

From: Dr. Ramendu S. Dewan,
c/o Dr. H.D. Locksley, Department of Chemistry,
Salford University, Salford M5 4WT, England, Great Britain.

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Tel. 061-792 0736 (Home)

Sub: An appeal to save the Chakma, Marma, Tripura and other tribes of the Chittagong Hill Tracts from the total extermination being committed by the Bangladeshi regime.

Dear Rudy,

May I present to you the following evidence relating to the State-terrorism against the peace-loving Jumma people (the people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts):

1. A report, "Barbarous killing spree, says Chakma Chief", from the Statesman of June 2, 1989.
2. An article, "Killing of Bangla tribals alleged", from the Times of India of 22 May, 1989.
3. A news, "Black-out of Bangla protests", from the Times of India of May 24, 1989.
4. A "Memorandum in protest against the genocidal attacks on tribals in Langadu Upazilla, Rangamati Hill District on Thursday, 4 May, 1989", submitted to the Deputy Commissioner of the Rangamati Hill District by the Chakma Raja Devasish Roy and many Jumma leaders on 10 May, 1989.
5. A piece, "Ultimatum to Chittagong settlers", from the Telegraph of 24 May, 1989.
6. A news, "Bahini bid to stall Chittagong poll", from the Times of India of May 7, 1989.
7. A report, "6,000 Chakmas enter Tripura", from the Times of India of May 16, 1989.
8. An article, "Baby boom in Chakma camps", from the Times of India of 16 May, 1989.
9. A piece, "Chakmas' harrowing tale of torture", from the Times of India of 29 May, 1989.
10. A picture of the Jumma refugees published in the Times of India of June 1, 1989.
11. A report, "Ershad misusing U.K. aid: Hasina", from the Times of India of May 22, 1989.
12. An "Account of atrocities, looting, arsoning, arrests, murder & rape committed on the Jumma people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts by the Bangladesh Army, Para-Military Forces & Bengali Muslim infiltrators (March, 1988 - Dec., 1988)", compiled by the Jana Samhati Samiti on 1 February, 1989.
13. A paper, "The claims of the Jumma people and the present negotiation with the Bengali Government", presented to the Public Seminar On The Ethnocide In The Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh, which was convened at the Ethnological Museum, Stockholm, on 20 - 21 May, 1989.
14. A paper, "International aid and its effects to peoples lives and culture in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), Bangladesh", submitted by Mr. Mohit Talukder at the Stockholm Seminar.
15. "A report submitted by the Canada-Asia Working Group to the meetings of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in February-March, 1989".

16. A report, "Fresh tribal influx in Tripura", from the Times of India of 23 June, 1989.
17. A news, "Poor turn-out in Chittagong poll", from the Times of India of 26 June, 1989.

A. LANGADU MASSACRES

Under the instructions of the Directorate General of the Forces' Intelligence (DGFI = the Bangladesh Military Intelligence), the illegal Bangladeshi settlers massacred the Jumma men, women and children of the Langadu area in the Kasalong valley on 4 May, 1989, as part of the Bangla Desh Government plan to coerce the Jumma people to vote in the 25 June District Council Elections. At least 31 Jummas died on the spot. Many more have been seriously injured and they were left for dead. One of the victimised families is the family of Mr. Anil Bihari Chakma, the Headman of No. 3 Langadu Mouza and ex-Chairman of Langadu Union Council. He was also the ex-Vice-President of the Government-backed Tribal Convention. Although he is nothing but a lackey to the Government, still his family has not been spared from the State-terrorism.

The Chakma Raja Devasish Roy and many prominent Jumma leaders have submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner of the Rangamati Hill District on 10 May, 1989, to protest at the "Barbarous killing spree" that "was perpetrated on the innocent tribal people of Langadu Upazilla". Some 300 Jumma students including at least 50 Buddhist monks staged a protest demonstration in Dhaka on 21 May, 1989. But the Bangladeshi regime did not take any actions against the culprits. Instead, it had put the Chakma Raja under house-arrest from 11 May to 14 May, 1989, and tortured thousands of Jummas in military camps. Perhaps, it is worth-noting that "The press information department of the government sent verbal 'press advice' over telephone to all dailies....asking them not to publish any report or photograph on the tribal students' protest staged in the capital on Sunday...".

