

A GENOCIDE ON THE JUMMA PEOPLE
IN
BAGHAI CHARI (KASSALONG), CHT
COMMITTED BY
BANGLADESH ARMY & INFILTRATORS
ON
8-9 AUGUST 1988

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Although Bangladesh government has been declaring time and again through its Radio-TV broadcasts and other news media about the normalcy and peaceful condition in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) but in reality, the present situation in CHT is far from peace and tranquility. As because Bangladesh government has not refrained from carrying out all its destructive, suppressive and repressive measures till today. Even the commitment given by Bangladesh government to the representatives of the Amnesty International, who visited CHT in January 1988 with a concern to find human rights violations in CHT by Bangladesh forces, has not been honoured. A reference of the Amnesty International's report is given herewith—

“ AI Index : ASA 13/04/88

Distr : SC/CO/GR

PAGE — 7. 3. 2 Instructions to the security forces

Amnesty International's delegation was repeatedly assured by members of the Bangladesh Government and of the National Committee on the Chittagong Hill Tracts that security forces operating in the Chittagong Hill Tracts are now under strict instructions not to engage in or permit any reprisals against members of the tribal population whatever actions the Shanti Bahini may undertake. These instructions have not been issued in written form, but were said to have been expressly communicated by senior officers down the line of command. Members of the National Committee also informed the Amnesty International delegation that when they themselves had addressed units of the security forces in various places they had reiterated these instructions and made clear that any transgression of them would be punished. Members of the National Committee stated that there had been no reprisals against tribal people over the last several

months and certainly none since the committee's formation in August 1987. As evidence of this, it was pointed out to Amnesty International's delegation that during this period there had been no further exodus of tribal people from the Chittagong Hill Tracts crossing the border into India.

Amnesty International was also informed by members of the National Committee that the security forces are no longer authorised to search tribal villages and interrogate their inhabitants about the whereabouts of the Shanti Bahini, even after killings have taken place." Where as Bangladesh government having evicted 50,000 Jummas out of CHT and compelling them to take refuge in Indian state of Tripura from May 1986 to upto now, has again resorted to inhuman genocidal activities in CHT. A reign of terror has been created by Bangladesh forces and Bengalee Muslim infiltrators particularly in the recent months though there have been dialogues between the Jana Samhati Samiti (JSS) and Bangladesh government as many as five times. These were held in finding out and solving CHT problem politically. But there was no fruitful outcome even after holding of dialogues for the fifth round due to the rigid stand as well as dilly dallying tactics by Bangladesh government. This simply proves that Bangladesh has no goodwill to solve the CHT problem politically but to exterminate the Jumma people of CHT. Desecration of religious temples, communal riots, rape, arrests, looting and arsoning continued unabated. There are so many incidents, which can be given as proof of Bangladesh government's implementation of its well planned policy of Jumma extermination. For instance, just a few of the incidents which can be termed as total violation of human rights -

1. 15 JUNE 1988— The village of Ram Singh Tripura, who is a member of Union Parishad, Bara Madhu, Upazilla - Thanchi, was burnt down by Bangladesh Rifles. Mr. Ram Singh Tripura's house hold properties were looted away by the BDR personnel.

2. 17 JUNE 1988— On pretext of holding a meeting at the army camp- Chung Chang, P. S. Ruma, local Bawm leaders were called to attend the meeting. When they arrived they were all held up by the Commanding Officer of 9 East

Bengal Regiment, the camp commander, Chung Chang Camp. The innocent Bawm leaders were then subjected to severe beating by the two army officers. Mr. Jomar Bawm, a member of Union Parishad, Chaikhyang Para. P. S. Ruma, was one of the victims.

3. 28 JUNE 1988— A communal riot was carried out at Khamar Para (Harina Para) in which many innocent Jummas were massacred, houses were set on fire after looting all the household properties by the Muslim infiltrators. The village Khamar para is located very close to Khagrachari where 203 Brigade of Bangladesh army has its Head Quarters as well as BDR wing HQ. But the army and the BDR remained a happy spectator instead of giving protection to the ill-fated innocent Jummas. As a result, many Jumma men, women and children had to take refuge in India as refugees.

4. 01 JULY 1988—Bangladesh army personnel under 203 BDE. Khagrachari, in a surprise attack, killed brutally Mr. Man Mohan Chakma and all his family members at dead of night. Mr. Man Mohan Chakma hailed from Kamal Chari near Khagrachari Town.

