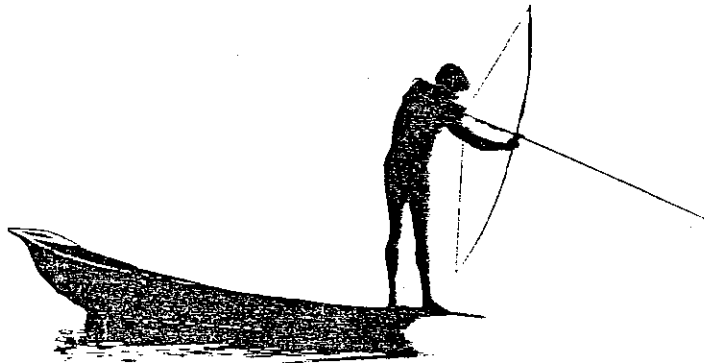


BANGLADESH

CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS

THE KILLING CONTINUES



INFORMATION PACK/BAN/CHT/JUL/1985

**SURVIVAL INTERNATIONAL**

FOR THE RIGHTS OF THREATENED TRIBAL PEOPLES

A REGISTERED CHARITY No. 267444

29 CRAVEN STREET, LONDON, WC2N 5NT, ENGLAND.

Telephone: 01-839 3267

Recent information received by Survival International reveals that the genocidal war being carried out by the Bangladesh armed forces against the mainly Buddhist, tribal peoples of the Chittagong Hill Tracts continues unabated. These new reports, which supplement and substantiate information received by Survival International last year and in May of this year, provide truly horrifying details of the crimes being committed in this remote, hilly corner in the south-east of this country. Rape and pillage have become common, entire communities have been destroyed, hundreds of tribal people have been killed including women and young children, people have been taken captive and tortured without trial. Tribal peoples have been uprooted from whole areas. The assaults are part of an army-backed invasion of tribal lands by which the government plans to colonise the traditionally tribal area with Bengali settlers from the overpopulated lowlands. Thousands of tribals, fearing for their lives, have fled their lands and taken refuge in the steep jungle uplands or in neighbouring India.

#### A Secret War

The Chittagong Hill Tracts have been closed to visitors and foreign journalists for several years. Press reports on the situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts published in the Bangladeshi press are highly censored. Vague and often contradictory articles suggest that the area has become a security problem owing to the activities a small number of communist insurgents active in the region, who have been reported assaulting Bengali communities. Sometimes the press reports go so far as to suggest that the tribal peoples of the area have been involved in land conflict, but the true nature of the struggle is never accurately reported.

In fact the Chittagong Hill Tracts are the scene of an unequal and brutal genocidal war. Denied rights to their ancestral lands, victims of development and colonisation programmes in which they have no say and over which they have no control, the tribal peoples of the region have organised themselves into a small guerrilla army, the Shanti Bahini, which has attempted to resist the Bangladesh army's control of their territory. The successive governments have responded to the tribal peoples resistance with terrible violence. An estimated 85,000 soldiers and para-military personnel have been stationed in the Hill Tracts to enforce the government's colonisation programme, aptly summarised by the army's frank admission: "We want only the land and not the people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts".

In spite of the rigorous policy of excluding foreigners from the area and the blanket of silence surrounding the Bangladesh Army's activities in the region, news of the horrific atrocities being committed in the Hill Tracts continue to reach the outside world. Some of this information filters out through the regional capital of Rangamati and so to Chadigang and Dhaka. But, such are the risks of carrying information out from the Hills by this route, that the reports are usually verbal accounts, fragmentary and lacking details. The most substantial information now reaching the outside world is emerging through India, where thousands of tribal refugees, driven from their

lands by the violence of the Bangladesh army, have provided detailed testimony of their suffering. The grim details of these refugees' accounts, passed circuitously to Survival International, form the basis for the report which follows.

### The report

The Chittagong Hill Tracts are closed to visitors. Attempts by reputable international human rights agencies to gain officially-sanctioned access to the region have been rebuffed. Survival International has, therefore, been obliged to publish information on the situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts without being able to carry out field visits to the region to verify the sources. The form of the documentation received by Survival International, the fact that the various sources confirm one another in all major details, has convinced the organisation that the reports are substantially accurate.

The reports summarised in the pages that follow relate to only a small part of the Chittagong Hill Tracts as a whole. The refugees and members of the United Peoples Party (Jana Samhati Samiti) who have provided the information, are those from territories near to the Indian state of Tripura and the northern part of the state of Mizoram. Whether or not the same situation as that described in the documentation that follows prevails in other parts of the Hill Tracts is not clearly known. If, as seems likely, the tribal peoples of the southern parts of the Hill Tracts are suffering similar violations of the human rights as those in the north, then the report which follows accounts for only a small part of the general situation.