B. SECRET MURDERS

With the approval of the highest Authorities of Bangladesh, the Directorate General of the Forces' Intelligence (DGFI) carries out secret murders of the educated Jumma people in order to - i) discredit the Jana Samhati Samiti (JSS) and its resistance force, the Shanti Bahini, in the eyes of the Jumma people, ii) eliminate the Jumma intelligentsia (as the Pakistan army attempted to eliminate the Bengali intelligentsia during the 1971 Bangladesh independence war), iii) undermine the Jumma peoples' movement for self-determination, iv) force the Jumma people to accept the Government policy, and v) retaliate for exposing the Government genocidal activities. For example, District)

1. Mr. Shantimoy Dewan, the Chairman of the Rangamati Upazilla (Sub-A was assassinated in December, 1988, and the Bangladesh Government very quickly blamed the Shanti Bahini for his assassination. Now it has come to light that Mr. Dewan was murdered in Rangamati in broad day-light. At the time of his assassination, he was surrounded by the Bengalis only and there were no Jummas around him. It is widely believed that the DGFI murdered him because he refused to accept the District Council Law even after he was offered the post of the Chairmanship of the Rangamati Hill District Council. To cover up this secret murder, the Bangladeshi regime falsely implicated 7 innocent Jummas in its own crime and arrested them. These hapless people have been detained without charge or trial since 21 December, 1988, and they are being subjected to routine physical torture to coerce them into confession. The victims are: i) Mr. Bhabatosh Dewan, ii) Mr. Prabin Khisa, iii) Mr. Subhashish Chakma, iv) Mr. Pritimay Chakma, v) Mr. Sandeeban Chakma, vi) Mr. Bhumba

2. Mr. Surid Chakma, the General Manager of an orphanage in Rangamati known as "Monoghar" (financed by the Paris-based Partage avec les Enfants du Tiers-Monde and some other humanitarian organizations), disappeared suddenly in 1988. As usual the Bangladesh Government laid the blame at the door of the Shanti Bahini. At the request of Monsieur Pierre Marchand, the Director of the Partage..., the JSS investigated the matter and found that the DGFI abducted Mr. Surid Chakma. He was taken to the DGFI's Headquarters at Tabalchari in Rangamati where he was most possibly murdered. It may be recalled that Madame Danielle Mitterrand (the First Lady of France) and Monsieur Marchand found foster homes in France for 72 Jumma orphans who took refuge in the Tripura State of India after their orphanage at Boalkhali in Dighimala Upazilla was attacked by the Bangladesh security forces and the Bangladeshi settlers on 13-15 June, 1986. Perhaps, it is relevant to note that this orphanage (also financed by the Partage) lost about 100 orphans during the Dighinala massacres. The transfer of 72 Jumma orphans from Tripura to France highlighted the Bangladesh Government atrocities against the people of the CHT and thus this event extremely embarrassed the Government of Bangladesh. So it is not surprising that the vengeful military regime of Bangladesh retaliated upon the Partage by killing Mr. Surid Chakma for exposing the genocidal crimes committed by the Bangladesh Government against the Jumma civilian population.
3. Mr. Upendra Lal Chakma, an ex-MP and an ex-adviser to Gen. Hossain Mohammad Ershad, was a member of the present ruling party, Jatiya Dal. He also liaised peace talks between the Bangladesh Government and the JSS. Still the DGFI conspired to kill him because he fully rejected the District Council Law. Mr. Chakma, fortunately, was able to perceive this conspiracy against his life and he fled to Tripura on 24 May, 1989.