5. 10 JULY 1988—Lt. Col. Matiur Rehman, CO, 5 East Bengal Regiment, Baghai Chari Camp, called a meeting which was attended by Chairmen, Members, Headman and Karbaris. At the meeting, the army officer warned and threatened the Jummas who were present at the meeting in the following words—“ If one army dies of Shanti Bahini bullets, ten Jummas will be shot dead in public. If one Muslim is killed by Shanti Bahini, then ten Jummas will be killed. We don't have to waste our bullets to kill you Jummas. We will only let our Muslims to swoop on you with axe, spears, knives etc. and what we have to do is only keep our eyes shut.”

6. 18 JULY 1988—Jumma service holders at Mahal Chari, P. S. Mahal Chari, were indiscriminately arrested and subjected to inhuman beating and tortures.

7. 28 JULY 1988—Maj. Gen. Abdus Salam, GOC-24 Inf. Div. at a meeting at Baghai Chari which was attended by Chairmen, members, Headmen and elites of the area, said—“ If you people don't accept the 9 point out line offered by the present Government you will never get this out line even if you struggle for 200 years. You will be totally exterminated.” Such statement from Maj. Gen. Salam, being a member of the National Committee on CHT is considered not only as worthless but also exceeding of his

limit. Maj. Gen. Salam further made accusations against the Jumma people of Baghai Chari in the following words—"Baghai Chari is a base for the Shanti Bahini. They collect taxes and do their shopping from here. The elites keep contact with the Shanti Bahini. If the bullets of the shanti Bahini can kill our men, our bullets too can kill men."

8. 10 AUG. 1988—A meeting was held at Rangamati which was attended by Chairmen, Members, Headmen and elites from different places of CHT. The meeting was convened and chaired by Maj. Gen. Salam. In that meeting he was asked by Mr. Parijat Kusum Chakma, Headmaster, Kassalong High School, Baghai Chari P. S. to reply the following questions—Why the army was involved in the genocide of Jumma people on 8-9 Aug. 1988? If there is any clash between the army personnel and the Shanti Bahini, then why do the army personnel shoot the innocent Jumma people and rape the Jumma women? Maj. Gen. Salam simply ignored to reply because of his guilty conscience.

One of the most inhuman genocides committed by Bangladesh army and Bengalee Muslim infiltrators was on 8-9 Aug. 1988. Prior to committing the barbaric genocide, Bangladesh army personnel resorted to terrorising the innocent Jumma inhabitants by shooting towards all the Jumma villages situated on either side of the river Kassalong in Baghai Chari Upazilla since 20 July, 1988. When this terrorisation failed to evict the Jummas from their ancestral villages, on 4 Aug. 1988 Lt. Md. Jehangir and soldiers of 5 East Bengal Regiment from Baghai Hat Camp, attacked the Jumma villages-Nage Bihari Karbari Para and Zarul Chari. During the attack four Jumma girls were gang raped by the army lieutenant and his soldiers. A reign of terror was created by Lt. Md. Jehangir with arrests, inhuman beating and setting fire on houses. On the same day, Capt. Akram from the army camp at Karengatali, carried out operations against the Jumma village- Duluchari, during which an innocent person-Mr. Atul Bikash Karbari, Member of Union Parishad, was arrested from his house who was hit hard with a rifle butt and dipped several times in the water. After primary torturing he was taken away by the army personnel and his whereabouts are still unknown.

It was finally on 8-9 Aug. 1988 Bangladesh army and Bengalee Muslim

infiltrators jointly attacked the Jumma villages-Jibanga Chara, Tulaban, Khirachar, Moch Pora, Durchari Sarbuatali, Bangaltali and Sijak Mukh under Baghai Chari P.S. During the attack, innocent Jumma men, women and children were brutally massacred, women and girls were gang raped and then massacred, houses were looted and set on fire. Even Mr. Laxmi Kumar Chakma, Chairman of Baghai Chari Upazilla, along with two Jumma lecturers of Kassalong College, named Mr. Smritendu Bikash Chakma; MA. and Mr. Shanta Sheel Chakma, MA. were attacked at the Upazilla office. The attacking Bengalee Muslim infiltrators broke into the office of the Upazilla Chairman and attacked all those who were in the office. Nine persons were injured in the attack. One injured person named Mr. Kalendar Chakma died after half an hour. The army and the BDR authorities gave no protection for the safety of the Upazilla Chairman and others although they were informed about the situation.

As a result of the genocide carried out against the Jumma villages, the helpless Jumma people had to leave their ancestral villages. Thousands have been made homeless, have been compelled to live in the jungles without food, shelter and medicine.