#### **Ulu Chari Adam**

On April 12 1984, two colonels of the Bangladesh armed forces, named as Lt. Col. Ensayet Hossain from Bhaiban Chara Camp, near Longudu, and Lt. Col. Zillur Rahaman from Naniachar Camp, visited the village of **Ulu Chari Adam**. News of the arrival of the colonels was passed to the tribals who came out to visit them. **Benga Chakma** was arrested and taken from the village.

#### **Jaganatali**

On April 19 1984, soldiers from the Bangladesh Army Camp of Naniachar raided the village of **Jaganatali**. 28 year old **Prati Bala Chakma**, mother of two, and **Banashree Chakma**, 26 years old, were surprised by the soldiers entering their sleeping quarters at 5 am. Both were raped and then taken to the camp and made to sleep with the camp commander. The soldiers also brutally raped **Shanti Debi Chakma**, 25 years old, and then took her to the camp where she was kept for four days without clothes and subjected to physical tortures. 23 year old **Niharika Chakma** was raped in her home in front of her husband, father and mother-in-law, after which she was also taken to the camp and subjected to further rape and tortures. During the same attack soldiers also entered the house of **Konti Debi Chakma**, 21. They woke her husband with kicks and blows and then gang-raped her.

### Massacres of May 31, 1984

On May 31, several units of the Bangladesh army, given as members of the "7th and 26th Bengal of 305 Brigade" of the Bangladesh Army, members of the 17th Battalion of the Bangladesh Rifles, accompanied by the Village Defence Party of the Barkal Rehabilitation Zone and also Muslim Bengali settlers of the same zone, made a number of brutal surprise attacks on tribal communities in the Bhushan Chara region.

The villages exposed to these attacks were the following: Tarengya Ghat, Suguri Para, Bhushan Chara, Gorosthan, Banarupa, Bhushan Bak, Het Bharia, Goruri Para, Jarul Chari and Garjan Tali. Less detailed reports suggest that the villages of Ludibash Chara, Ujyang Chari and Dhanu Bak were also attacked at this time.

The attacks resulted in 63 deaths and one person wounded. 25 of those killed were of thirteen years of age and younger, there were a number of babies among the victims. Five members of the population remain untraced, all young women of 15 to 26 years of age. The victims of the massacres are listed in Table 1.

TABLE 1.

#### RECORDED VICTIMS OF MASSACRES OF 31 MAY 1984

No.	NAME	AGE	SEX	VILLAGE	FATE
1	Anuruddha Chakma	82	M	Suguri Para	Killed
2	Nila Mohan	45	M	Suguri Para	Killed
3	Hangsa Kumar	17	M	Suguri Para	Killed
4	Bali Mohan	38	M	Suguri Para	Killed
5	Sneta Kumar	23	M	Suguri Para	Killed
6	Sanat Kumar	45	M	Suguri para	Killed
7	Sneha Kumar	35	M	Suguri Para	Killed
8	Mukta Kumar	8	M	Suguri Para	Killed
9	Urangya	5	M	Suguri Para	Killed
10	Nanda Kumar	1	M	Suguri Para	Killed
11	Gopal Shanti	8	M	Suguri Para	Killed
12	Surja Mala	8	F	Suguri Para	Killed
13	Swarna Mani	6	M	Suguri Para	Killed
14	Anil Kanti	4	M	Suguri Para	Killed
15	Langdi	68	F	Suguri Para	Killed
16	Kala Bi	61	F	Suguri Para	Killed
17	Sneha Lata	35	F	Suguri Para	Raped, Killed
18	Padma Mala	15	F	Suguri Para	Raped, Killed
19	Nila Mukhi	35	F	Suguri Para	Killed
20	Jida Rani	13	F	Suguri Para	Raped, Killed
21	Krishna Mala	3	F	Suguri Para	Killed
22	Chanchala	1	F	Suguri Para	Killed

...cont..

TABLE 1 (cont.).

