza, ii) Mr. Kashyap Mani Chakma, 26 yrs, son of Mr. Indra Sen Chakma, of North Bangaltali village in the Bangaltali Mouza, iii) Mr. Kamini Kanta Chakma, 32 yrs, son of Mr. Soiyambar Chakma, of North Bangaltali village in the Bangaltali Mouza, iv) Mr. Atul Chakma, 35 yrs, son of Mr. Ram Kamal Chakma, of Dulu Banya village in the Dulu Banya Mouza, v) Mr. Shantimoy Chakma, 35 yrs, son of Mr. Tarani Sen Chakma, of Baghai Chari in Baghai Chari Mouza,

Baghai Chari in Baghai Chari Mouza, have been arrested and detained without charge or trial by Major Firdaus (of 41 East Bengal Regiment) of Durchari Army camp in Baghai Chari Upazilla and also by the Army officers of Massalong military camp in Baghai Chari Upazilla.

#### 6. ARSON

Lt. Col. Abdus Samad (of 5 Field Artillery Regiment) and soldiers of Baghaihat military camp burned the houses of i) Mr. Hari Lal Karbari, son of Mr. Pancha Kumar Chakma, ii) Mr. Fula Mahan Chakma, son of Mr. Byasa Mani Chakma, iii) Mr. Daya Lal Chakma, son of Mr. Brisha Dhar Chakma, and many other Jummas of North Bangaltali village in Bangaltali Mouza. Similarly Lt. Zaman (of 41 East Bengal Regiment) and his Army men set fire to the houses of iv) Mr. Buddha Sagar Chakma, son of Mr. Bannua Mani Chakma, v) Mr. Prabhat Chandra Chakma, son of Mr. Gaya Sur Chakma, vi) Mr. Babulya Chakma, son of Mr. Kina Ram Chakma and many other Jumma people of the Madhya Pablakhali village in the Khedar Mara Mouza.

#### B. JUMMA REFUGEES

Perhaps it is worth-bearing in mind that the Bangladesh High Commissioner to New Delhi, Mr. Farouq Ahmed Chowdhury led a Bangladesh Delegation in July last to the Tripura State of India to persuade the Jumma refugees to return to Bangladesh. On 11-12 July, 1988, he told the Jumma refugees that the Bangladesh Government was repentent for committing atrocities against the Jumma people. Mr. Chowdhury also assured them that oppression on them would not be committed again. The Baghai Chari massacres show that the promises of the Bangladeshi regime are not supported by deeds. There will be no safety for the Jumma people in the CHT until i) the non-tribal settlers are removed from the CHT, ii) the Bangladesh armed forces including the non-tribal police force is withdrawn from the CHT, and iii) the Provincial Autonomy for the CHT with a separate legislature is granted.

The Bangladesh Government is not genuinely interested in taking back the Jumma refugees nor has it any intention to stop atrocities against the Jumma people. So the refugees will have to stay in India for a longer period. The compassionate Governments of India and Tripura have looked after some 50,000 Jumma refugees for over two and a half years. India has taken more than her due share of the burden of Jumma refugees. More over her economy cannot afford to support so many Jumma refugees for so many years. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the entire international community to take care of the Jumma refugees. These displaced people lost everything in Bangladesh and now their survival is totally dependent on the help and kindness of the world community. They need food, clothes, utensils, medical facilities, drinking water facilities, educational facilities and vocational training facilities. Relief supplies may be sent to the Jumma refugees through the Indian humanitarian organizations. The Humanity Protection Forum, a humanitarian agency in Tripura, is able to carry out such relief work efficiently.

#### C. CONCLUSION

I fervently appeal to you to send an inquiry commission to the CHT to investigate the Baghai Chari massacres and other human rights violations committed by the Bangladeshi regime against the innocent Jumma people. I should be most grateful to you if you would kindly take the responsibility of the Jumma refugees. They desperately need your help for their survival. With my high regards. Yours sincerely

To Dr. Rudolph C. Ryser,  
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*Ramendu*

N.B. Address of the Humanity Protection Forum: Mr. Bhagya Chandra Chakma, Secretary-General, Humanity Protection Forum, Jagatpur, Abhoynagar,