In this connection, Maj. Gen. Abdus Salam made a visit to Baghai Chari on 14 Aug. 1988 and called a meeting in which he told the Chairmen and Members in the following words- "The Shanti Bahini members shoot my men from your houses. If you would not co-operate with the Shanti Bahini, my men would not kill you. If there is any incident, you will be held responsible." Such vindictive accusation came from Maj. Gen. Salam when his forces carried out a genocide against the Jummas only a few days back.

After the departure of GOC, the army authorities of Baghai Chari ordered the following restrictions strictly for the Jumma people-

1. No Jumma shall be allowed to come to the markets at Durchari and Marishya.
2. No sale of medicines to the Jummas, not even quinine tablets, if any shop-keeper violates the order, shall be shot dead.
3. No sale of essential commodities to the Jummas.

The genocide carried out on 8-9 Aug. 1988 by Bangladesh army and Bengalee Muslim infiltrators in the Kassalong areas is another example that Bangladesh government has made with a clear proof that it will not give up its genocidal policy towards the Jummas until CHT is made free of the Jummas. Hence, the extermination of the Jummas continues unabated by Bangladesh government.

The first hand reports received about the victims from 4 Aug. 1988—8,9 Aug. 1988 are mentioned below :

THOSE WHO WERE KILLED

1. Miss Sumita Chakma, 18 yrs, daughter of Mr. Anuruddha Chakma, address-South Khagrachari, No. 384 Sarbuatali Mouza, Upazilla-Baghai Chari.
The victim was a student of class viii, Sarbuatali School. She was gang raped and killed with bayonet by the army personnel.
2. Miss Geeta Chakma, 16 yrs, daughter of Mr. Anuruddha Chakma, address-South Khagrachari, No. 384 Sarbuatali Mouza, Upazilla-Baghai Chari. The victim was a student of Class vii, Sarbuatali School. She was gang raped and killed with bayonet by the army personnel.
3. Mr. Pulin Bihari Chakma, 25 yrs, son of Mr. Ramesh Chandra Chakma, address-North Sarbuatali, No. 384 Sarbuatali Mouza, Upazilla-Baghai Chari. The victim was an assistant teacher of Junior. High School, Sarbuatali.
4. Mr. Ajit Chakma, 35 yrs, address-South Sarbuatali, No. 384 Sarbuatali Mouza, Upazilla-Baghai Chari.
5. Mr. Shiva Chakma, 70 yrs, address-Khagrachari, No 384 Sarbuatali Mouza, Upazilla - Baghai Chari,
6. Mr. Jeetendra Bap Chakma, 72 yrs, address - do.
7. Mr. Pradan Chandra Chakma, 72 yrs, son of late Hengatya Chakma, address - do

8. Mrs. Tilattama Chakma, 45 yrs, wife of Mr. Madhu Sudhan Chakma
address— South Khira Char, No. 383 Khedar Mara Mouza,
Upazilla — Baghai Chari. The victim was gang raped and killed.
9. Master Jagadish Chakma, 8 yrs, son of Mr. Madhu Sudhan Chakma,
address— do. A student.
10. Master Cizi Chakma, 5 yrs, son of Mr. Madhu Sudhan Chakma,
address— do.
11. Mrs. Padma Rani Chakma, 25 yrs, wife of Mr. Bali Chakma,
address — do. The Victim was gang raped and killed with bayonet by the
army personnel.
12. Mr. Shanti Lal Chakma, 40 yrs, son of Late Krishna Dayal Chakma,
address — do — . The victim was killed by Bengalee Muslim infiltrators on
10 Aug. 1988.
13. Mr Kalendar Chakma, 75 yrs, son of Late Dhira Dhan Chakma,
address — Sibanga Chara, Upazilla — Baghai Chari. He was killed by Bengalee
Muslim infiltrators.

THE INJURED PERSONS—

1. Mr. Laxmi Kumar Chakma, Chairman, Baghai Chari Upazilla.
2. Mr. Nihar Bindu Chakma, 30 yrs, son of Mr. Sumesh Ranjan Chakma,
address — South Khagrachari, No. 384 Sarbuatali Mouza,
Upazilla — Baghai Chari.
3. Master Jagreeti Chakma, 8 yrs, son of Mr. Nihar Bindu Chakma,
address — do . A student ,
4. Master Tripura Chakma, 6 yrs, son of Mr. Kalyanimay Chakma,
address — do
5. Mr. Tridib Chakma, 32 yrs, son of Mr. Shanti Lal Chakma, address—
Rangamati, CHT. Under treatment at Rangamati Hospital.
6. Mr. Santosh Kumar Chakma, 28 yrs, son of Mr. Sanadhan Chakma,

address — Jibanga Chara, Upazilla — Baghai Chari.