23	Bidya Dhorì	38	F	Suguri Para	Raped, Killed
24	Daya Devi	2	F	Suguri Para	Killed
25	Sayandari	15	F	Suguri Para	Untraced
26	Chandra Mala	17	F	Suguri Para	Untraced
27	Padma Kumar	10	M	Suguri Para	Bullet wound
28	Buddha Lata	23	F	Suguri Para	Raped, Killed
29	Dalam	35	M	Het Bharia	Killed
30	Bhadra	14	M	Het Bharia	Killed
31	Chitta Ranjan	51	M	Het Bharia	Killed
32	Maratwa	6	M	Het Bharia	Killed
33	Muratya	2	M	Het Bharia	Killed
34	Prasanna Kumar	2	M	Het Bharia	Killed
35	Maratwa	2	M	Het Bharia	Killed
36	A pudi	62	F	Het Bharia	Killed
37	Indu Mala	32	F	Het Bharia	Raped, Killed
38	Chaya Rani	10	F	Het Bharia	Raped, Killed
39	Bana Lata	37	F	Het Bharia	Raped, Killed
40	Kiyana	11	F	Het Bharia	Raped, Killed
41	Chinta Devi	47	F	Het Bharia	Raped, Killed
42	Aroti	22	F	Het Bharia	Raped, Killed
43	Maya Sita	8	F	Het Bharia	Killed
44	Dhumbi	8	F	Het Bharia	Killed
45	Hira Mukhi	5	F	Het Bharia	Killed
46	Milabwa	8	F	Het Bharia	Killed
47	Ven Jyotipal Sraman	58	M	Gorosthan	Beaten up
48	Dina Mohan	54	M	Gorosthan	Killed
49	Rameswar	29	M	Gorosthan	Killed
50	Akkhay Chand	25	M	Gorosthan	Killed
51	Amar Chand	35	M	Gorosthan	Killed
52	Kala Puna	30	M	Gorosthan	Killed
53	Nishi Mohan	16	M	Gorosthan	Killed
54	Sadhana	16	M	Gorosthan	Killed
55	Khokan	3	M	Gorosthan	Killed
56	Bacchu	10	M	Gorosthan	Killed
57	Nayandini	26	F	Gorosthan	Untraced
58	Mangal Chandra	59	M	Bhushan Bak	Killed
59	Sadhan Chandra	29	M	Bhushan Bak	Killed
60	Priya Ranjan	17	M	Bhushan Bak	Killed
61	Jyotirmoy	16	M	Bhushan Bak	Killed
62	Teneya	49	M	Bhushan Bak	Killed
63	Nagari	27	F	Bhushan Bak	Raped, Killed
64	Langdi	47	F	Bhushan Bak	Raped, Killed
65	Samarbi	14	F	Bhushan Bak	Raped, Killed
66	Taru Lata	17	F	Bhushan Bak	Untraced
67	Pahr Bi	17	F	Bhushan Bak	Untraced
68	Mati Lal	62	M	Garjan Tali	Killed
69	Sanatan	48	M	Jarul Chari	Killed
70	Jyotirmoy Chakma	26	M	Tarengya Ghat	Arrested
71	Ven Bodhi Ratna B.	78	M	Bhushan Chara	Beaten up
72	Ven Jyotipal Bhikshu	73	M	Banarupa	Beaten up
73	Bimal Kanti Chakma	10	M	Goruri Para	Killed

### Suguri Para

The details provided in the refugees' accounts are grim. In Suguri Para, the soldiers raped five of the women, after which they bayoneted most of them. One 15 year old girl, Padma Mala Chakma, was raped repeatedly till she fell unconscious, she was then bayoneted and shot dead with a sub-machine gun. When 38 year old Bidya Dhorri Chakma fell unconscious after being raped she was thrown into a fire. Buddha Lata Chakma, 23, was brutally raped and then killed by having a bayonet thrust through "the bleeding private parts of her body". Sneha Lata Chakma was also bayoneted to death after being raped. Her one year old son Nanda Kumar Chakma was also bayoneted to death by her. 35 year old, Nila Mukhi Chakma was bayoneted through her vagina and killed by being shot in the breasts with a sub-machine gun. Sub-machine guns also killed 3 year old Krishna Mala, while her 1 year old sister Chanchala was bayoneted to death. Daya Devi, aged 2, was thrown onto a fire and three children of Dina Mohan Chakma were burnt alive after their house had been set alight. Most of the other children died after being shot. Two old women, Langdi Chakma and Kalabi Chakma were tied up and confined indoors before the house they were in was set on fire. They were then despatched with a sub-machine gun. Most of the men were killed by bayoneting and with machine guns, though Nila Mohan Chakma died after being seriously beaten up and Sanat Kumar was first tied to a tree before being bayonet charged.