The JSS has enlisted 198 human rights violations committed jointly by the Bangladesh security forces and the Bangladeshi settlers. They include murder, rape, torture, detention, robbery, land-grabbing and religious persecution. A few cases are given below:

C. MURDER

1. On 1 July, 1988, Lt. Shamim and his army men of the 31 East Bengal Regiment (EBR) of the Bangladesh Army from the cantonment at Khagrachari raided the house of Mr. Man Mohan Chakma, 33 yrs, son of Mr. Bhada Chakma, of Harinath Para village, at 0120 hrs. and opened fire on the sleeping family. As a result, Mr. Man Mohan Chakma and his mother, Mrs. Sura Mukhi Chakma, 60 yrs., died on the spot. At that time his sister, Mandadhari Chakma (the wife of Mr. Lalit Kumar Chakma of Rangapani Chara village in no. 262 Golabari Mouza within Khagrachari Upazilla), 29 yrs, was visiting his family. She and her 9 month-old daughter, Mila Chabua, were also hit by bullets. Incidentally the family of Mr. Jalakkamani Chakma (who was evicted by the Bangladeshi settlers from his home at Jalbanda village in no. 30 Bar Merung Mouza within Merung Upazilla in 1986) had to move to the house of Mr. Man Mohan Chakma in Harinath Para village within Khagrachari Upazilla. His daughter, Miss Barun Mala Chakma, 14 yrs, was seriously wounded. Still the Bangladeshi soldiers gang-raped her and then shot her dead. The invaders also gang-raped Mrs. Aduri Chakma, 19 yrs, (the wife of Mr. Man Mohan Chakma) and Mrs. Mandadhari Chakma.
2. On 30 July, 1988, 9 Jummas were returning home from Mainee Mukh Bazaar by a boat driven by one Mohammad Khalil. On the secret order of the military intelligence, DGFI, this Bangladeshi settler took them to one Bangladeshi settlement called Bat Tala where the Bangladeshi settlers killed all the 9 Jumma passengers. The victims are: i) Mr. Rajani Kanta Chakma (ex-Member of the Union Parishad and son of the late Sampurna Chakma), ii) Master Okay Chakma (7 yrs and the son of the late Shoilesh Kanti Chakma), iii) Mrs. Braja Bala Chakma

(35 yrs old, the wife of the late Shoilesh Kanti Chakma), iv) Master Mino Chakma (3 yrs old, the son of the late Shoilesh Kanti Chakma) and v) Mrs. Kala Devi Chakma (28 yrs old, the wife of the late Ranajyoti Chakma) from Korolya Chari village in no. 28 Atarak Chara Mouza within Langudu Upazilla; vi) Miss Niyati Bala Chakma (25 yrs, the daughter of Mr. Languram Chakma) of Daner Atarak Chara village in no. 28 Atarak Chara Mouza within Langudu Upazilla; vii) Miss Taki Chakma (15 yrs old, the daughter of the late Madhab Chandra Chakma) of Bamer Atarak Chara village in no. 28 Atarak Chara Mouza within Langudu Upazilla; viii) Miss Suchanda Chakma (19 yrs old, the daughter of Mr. Dhaneshwar Chakma) of Khedar Mara village (Durchari) within Baghai Chari Upazilla; and ix) Mr. Sukramani Chakma (29 yrs old, the son of the late Akshay Chakma of Rangamati in Rangamati Upazilla) was working as a boatman of the Forest Office at Korolya Chari within Langudu Upazilla.

This incident was reported by the relatives of the victims to the Police Station at Langudu and also to the Commander of the Army camp at Korolya Chari in Langudu Upazilla. When no action was taken against the offenders by the local authorities, the matter was brought to the notice of Col. Imamuzzaman, the Commander of the 305 Brigade at Rangamati, at the meeting of the Tribal Convention which was arranged by the military authorities at the Town Hall in Tintilla on 3 August, 1988. He angrily responded by saying - "So far, many Muslims have been killed by the Shanti Bahini in different actions but the government has not reacted to these incidents, but when a few Jumma people are killed why there is so much of reaction In the future, if a single Muslim is found missing or killed, then for each Muslim 15 Jummas shall be shot dead by the army personnel".