7. Mr. Pramit Talukder, 19 yrs, son of Mr. Subodh Kumar Talukder,
address — do. A student of Kassalong College, Baghai Chari.
8. Mr. Smritendu Bikash Chakma, 35 yrs, son of Mr. Upendra Lal Chakma,
address—Jura Chari Upazilla Sadar. The victim is a Lecturer of Kassalong
College, Baghai Chari.
9. Mr. Shanta Sheel Chakma, 37 yrs, son of Mr. Bimal Bihari Chakma,
address— Dighinala Upazilla. As above.
10. Mr. Gyana Jyoti Chakma, 19 yrs, son of Mr. Umesh Chandra Chakma,
address — Jibanga Chara, Upazilla — Baghai Chari. A student of Kassalong
College, Baghai Chari.
11. Mr. Jatil Bijay Chakma, 20 yrs. son of Ishwar Chandra Chakma,
address— do, As above.
12. Rajendra Chakma, 20 yrs, address-Jibtali, Upazilla-Baghai Chari.
As above.
13. Mr. Asha Priya Chakma, 22 yrs, son of Mr. Amrita Lal Chakma,
address — Tulaban, Upazilla — Baghai Chari. A College student
at Gahira.
14. Mr. Pre ti Bikash Chakma, 35 yrs, address — No. 375 Bangaltali
Mouza, Upazilla -- Baghal Chari, The victim is the Chairman of
No. 35 Bangaltali Union Parishad, Baghai Chari Upazilla.
15. Mr. Pratul Bikash Chakma, 30 yrs, son of Mr. Chikan Mohan Chakma,
address — Rupakari, Bangaltali Union Parishad, Upazilla — Baghai Chari.
16. Mr. Surya Kumar Khisa, 80 yrs, son of Late Giri Nanda khisa,
address — Tulaban Upazilla — Baghai Chari.
17. Mr. Gyana Chakma, 75 yrs son of Late Bishwembar Chakma,
address — do - ,
18. Mr. Shanti Kumar Chakma, 27 yrs, son of Mr. Bizuram Chakma,

address — Jibanga Chara, Upazilla--Baghai Chari.

19. Mr. Kenyama Chakma, 70 yrs, address— do
20. Mr. Samarendra Lal Chakma, 55 yrs, son of Late Bangalya Chakma, address— Tulaban, Upazilla—Baghai Chari.
21. Mr. Raisya Chakma, 25 yrs, son of Mr. Lamba Chakma, address-- do.

RAPE VICTIMS—

1. Mrs. Nayan Tara Chakma, 25 yrs, wife of Mr. Sushil Chakma, address— Nuga Bihari Karbari Para, No. 375 Bangaltali Mouza, Upazilla— Baghai Chari, She was gang raped by Lt. Md. Jehangir and soldiers of 5 East Bengal Regiment, Baghai Hat Camp.
2. Mrs. Mila Chakma, 35 yrs, wife of Mr. Chitta Ranjan Chakma, address—do.—As above.
3. Mrs. Shoibalini Chakma, 25 yrs, wife of Mr. Kumatta Chakma, address — do — . As above
4. Miss Sneha Lata Chakma, 14 yrs, daughter of Mr. Ananda Kumar Chakma, address— do—. The victim is a student of class viii. As above.

*** Three other Jumma girls studying in classes VII & VIII, who were going to the market at Durchari on 8 Aug. '88 were held up and gang raped by the army personnel at Durchari camp, Baghai Chari Upazilla. The victims after being gang raped for the whole night were released in injurious condition by the army rapists on 9 Aug. 1988. The victims being—

5. Miss Dipti Rani Chakma, 15 yrs, calss — VIII daughter of Mr. Manoram Chakma, address—Shijak Mukh, No. 384 Sarbuatali Mouza. Upazilla—Baghai Chari.
6. Miss Shukla Chakma, 13 yrs, class—vii, daughter of Mr. Madhan Mahan Chakma, address—do — .