### Het Bharia

In Het Bharia, the atrocities were just as bad. There, six of the women were raped before being killed. 32 year old Indu Mala Chakma was burnt alive in her house after being violated. Her 10 year old daughter, Chaya Rani Chakma, was also brutally raped; bleeding profusely, she fell unconscious and burned to death with her mother. 22 year old Aroti Chakma was also raped till she lost her senses, her breasts were then cut off with a sharp knife. Bana Lata Chakma was killed with a bayonet thrust after being raped. The other women who were raped were then shot dead. Maya Sita Chakma, aged 8, was thrown into a fire with her mother after they had both had their hands and legs tied. Another 8 year old, Dhumbi Chakma was bayoneted to death. One five year old girl, Hira Mukhi Chakma was killed by strangling, while another girl, Milabwa Chakma, aged 8 was killed with an automatic weapon. Most of the other children were also shot, though 2 year old Maratwa Chakma was burnt to death in his house. 62 year old Alputi Chakma was killed with a bayonet thrust. Most of the men were shot, though Chitta Ranjan Chakma was tied upside down on a tree and beaten to death.

### Gorosthan

In Gorosthan 1 year old Bacchu Chakma was thrown into a fire. 16 year old Nishi Mohan Chakma was arrested, beaten up and then cut to pieces with a sharp knife. Most of the men were killed by being fired upon in their houses with automatic weapons. Their houses were then burnt.

### Bhushan Bak

In Bhushan Bak, three women were raped before being killed with bayonets, while two other girls of 17 years are still missing. 14 year old Samarbi was raped consecutively by seven men, four settlers and three soldiers, before being bayoneted in the abdomen. Many of the inhabitants were killed with bayonets while others were shot, some after being blindfolded.

### Goruri Para

In Goruri Para a 10 year old boy Bimal Kanti was shot dead with a sub-machine gun.

### Jarul Chari

Only a single casualty was recorded at Jarul Chari. There Sanatan Chakma was burnt to death in his house.

### Garjan Tali

In Garjan Tali, the single recorded casualty was reported shot dead with an automatic weapon.

### Desecration of Temples

At the Janakalyan Bouddha Bihar temple near Bhushan Chara the troops desecrated the shrine of Ven. Bodhi Ratna Bhikshu and on suspicion of his having organised gatherings of the Shanti Bahini forcefully took away his religious robes and beat him severely. Several statues of Buddha were broken to pieces and the temple looted. Similar incidents occurred at Sakajkalyan Boudha Bihar near Gorosthan and at Banarupa Boudha Bihar near Banarupa, where the Ven. Jyotipal Sraman and Ven. Jyotipal Bhikshu suffered similar ill-treatment.

TABLE 2.

	ANALYSIS OF CASUALTIES				TOTALS
	ADULTS		MINORS		
	MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	
KILLED	24	14	13	11	62
WOUNDED	-	1	1	-	2
UNTRACED	-	5	-	-	5
TOTALS	24	20	14	11	69

Earlier reports received by Survival International indicate that this assault on the tribal villages of the Bhushan Chara Union and neighbouring communities was but one among several attacks made by the Bangladesh armed forces on tribal people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts during May and June of 1984.

As a consequence of these attacks several thousand tribal people abandoned their ancestral lands and fled to India. The number crossing was variously estimated between 4,000 and 18,000. Details of the situation of the refugees are given below.

#### **Shantipur**

On June 26, soldiers from Utlachari and Panchari Army Camps attacked a religious gathering outside the house of **Bhinakur Chakma** in Shantipur. They shot at the crowd from both sides and rounded up a number of young girls who were taken to the camps and raped.

#### **Kuradia Chari**

On July 10, a Havilder (Sgt.) of the local police camp entered the village of **Kuradia Chari** and took away the 3-band radio of **Chandra Shekhar Chakma**, a member of the Union Council of Lutiban. Shekhar Chakma was obliged to give a written document stating that he had sold the radio and received payment in full.

#### **Avilashpara**

On July 20, soldiers commanded by Captain Faroque of the 30th Bengal of the Bangladesh army from Panchari Army Camp and members of the Bangladesh Rifles entered the house of **Jagaram Chakma** in the village of **Avilashpara**. After rounding up the occupants of the house, they entered the sleeping quarters of his newly married wife, 19 year old **Niyati Chakma**, and raped her. Her gold ornaments and clothes were stolen. The girl was taken back to the camp for several months and made to sleep with the soldiers. When released she was in an advanced state of pregnancy and her parents sent her for an abortion.

#### **Barbil**

On July 21, **Maungshi Marma**, headman of the village of **Barbil**, and his three sons, **Maungsajai**, 32, **Mratathuai**, 28, and **Angyajai**, 23, all also of **Barbil**, were arrested, beaten up, charged with illegal possession of a firearm and jailed. The four men claim that the weapon was hidden near their house by Bengali settlers without their knowledge.

