

To : Mr. Rudolph C. Ryser,
Chairman of the Center for World
Indigenous Studies,
P.O. Box 82038, Kenmore,
Washington 98028.

09 February 1992

From : Otin Dewan
1717 SE 21st TERR
Cape Coral, FL 33990

Subject: Political asylum in the United States.

Dear Mr. Rudolph,

Your name and address have been referred by Dr. Ramendu S. Dewan, Spokesman of the Chittagong Hill Tracts United Peoples Party (PCJSS or JSS) in the West stationed at 112 Hanover Court, Salford M 7 0EE, England.

My name is OTIN DEWAN and I am a Chakma from Rangamati, Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), Bangladesh. I am sure that you are aware of the Chittagong Hill Tracts situation and unfortunately I am one of the victims of the military atrocities in my country, Bangladesh. I was the General Secretary of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill Peoples Council (CHTHPC) and was active in the movement with demands of CHT peoples right of self determination. The military authority could not tolerate activities of our organization and arrested our workers including the Convenor of the Advisory Council Mr. Bijoy Ketan Chakma and Finance Secretary Mr. Monotosh Dewan. All of the persons arrested have been severely tortured at Chittagong Cantonment for a couple of weeks before they were handed over to the Police for detention.

I arrived at the United States on November 29, 1991. I talked to my wife in Bangladesh over telephone and came to know that the situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts has further deteriorated and military intelligence people were looking for me.

Under the above circumstances, I decided to seek shelter in the United States and accordingly submitted my application for asylum from New York on January 23, 1992.

My wife and two children are still in Bangladesh and I am afraid, they may become victim of the military atrocities specially in my absence. May I therefore request your good organization to come forward to help my family to get out of Bangladesh and come into the United States either as refugee or on any ground on humanitarian considerations. I believe the compassionate people of America and the Humane American Government will grant us asylum in the United States.

Should you need more information regarding above, please feel free to write me. I look forward to hear from you very soon. Your kind co-operation in this respect will be highly appreciated.

Thanking you.

Sincerely yours


Otin Dewan



Center for World Indigenous Studies

P.O. Box 82038, Kenmore, Washington 98028 U.S.A.

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CANADA

March 2, 1992

MR. ARMSTRONG WIGGINS
Indian Law Resource Center
601 E. Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Armstrong:

I recently received this letter from Otin Dewan, former General Secretary of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill Peoples' Council (CHTHPC) in southeastern Bangladesh. Mr. Dewan was referred to me by Dr. Ramendu S. Dewan who has been my correspondent with the Chittagong Hill Tracts United Peoples Party for quite a number of years. I believe you know Ramendu from Working Group meetings in Geneva.

I have written to Otin Dewan that I was going to contact the Indian Law Resource Center in hopes that you or one of your colleagues could offer him advice and perhaps assistance on his request for political asylum. I am also in contact with CWIS people in Canada to determine if there is a possibility for assistance gaining political asylum either in Canada or with one of several tribes which have given asylum to others.

Please let me know if the ILRC will be offering advice or assistance to Mr. Dewan. I have attached a copy of his letter to me for your information.

Thanks for your help in advance.

Best wishes,


Rudolph C. Ryser

Attachment
FILE:AW DEWAN.LCW
Facsimile to 202-547-2803