7. Miss Bithika Rani Chakma, 14 yrs, class--viii, daughter of Late Prafulla Ranjan Chakma, address--do--.

ARSONING

1. Mr. Srihari Lal Karbari, address--Jarul Chari, Upazilla--Baghat Chari. The victim's house was burnt down by Lt. Jehangir and soldiers of 5 East Bengal Regiment, Jarul Chari Camp, Upazilla--Baghai Chari.
2. Mr. Badsha Chakma, address -- do. As above,
3. Mr. Nirmal Kanti Chakma, address-- do. As above.
4. Mrs. Tegera Khuli Chakma, widow of Late Brighu Dhar Chakma, address -- do -- . As above.
5. Mrs. Kenyama Chakma, address -- Jibanga Chara, Upazilla Baghai Chari. The victim's house was burnt down by Bengalee Muslim infiltrators.
6. Mr. Kali Prasanna Chakma, 60 yrs, son of Late Bira Dhan Chakma, address -- do--. As above.

◆◆◆ PERSONS MISSING--

1. Mr. Anil Bihari Chakma, 28 yrs, son of Mr. Chitra Mahan Chakma, address-- East Khira Char, No. 384 Sarbuatali Mouza, Upazilla -- Baghai Chari.
2. Mr. Dhan Kumar Chakma, 22yrs, son of Mr. Bandara Chakma, address -- do.
3. Mr. Jagadish Chakma, 20 yrs, son of Mr. Bandara Chakma, address--do.
4. Mr. Bijay Lal Chakma, 26 yrs, son of Mr. Chandra Dhar Chakma, address--do,
5. Mr. Rupam Chakma, 28 yrs, son of Mr. Karuna Ranjan Chakma, address - do.
6. Mr. Samiran Chakma, 26 yrs, son of Mr. Suresh Chandra Chakma, address--do.

7. Mr. Bimal Kanti Chakma, 25 yrs son of Mr. Mrittunjay Chakma,
address — do.
8. Mr. Mrittunjay Chakma, 65 yrs, address — do.
9. Mr. Dhulu Chakma, 35 yrs, son of Mr. Chitra Sen Chakma, address — do.
10. Mr. Bar Peda Chakma, 22 yrs, son of Mr. Bindya Mahan Chakma,
address — do.
11. Mr. Sneha Chakma, 54 yrs, son of Mr. Sashi Mahan Chakma.
address — South Khagrachari, No. 384 Sarbuatali Mouza, Upazilla —
Baghai Chari.
12. Mr. Binit Lal Chakma, 55 yrs, address — do.
13. Mr. Rashik Mahan Chakma, 34 yrs, son of Mr. Binit Lal Chakma.
address — do.
14. Master Santu Mani Chakma, 15 yrs, son of Mr. Purna Mahan Chakma,
address — do.
15. Mr. Kalyanimay Chakma, 32 yrs, son of Mr. Anuruddha Chakma,
address — do.
16. Mr. Nibaran Chakma, 34 yrs son of Mr. Suresh Chandra Chakma,
address — do.
17. Mr. Boppa Chakma, 35 yrs, address — South Sarbuatali, No. 384 Sarbuatali
Mouza, Upazilla — Baghai Chari.
18. Mr. Bandara Chakma, 18 yrs, son of Mr. Aswini Kumar Chakma,
address— do.
19. Mr. Bibekananda Chakma 30 yrs, son of Mr. Hirendra Lal Chakma,
address--do. He is an assistant teacher of Junior High School, Sarbuatali,
20. Master Chokkya Chakma, 17 yrs, a student, address —Harina.
21. Mr. Jubalakkha Chakma, 40 yrs, son of Mr. Jatish Chandra Chakma,

address—Kusum Chari, Upazilla-Baghai Chari.

22. Mr. Parimal Chakma, 19 yrs, a student, son of Mr. Kalachan Chakma;
address—Galya Karbari Para, No. 383 Khedar Mara Mouza,
Upazilla-- Baghai Chari.
23. Mt. Niru Shanti Chakma, 23 yrs, son of Mr. Bakra Kumar Chakma,
address-- West Khedar Mara, No. 383 Khedar Mara Mouza,
Upazilla — Baghai Chari.
24. Nila Ranjan Chakma, 50 yrs, address—Rangl Para.
25. Mr. Prabhat Chandra Chakma, 32 yrs, son of Mr. Sumitra Chakma,
address- South Shijak, No. 384 Sarbuatali Mouza,
Upazilla-- Baghai Chari,

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**PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY INFORMATION & PUBLICITY
DEPARTMENT, JANA SAMHATI SAMITI (JSS).
DATED—30 TH AUGUST, 1988**