#### **Kuradiya Chara**

On July 23, **Digendra Lal Tripura**, 40, of **Kuradiya Chara**, headman of **Lutiban Mouja** and ex-chairman of the Union Council of **Bhaiban Chara** was taken to the Army Camp at **Bhaiban Chara** by members of the 30th Bengal. He was questioned about the **Shanti Bahini**. He was tortured so severely that he had to be carried



home on a stretcher but was released only after signing a statement that he was returning home in sound health and had not been tortured.

#### **Pablakali**

At about midday on August 7, soldiers from the cantonment at Dighinala approached the house of Nilarath Chakma and demanded a drink of water from his daughter Minati Bala Chakma, 18. She got up from her weaving and fetched water for them. When she offered water to the last three of the soldiers, they instead caught hold of her by the hand and grabbed her mouth. They then took the girl indoors, stripped her naked and raped her.

#### **Shankola Para**

The same day, soldiers from the same cantonment also played the same trick on Jatora Bala Chakma, 15, of Shankola Para. Two soldiers raped her in her own home.

#### **Prodeep Para**

On August 7, Bangladesh Reserve Police from Bhaiban Chara Police Camp, patrolling in the village of Prodeep Chara captured and took away at gunpoint Sukra Bala Chakma, 18. She was forcibly married to a Muslim Bengali policeman from Comilla, against her will.

#### **Naniachar**

On August 16, seven girls, aged 16, from Naniachar High School were taken by Captain Iqbal, officer commanding the Naniachar Army Camp, and made to sing and dance with soldiers at a party at the camp. The girls were all raped.

#### **Bahhchari**

On August 31, members of 305 Brigade of the Bangladesh Army from Thalchara camp entered the house of Jurodhan Chakma, 40, and looted gold ornaments, clothes, goats and chickens worth Tk 20,000.

#### **Tripura Chara**

On September 6, soldiers (APB) from Sheleswari Mukh camp near Bhondule Bhanga, stole two bullocks from Rajchandra Chakma, 39. The same day, other soldiers from Bak Chari camp stole gold ornaments and cash worth Tk 10,000 from the house of Raj Chandra Chakma who was beaten seriously in the process.

#### **Karigarh Para**

On September 9, soldiers of the 30th Bengal from Bhaiban Chara Camp entered the village of Karigarh Para allegedly in a combing operation in search of members of the Shanti Bahini. The soldiers looted properties worth Tk 7,000 and attempted to rape 22 year old Mrs Subhorani Tripura but she managed to

free herself and while running for her life was shot on the knee. Her 3 year old daughter, Minimala Tripura, was also shot in the heel of her right foot while crying by her wounded mother. Both were left lying unconscious on the ground.

#### **Baghet Hat**

On September 13, 125 soldiers of the 4th Bengal of the cantonment at Dighinala and troops from Baghet Hat Army Camp carried out a combing operation in No. 9 Plantation of Baghet Hat. They arrested and tortured Govinda Chakma, 33, and Shanti Karbari and destroyed the paddy crops in their swidden plots that were ready for harvesting. The latter's eighteen year-old son was taken back to the Army Camp and tortured.

#### **Chillonya Adam**

On September 15, units of 305 Brigade from Thalchara Army Camp entered the village of Chillonya Adam. They stole a bullock and 4 cocks from Buddha Kinkar Chakma. He was beaten and abused when he demanded payment. Two goats and three fowls and properties and cash valued at Tk 12,000 were stolen from Dhanya Ram Chakma in the same raid and his wife was raped. Rice and seedlings belonging to Dulal Chakma were taken from his house and scattered about.

#### **Monatek**

At 10-o'clock at night on September 19, Lutfur Rehman, second in command of Mahalchari Army Camp, and 60 members of the APB made a surprise raid on the village of Monatek. The men of the village were rounded up and the APB men then ransacked their houses and raped a number of women and young girls. Those women assaulted included Kunja Debi Chakma, 16, Laxmi Rani Chakma, 18, and her mother and Mrs Mohini Chakma, 40. Four men, Chikon Moy Chakma, 30, Nila Kanti Chakma, 50, Sudhir Biban Chakma, 21, and Senjiban Chakma, 27, were then tortured in public. The first of these was tortured by being tied upside down, beaten and then by having water poured through his nose and mouth until he became senseless. The three others were beaten up severely. Two other men, Ashapura Chakma, 27, and Kanon Kumar Chakma, 28, were arrested, beaten and then taken to the APB Camp at Mahalchari where they were thrown into a dirty pit and kept without food for three days. They were subjected to further tortures until September 24 when they were taken into army custody and held by 203 Brigade at Khagrachari. According to the information available, they have still not been released.