3. On 23-24 September, 1988, Lt. Mohammad Iqbal of the 14 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army from the army camp at Tintilla and one Abu Bakar of the 14 EBR of the Bangladesh Army from the army camp at Yoreng Chari jointly attacked the unarmed inhabitants of Gabachari, Zuropani Chara and Rangapani Chara villages in Merung Upazilla. The invaders shot dead i) Mr. Bira Nanda Chakma (50 yrs, the son of Mr. Jayanta Chakma) of Gabachari village in Merung Upazilla and ii) Master Chiranjib Chakma (12 yrs old, the son of Mr. Padasya Chakma) of Gabachari village in Merung Upazilla, and seriously injured Mr. Shantimoy Chakma (21 yrs old, the son of Mr. Bira Nanda Chakma) from the village of Gabachari in Merung Upazilla. The attackers also arrested 10 Jummas and took them to the army camp where they were subjected to various kinds of tortures including forcing water through their nostrils. The three of the 10 arrested persons are: i) Master Chuntugula Chakma (14 yrs old, the son of Mr. Chandra Kumar Chakma) of Gabachari village in Merung Upazilla, ii) Mr. Bhadra Ranjan Chakma (28 yrs old, the son of Mr. Tarani Dhan Chakma) of Zuropani Chara village in Merung Upazilla, and iii) Mr. Dhenga Chakma (24 yrs, the son of Mr. Guna Chandra Chakma) of South Rangapani Chara in Merung Upazilla.

D. RAPE

1. On 26 March, 1988, a member of the Bangla Desh Rifles (BDR) from the Dhuduk Chara BDR camp in Logang area within Panchari Upazilla, raped Miss Samadevi Chakma (16 yrs old, the daughter of Mr. Pulin Bihari Chakma) of Madhu Ranjan Karbari Para village in Logang area within Panchari Upazilla. She is a student of class IX at Korolya Chari High School in Logang area within Panchari Upazilla.
2. On 30 July, 1988, a group of 35 Bangladeshi settlers attacked 5 Jumma women of Hara Kumar Karbari Para in no. 25 Sonai Mouza within Langudu Upazilla, gang-raped them and then took away all their belongings including the clothes they were wearing. This incident took place on a road near the army camp at Mainee Mukh Bazar in

incident. Yet the security people did not come to protect these 5 women. Clearly the crime was committed with the approval of the local military authorities. The victims are: i) Mrs. Minati Prabha Chakma, 36 yrs, the wife of Mana Bihari Chakma, ii) Mrs. Chaya Rani Chakma, 22 yrs, the wife of Mr. Amrita Lal Chakma, iii) Miss Kalabi Chakma, 20 yrs, the daughter of Mr. Chandi Charan Chakma, iv) Miss Shaila Bala Chakma, 19 yrs, the daughter of Mr. Dayal Chandra Chakma, and v) Miss Purnima Devi Chakma, 19 yrs, the daughter of Mr. Madan Mohan Chakma.

3. On 12 November, 1988, Major Sharif of the Bangladesh Army from the Nania Char army camp, raided Hatimara village in no. 72 Burighat Mouza within Nania Char Upazilla, and raped Mrs. Kalabi Chakma, 38 yrs, the wife of Mr. Bipin Bihari Chakma. Then he arrested a few Jummas and took them to his army camp for interrogation. During the interrogation the victims were tortured with electric shocks. Their names are: i) Mr. Harish Chandra Chakma, 35 yrs, the son of Mr. Nila Charan Chakma, ii) Mr. Bucchya Chakma, 21 yrs, the son of Mr. Sabha Kishta Chakma, and iii) Mr. Governor Chakma, 20 yrs, the son of Mr. Bipin Bihari Chakma.

E. TORTURE

1. On 12 August, 1988, Lt. Harun of the Bangladesh Army from the Khagrachari cantonment, carried out an operation against the inhabitants of Perachara village in Khagrachari Upazilla and arrested i) Mr. Manik Chandra Chakma, ii) Mr. Gala Dhan Chakma, the son of Mr. Kalakudhi Bap Chakma, and iii) Mr. Chakra Chakma, a cowherd employed by Mr. Gala Dhan Chakma. They were blind-folded, kicked, hung upside down and then beaten with sticks and poked with knives till they became unconscious.
2. On 28 August, 1988, Captain Aleem of the Bangladesh Army from the Kuki Chara army camp in Khagrachari Upazilla, raided Jur Maram Mouza within Khagrachari Upazilla and arrested Mr. Karna Roaza, the son of Mr. Kalachan Roaza (the Headman of Jur Maram Mouza). The arrested Jumma was tortured inhumanly. His testicles were squeezed by the Captain during the interrogation in order to make him confess that he was helping the Shanti Bahini.
3. On 10-12 November, 1988, the Directorate General of the Forces' Intelligence (DGFI), the National Security Intelligence (NSI) and the Special Branch (SB) have arrested many Jumma students on the false charge of being members of the Shanti Bahini. They have been interrogated and tortured. Now their whereabouts are not known. The victimised students are: i) Mr. Hemal Dewan, HSC student, Rangamati College, CHT, ii) Mr. Jnana Prakash Khisa, 1st yr. B.Com. (Hons) in Accountancy, Chittagong University, iii) Mr. Cizi Moni Chakma, 1st yr. B.A. (Hons) in Public Administration, Chittagong University, iv) Mr. Milan Chakma, B.A. student, Rangamati College, v) Mr. Pratim Roy, 2nd yr. HSC, Rangamati College, CHT, vi) Mr. Shukheshwar Chakma, 2nd yr. HSC, Rangamati College, CHT, vii) Mr. Chayan Chakma, 2nd yr. HSC, Rangamati College, CHT.

F. DETENTION

1. On 6 April, 1988, the Bangladesh Army personnel of the army camp at Rangi Para village in Langudu Upazilla, arrested i) Mr. Ratan Alo Khisa (26 yrs old, the son of Mr. Bankim Chandra Khisa) of Rangi Para village in Langudu Upazilla, and ii) Mr. Sunil Kanti Dewan, 28 yrs, of Rangi Para village, and took them to the army camp for interrogation and torture. Then these two Jumma victims were sent to the Directorate General of the Forces' Intelligence (DGFI) Headquarters at Tabalchari in Rangamati for further interrogation. They have been falsely charged as the Shanti Bahini associates.
2. On 28 June, 1988, the Field Intelligence Unit (FIU) of the Bangla Desh Army from the Khagrachari cantonment, arrested 2 innocent Jummas

Jummas - i) Mr. Bimal Kanti Chakma (27 yrs old, the son of Mr. Kamala Kanta Chakma) of Harinath Para village in Khagrachari Upazilla, and ii) Master Dhana Chakma (13 yrs old, the son of Mr. Mananjay Chakma) of Harinath Para village in Khagrachari Upazilla - and took them to the FIU centre. There the Jumma victims were blindfolded, had their hands and legs tied up and subjected to physical tortures during the interrogation. They were not given food and water for two days. The FIU is still detaining them without charge or trial.

3. On 30 August, 1988, four Jummas were arrested at Kuduk Chari market in Rangamati Upazilla by the army personnel of the Kuduk Chari army camp in Rangamati Upazilla. They were severely beaten at the said army camp for three days. Then they were sent to the army camp at Champatali for further interrogation and tortures. From there they were handed over to the DGFI Headquarters at Tabalchari in Rangamati and they are still languishing in the DGFI torture chamber. The victims are: i) Mr. Brajendu Chakma, the son of Mr. Amrita Lal Chakma, of West Hatimara village in Nania Char Upazilla, ii) Mr. Santosh Bikash Chakma of Krishnama Chara village in Nania Char Upazilla, iii) Mr. Satyaban Chakma of South Hatimara village in Nania Char Upazilla, and iv) Mr. London Chakma, the son of Mr. Krishna Mohan Chakma, of South Hatimara village in Nania Char Upazilla.