#### **Khularam**

30 APB men, from the Rangapani APB Camp, also visited the nearby village of Khularam, the same day. Three men, Purna Kumar Chakma, 50, Surath Behard Chakma, 30, and Shanti Ranjan Chakma, 32, were taken for interrogation at the APB Camp. All three men were released after being tortured, the last named had his hand broken.

### Scorched Earth

Commencing on the 20 September, the Bangladesh army began a monthlong "scorched earth" operation in the Gaba Chari area, a hilly region inhabited by tribal, slash-and-burn cultivators on the Subalong river. This policy of razing villages to the ground has long characterised the military's counter-insurgency operations in the area (see also Anti-Slavery Society report 1984 *The Chittagong Hill Tracts* and International Work group for Indigenous Affairs 1985, Document 51, *They are now burning village after village: Genocide in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh*). Houses were burnt, crops were destroyed, harvests taken and people evicted. The villages reported to have been attacked in the first day of the operation were the following: Barkalak, Hotyal Chari, Harinhath Chara, Sivaram Para, Gaba Chari, Changora Chari, and Merung.

#### **Bar Kalak**

Troops of 305 Brigade, BDR Ansar, APB as well as Bengali settlers, attacked the village of Bar Kalak causing the community to flee the area and seek refuge in India. Three young women, Phola Rani Chakma, 17, Mayoni Chakma, 20, and Jhrbi Chakma, 30, were raped in front of their families and killed, the first two with machine guns, the last with a bayonet.

#### **Hotyal Chari**

Soldiers from the same units also attacked the village of Hotyal Chari. Two sisters, Kandori Chakma, 16, and Gulchogi Chakma, 22, were also raped in this attack. They were both killed by having a bayonet thrust through "the private inner parts" of their bodies.

#### **Harinhath Chara**

In nearby Harinhath Chara the soldiers attacked the family of Surya Sen Chakma when he protested about Bengali settlers who had attempted to reap his crops. He was arrested in the attack and the soldiers and settlers then forcibly undressed and gang-raped his daughter, Nagori Chakma, 16. She was then strangled to death.

#### **Sivarama Para**

The same day soldiers from the same units also attacked the village of Sivarama Para. Two girls, Bola Chogi Chakma, 17, and Nakhobi Chakma, 16, were raped in the attack. The first was killed with an automatic weapon, while the last was killed with a bayonet thrust.

#### **Gaba Chari**

The account of the attack by soldiers from the same units, on Gaba Chari, concentrates on the economic damage caused in the assault. Numerous houses were burnt, after being looted, and the peoples' crops destroyed just after harvest. According to

the report some 530 quintals of paddy and 140 kilos of rice were destroyed in the attack. The wife of Bhadra Sen Chakma was raped. The same account also notes that these attacks were made as a reprisal for the tribal peoples' protest at the illegal acquisition of their lands and the stealing of their crops.

Their livelihood destroyed, the tribal people from all of the last four of these communities have abandoned their villages. They are presently living as internal refugees within the Hill Tracts, having taken refuge in the forested uplands.

#### **Changora Chari and Merung**

On the same day, September 20, troops from the cantonment at Dighinala attacked the villages of Changora Chari and Merung. The villagers were rounded up and their houses then looted and set on fire. Several men were beaten up and the wives of four men, Swarna Kanti Chakma, Mahendra Chakma, Sunil Chandra Chakma and Durga Chandra Chakma, were raped.

#### **Harinathpara and Bodakpya Adam**

On September 21, 45 soldiers from 203 Brigade stationed at Khagrachari Army Camp entered the village and arrested three men, who were taken into custody. According to the most recent information available, these men are still being held without being granted bail or taken for trial.

The following day troops from the same unit took three more men from Bodakpya Adam, including the village headman (karbari).

#### **Ulu Chari Adam**

Soldiers of the 26th Bengal from the Bhaibanchara Army Camp entered Ulu Chari Camp again on September 23. After ransacking the house of Laxmi Chandra Chakma and stealing cash valued at Tk 16,000, some gold chains and rings and two silver chains, they left him tied up in the village.

#### **Subal Kisto Adam**

Soldiers from Dat Kopya Army Camp entered the village of Subal Kisto Adam on September 23. Four women, Ananda Bala Chakma, 25, Sumona Chakma, 17, Kapatil Chakma, 14, and Supriya Chakma, 15, were raped, the three last mentioned in full view of their parents.

#### **Kandya**

Units of 305 Brigade stationed in Rangamati rounded up fourteen people from the village of Kandya on September 23. They have allegedly been taken for interrogation and subjected to tortures.