G. LOOTING

1. On 10 August, 1988, under the instructions of the local security authorities, the Bangladeshi settlers attacked two Jummas - i) Mr. Subha Shanti Chakma (45 yrs old, the son of Mr. Basudev Chakma) of Pagali Chara village in no. 2 Kattali Mouza within Langudu Upazilla, and ii) Mr. Satish Chandra Chakma (25 yrs old, the son of Mr. Debendra Chakma) of Pagali Chara village in no. 2 Kattali Mouza within Langudu Upazilla - when they were returning home by boat from Kattali Bazaar. As a result, the first Jumma died on the spot and the second Jumma was seriously wounded. Then all their belongings were taken away by the Bangladeshi robbers. The matter was reported to the Police camp at Kattali Bazaar in Langudu Upazilla but no action was taken against the plunderers.
2. On 24 November, 1988, the Bangladeshi soldiers of the 14 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army from the army camp at Khagrachari in Baghai Chari Upazilla, attacked the home of Mr. Sneha Kumar Chakma of Khagrachari village in no. 383 Sarbuatali Mouza within Baghai Chari Upazilla. The raiders gang-raped his wife, Mrs. Sumati Bala Chakma (35 yrs old) in the presence of him at gunpoint. Then the military robbers took away 2,000 Takas from this Jumma family.
3. On 5 December, 1988, Capt. Harun and soldiers of the 14 EBR of the Bangladesh Army from the army camp at Xala Pagajya in Baghai Chari Upazilla and the Bangladeshi infiltrators jointly attacked South Pablakhali village in no. 384 Khedar Mara Mouza within Baghai Chari Upazilla at a time when the male villagers went to Durchari market to buy their daily essential goods. The Bangladeshi thieves stole every valuable things from the helpless villagers. For example, they stole clothes, utensils, fishing nets, slippers, 6,000 Takas (Rupees), 1,000 bamboos and so on from the home of Mr. Sadhan Karbari (Head of the village). Similarly, the Bangladeshi plunderers looted all useful articles from the homes of Mr. Gupajay Chakma, Mr. Bijay Kumar Chakma, Mr. Rabi Kumar Chakma and many others.

This matter was reported to Major Firdaus of the 14 EBR of the Bangla Desh Army from the Durchari camp. Instead of taking necessary action against the culprits, this military officer abused those persons who went to him to seek justice. He simply turned them out. It may be recalled that Major Firdaus is one of the military officers who carried out the Baghai Chari massacres on 8-9 August, 1988.

1. On 4 April, 1988, four Jummas - i) Mr. Surya Mohan Chakma (50 yrs old, the son of Mr. Tatyia Chakma), ii) Mr. Chandra Mohan Chakma (45 yrs, the son of Mr. Tatyia Chakma), iii) Mr. Fuleshwar Chakma (26 yrs old, the son of Mr. Surya Mohan Chakma) and iv) Mr. Ganju Chakma (24 yrs old, the son of Mr. Surya Mohan Chakma), all from Batya Para village in no. 3 Langudu Mouza within Langudu Upazilla - were working in their paddyfield. In collusion with the local Police and Army authorities, the Bangladeshi infiltrators equipped with sharp weapons suddenly attacked the said farmers wounding all of them seriously. While attacking the Jumma farmers, the raiders shouted that they had come to the CHT for land. Some of the culprits are: i) Khalilur Rehman of Batya Para village, in Langudu Upazilla, ii) his wife, Khatun Bibi, iii) his son, Muhammad Hussain, iv) his daughter, Sajera Khatun, v) his another daughter, Saleha Khatun, and vi) Kabir Ahmed of Boalkhali in Chittagong District.
2. A Jumma inhabitant, Mr. Anupam Kanti Chakma (40 yrs old, the son of Mr. Hriday Ranjan Chakma) of "Adarsha Gram" (Ideal Village, in fact a concentration camp) in Tarabanya Mouza within Dighinala Upazilla, was transplanting rice seedlings in his paddy land on 5 May, 1988. At that time, the Bangladeshi settlers attacked him and murdered him. Although a criminal case was registered at Dighinala Police Station, still no legal action was taken against the murderers. This clearly indicates that the local Police and Army encourage the Bangladeshi settlers to grab farmlands by killing the Jumma farmers.

I. RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

1. On 15-16 April, 1988, the Tripura people were celebrating the Goraiya Festival. Then the Bangladesh Army personnel of the army camp at Guimara attacked them and arrested four Tripuras. These four Jummas were charged with false allegation of being the members of the Shanti Bahini and detained at the army camp for a year. The victims are: i) Mr. Anil Mohan Tripura (the son of Mr. Swadhin Tripura) of Balya Chari, ii) Mr. Raj Chandra Tripura (the son of Mr. Sashira Tripura) of Shilak Para village, iii) Mr. Duba Chandra Tripura (the son of Mr. Nuiya Tripura) of Bel Para village, and iv) Mr. Manoranjan Tripura (the son of Mr. Tiriya Tripura) of Munshi Para village.
2. On 19 December, 1988, Lt. Col. Moinuddin of the 14 EBR of the Bangla Desh Army, the Zonal Commander of the Mainee Mukh Zone, beat two Jummas severely because they did not greet him in the Islamic way by saying - "Assalam-C-Alaikum" -. This is a typical example of how the Islamic regime of Bangladesh is coercing the Jumma people to accept Islam and the Islamic culture. The victimised Jummas are: i) Mr. Bajjya Chakma and ii) Mr. Biraj Chandra Chakma - both from Mautang village in Sarbuatali Mouza within Baghai Chari Upazilla.

J. DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION

Perhaps, it is worth-noting that the Jumma people have fully rejected the District Council Law on the grounds that this law has been designed to deprive them of their traditional political, economic, social and cultural rights. Still the Bangladeshi regime has forcibly imposed this bad law on the Jumma people against their will. In spite of the Jumma people's vehement opposition to the District Council Law, the Government of Bangladesh held the mock District Council election on 25 June, 1989, and intimidated the people of the CHT to take part in the said election. For instance, it massacred the innocent people of Baghai Chari area and Langudu area on 8-9 August, 1988, and 4 May, 1989, respectively. It also rounded up thousands of Jumma people and tortured them in military camps. In short, the Government unleashed a reign of terror in the CHT. As a result of the State terrorism, some 14,000 new Jumma refugees have fled to the Tripura State of India by May, 1989. The influx of new Jumma refugees to Tripura is continuing as the Government has intensified its genocidal activities in the CHT.

Mr. Nur-e-Ziku) have expressed concern over the situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and demanded self-rule or autonomy in the troubled area". The new refugees gave the press the detailed account of "Indiscriminate torture on men, women and children at the hands of the Bangladesh security force". They said, "Our houses have been set on fire and property looted. We were not allowed to buy an extra bit of ration since it might go to the Shanti Bahini guerillas and even religious festivals like Buddha Purnima were not allowed to be celebrated".... "There are instances of Chakma youths, positioned in columns, being shot dead by the army. Inhuman torture like pouring hot water into nostrils or chilli powder in the eyes of the tribals are common methods of extracting information about Shanti Bahini rebels". According to one 33-year-old refugee, Mr. Anupam Chakma from Logang village in Panchari Upazilla, he "was rounded up with his family members and fellow villagers by army men on the night of 7 May..... The tribals were subjected to inhuman torture when they refused to stay in 'model mixed villages' with non-tribal settlers there". Another 38-year-old new refugee, Mr. Chandra Shekhar Chakma told journalists that he was kept in a pit filled with neck-deep foul water for three continuous days. "He was also subjected to electric shock as the army suspected that he had links with Shanti Bahini guerillas".

The vast majority of the Jumma people boycotted the District Council election. Those small number of Jummas, who voted in the said election, and those few Jummas, who contested in the election, did so under duress. "The turn-out in the district headquarters of Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari was between 20 and 30 per cent.... In the interiors, the turn-out was even thinner". In fact, almost all the voters, who cast their votes, were the illegal Bangladeshi settlers. According to the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulation of 1900, these illegal infiltrators have no right to settle in the CHT. So their participation in the District Council election in the CHT is illegal and in violation of the CHT Regulation of 1900. The Jumma people have totally rejected the District Council Law and therefore the result of the said mock election is not binding to them.

K. THE SITUATION OF THE JUMMA REFUGEES

With the arrival of about 14,000 new Jumma refugees by the end of May, 1989, the Jumma refugee population in the Tripura State of India has risen to 60,000. More refugees are on their way to Tripura as the Bangla Desh Government is taking reprisal against the Jumma people for not voting in the 25 June District Council election. As a consequence, the Jumma people have no security of life and property in the CHT. The military regime of Bangladesh is not willing to stop genocidal campaigns against the unarmed Jumma civilian population by withdrawing the Bangladesh armed forces and the illegal Bangladeshi settlers from the region. In these circumstances, the Jumma refugees fear to go back to the CHT. Moreover, they want their villages and farmlands back for their living. The Jumma refugees are eager to go back to their ancestral homes provided the Bangla Desh Government restores normalcy in the CHT by fulfilling three most essential conditions: i) removal of all non-Jumma settlers from the CHT, ii) withdrawal of all Bangladesh armed forces including the non-Jumma police force from the CHT, and iii) political solution to the crisis in the CHT by granting provincial autonomy for the CHT.