#### **Mora Changi**

Units of 305 Brigade from Thalchara Army Camp attacked the community of Mora Changi on October 1. A number of houses

were looted and burnt. Several men were beaten up and otherwise tortured, including Dhirendra Chakma, 45, Golak Baji Chakma, 69, Chitta Ranjan Chakma, 30, and Beauty Ranjan Chakma, 27, with all his family. Kalachan Chakma, 56, and Bimal Kanti Chakma were evicted from the village. The wives of Beauty Ranjan Chakma and Nayan Ranjan Chakma, 34, were raped. The soldiers forced some of the villagers to transport the looted foodstuffs (fowl, vegetables, livestock, fruit and rice) to the army camp. When the villagers reported the incident to the army authorities they were abused and laughed at. One plaintiff, Karua Sen Chakma, 48, was further beaten. The villagers were told by the soldiers during the attack that the Chittagong Hill Tracts problem could only be solved by these means and a number were told to go to India. After his wife had been raped Nayan Ranjan Chakma was informed that it was in this manner that the right to self-determination would be acknowledged in the region.

#### Scorched Earth again

On October 19, units of 305 Brigade attacked the village of Gobachari. Houses were looted and burnt. Crops and paddy destroyed. Livestock, fowl and ducks were taken. The fourteen year old daughter of Gyana Ratan Chakma was shot dead. Several families were brutalised and one man, Bijintia Chakma, wounded with a bayonet. The community had to be abandoned and the present whereabouts of the villagers are not known.

TABLE 3.

#### VILLAGES DESTROYED BETWEEN 20.9.84 AND 19.10.84 IN THE GABA CHARI REGION

No.	VILLAGE	No of families	No of Houses Burnt	Estimated crop loss (quintals)
1	Bar Kalak	12	11	201
2	Hotyal Chara	28	28	276
3	Harin Hat Para	23	4	420
4	Mong Chari	31	11	650
5	Sivarama Para	80	14	895
6	Bamer Subalong	5	5	36
TOTALS	6	179	73	2478

The same day, members of 305 Brigade and the BDR, accompanied by Bengali settlers, attacked a number of other villages. At Bar Kalak they set on fire the house of Monojoy Chakma, 46, stole his paddy and beat up his family. At Bamer Subalong they burnt down the house of Deba Sadhan Chakma, 50, stole

his paddy and shot dead one of his sons and also burnt the house of Laxman Chakma, 37, after stealing his paddy. At Hotyal Chara, Harinhat Para, Mong Chari, Sivarama Para many houses were reported to have been burned and further crops destroyed.

A separate report gave the following record of damage caused in the monthlong 'scorched earth' operation (see Table 3).

#### Jaduga Chara

Units of 305 Brigade from Thalchara Army Camp attacked and looted the community of Jaguda Chara on October 25. Two young women, the wife of Gubchoga Chakma and the daughter of Bandorima Chakma were brutally raped. Man Kuman Chakma, 49, was tortured by four soldiers who stood on his chest and poured water through his nose and mouth. His wife was kicked to the ground and both were left unconscious. Hara Kumar Chakma, 34, was seriously injured with blows and felled to the ground, after which his wife was gang-raped beside him. Ram Chandra Chakma, 56, and his wife were tied on the ground with ropes and beaten with rifle butts and left unconscious.

#### Kalabonya

On the same day, soldiers from the same units also entered the community of Kalabonya. Four soldiers raped Chikanbi Chakma, 15, in front of her father after which she was taken to the camp. Her parents went to the camp to get her back but the soldiers refused to release her.

#### Chillonya Thampara

On November 19, soldiers of 305 Brigade from Thalchara Camp made a surprise visit to the village of Chillonya Thampara. They looted the village, taking livestock and fowl. The wife of Murati Mohan Chakma was raped and left unconscious. Utpalendu Chakma, 18, and the 24 year-old wife of Vaul Kumar Chakma were taken away. The former was tied upside down to a tree and tortured by having water poured through his nose and mouth. He was released from Borkhari APB Camp the following day. The latter was raped in the camp, though she was in an advanced stage of pregnancy. Released the next day, she suffered a miscarriage.

#### Chillonya Adam

Also on November 19, soldiers from the same unit entered Chillonya Adam at 3 am. Sushil Jiban Chakma, 28, was arrested by the soldiers who beat him with their rifles butts and took him to Bakhari APB Camp. There he was kept for a whole day in a dirty pit. He was released on November 20.

#### Jagana Tali

On November 20, soldiers also from 305 Brigade Army Camp at Thalchara entered the community of Jagana Tali. At 2.30 am they arrested Chitta Ran Chakma, 40, accusing him of

collecting monies for the **Shanti Bahini**. When they beat him he called on the Lord Buddha, at which the soldiers shouted at him to remember Allah. He was taken into custody and, according to the most recent information available, has still not been released. **Amiya Chakma**, 25, from the same household was also detained during the search. He was taken to the Bakshari market where hot water was poured on him and a hot boiled egg was put in his mouth.