The compassionate Governments of India and Tripura have been looking after the Jumma refugees for over three years on humanitarian grounds. India has already spent many crores of rupees behind them. Her kindness and generosity have not only saved 60,000 threatened Jummas but they are also ensuring their survival. Thanks to the Indian help and care, these refugees are having a baby boom! It is really inspiring to see that India is sparing no efforts to preserve the endangered Jumma people from becoming extinct at the hands of the brutal regime of Bangladesh. But her resources are limited. Despite her admirable commitment to the cause of humanity, her economy may not be able to afford to take care of so many thousands of refugees. Therefore, the refugees are seeking help from the

food, utensils, drinking water facilities, educational facilities, vocational training facilities.

L. INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION

1. The Workgroup for the Hill Peoples of the Chittagong Hill Tracts formed by the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA-Sweden in G8thenburg), the Minority Interests Group (MIG in Uppsala) and the Fourth World Association (FWA in Stockholm) convened an international "Public Seminar On The Ethnocide In The Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh" on 20-21 May, 1989, at the Ethnological Museum in Stockholm. M/s Heidi Moksnes of the IWGIA-Sweden presided over the Seminar. Dr. Andrew Gray of the IWGIA-Copenhagen, Dr. Wolfgang Mey of the Gesellschaft für Bedrohte Völker, Dr. Angela Pathak of Amnesty International-West Germany, Mr. Lars-Anders Baer of the Nordic Sami Council and a Lady Representative of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) gave evidence in support of the two Jumma representatives' claims that the Bangladeshi regime had been committing systematic genocide of the Jumma people in order to Bangladeshize and to Islamize the Jumma homeland.

This Stockholm Conference highlighted the plight of the helpless Jumma people under the Bangladeshi invasion. The organizers of the Seminar have pledged their support for the Jumma peoples' just movement for self-determination. They are raising funds for the Jumma refugees.

2. The Canada-Asia Working Group (CAWG), the most powerful human rights group in Canada, has again submitted a report on the CHT issue to the meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights held in February-March, 1989. It also urged the Canadian Government i) to "support the efforts of international human rights agencies to gain free access to the Chittagong Hill Tracts for purposes of investigating allegations of abuses and assessing current human rights conditions", and ii) to "ensure that no part of Canada's development assistance, or other economic supports to the government of Bangladesh through international financial institutions, contributes to non-tribal resettlement programs in the CHT".

M. THE JUMMA PEOPLES' DEMANDS

The Jumma people believe that they will survive the Bangladeshi invasion only if the following steps are implemented by the international community: i) the removal of all non-Jumma settlers from the CHT, ii) the withdrawal of all Bangladesh armed forces including the non-Jumma police force from the CHT, iii) Provincial autonomy for the CHT with a separate legislature, iv) adequate financial help for the rehabilitation of the Jumma refugees in their native villages and the return of their ancestral farmlands to them, v) the deployment of the U.N. Peace Keeping Force in the CHT and the supervision of these measures under the auspices of the U.N.O.

N. CONCLUSION

The Jumma people are facing the prospects of total extinction. They need all your help for their survival. I fervently appeal to you to pressurize the Bangladesh Government to cancel the District Council Law and to implement the legitimate demands of the Jumma people.

I should be most grateful to you if you would kindly take care of the Jumma refugees. The Humanity Protection Forum, an indigenous humanitarian organization of Tripura, will be able to carry out the relief works in the refugee camps. With my best regards.

To

Dr. Rudolph C. Ryser, The Chairman of the
Center for World Indigenous Studies,
P.O. Box 82038, Kenmore, Washington 98028,
U.S.A.

Yours sincerely

Ramendu

N.B. The address of the Humanity Protection Forum:
Mr. Bhagya Chandra Chakma, Secretary-General, Humanity Protection