#### **Firingya**

On November 22, soldiers from the same unit entered the community of **Firingya**. Early in the morning, **Nikunja Bihari Chakma**, 45, and all his family were taken to Naniachar High School. He was ordered to ensure the immediate marriage of his daughter, **Sabina Chakma**, 20, to anyone who was not in the

**Shanti Bahini**. After he and his family had been beaten up they were released. On the same day, soldiers also beat up **Jyotsna Kanti**, 36, by standing on his chest and hitting him till he lost consciousness. Four other soldiers then raped his wife. He was taken to the Army Camp at Thalchhari and kept in a cage for fifteen days. He was then released.

#### **Dhalyachari**

Troops from 305 Brigade from the Army Camp at Thalchara entered the community of **Dhalyachari** on November 22. Rice, bullocks, ducks, poultry and cash were stolen from the community. **Lohit Mohan Chakma**, 39, was beaten severely when he demanded compensation for the pair of bullocks and 3 fowls that the soldiers had taken.

Soldiers from the same unit under the command of Capt. Jilani, estimated at 140 in number, entered the community again on November 24. More foodstuffs were stolen and **Radhamon Chakma**, 57, was beaten. Before departing the soldiers remarked that if they could not find any **Shanti Bahini** it would be enough for them to shoot the tribal people. They advised the villagers that next time they visited their lives would not be spared and that they had better leave the Hill Tracts before it was too late.

#### **Rangapani Chara Mukh**

While **Sanjiv Chakma** was busy on his plough land, he was assaulted by Bengali settlers who first prevented him working his land and then took away his tagal (machete). He was struck several times with the tagal and wounded seriously. As a consequence there was a serious fight between tribal villagers and Bengali settlers, involving the police from Merung police station, in which three tribals were killed. In order to save his life **Sanjiv Chakma** abandoned his ancestral home and lands. His present whereabouts are not known.

#### **Chillonya Adam**

Units of 305 Brigade from Thalchara Army Camp again entered the village of Chillonya Adam on December 5. Property was stolen and Murati Mohan Chakma was beaten on the knees with a heavy stick. His mother was kicked to the ground and made senseless when she tried to intervene. Bhim Jay Chakma was arrested at gunpoint and taken back to the Army Camp where he was thrown in a pit. During interrogation hot water was poured in his mouth and he was beaten mercilessly so that he became paralysed. He was released after five days.

#### **Muchchua Chara**

On December 12, BDR from Logang Bazaar Camp and Dhuduk Chara Camp took Chandra Manta Chakma, 26, into custody. He was kept in a ditch for weeks, physically tortured and falsely accused of participating in activities of the Shanti Bahini. The troops also entered the nearby community, Jeda Muchchua Chara, and looted the house of Rajalaxmi Chakma, 28, while she was breastfeeding her baby. They cast her baby aside and then gang-raped her. She was then taken to the soldiers' camp and further raped in the course of the next week. When she was released she was in such a state that she had to be carried back home on a stretcher.

#### **Madhya Adam**

On December 15, soldiers from 305 Brigade in Thalchara Camp entered the village of Madhya Adam. The house of Nagendra Chakma was looted and all the villagers were rounded up and interrogated. A number were beaten, including even old people and children.

#### **Changra Chari**

On December 26, Bengali settlers interfered with Joy Mani Chakma while he was trying to transplant his paddy. A quarrel ensued which developed into a fight. The local headman reported the incident to the local Army Camp at Changra Chari but nothing was done.

#### **Durhat Chara**

As a reprisal against tribals protesting against the illegal acquisition of their lands by Bengali settlers, on December 26, 40 Bengali settlers began forcefully transplanting paddy crops onto the land of Dituja Ranjan Chakma of Durhat Chara. When other tribals came to his assistance a fight ensued in which three tribals were seriously wounded. Following this six tribals, Sushil Chakma, 45, headman of Merung Mouja, Falendra Chakma, 43, Binata Chakma, 22, Angshu Chakma, 35, Banamali Chakma, 37, and Rajmohan Chakma, 34, were arrested on charges of arson and imprisoned in the police station at Dighinala, while no charges have been preferred against the Bengali settlers for invading tribal land. A seventh individual, Ranyaram was also charged with the same



arson attack though he had, in fact, died 3 months previously. The tribals deny the charges as a fabrication.

#### **Amtali Adam**

On December 31, **Dukhua Chakma** of **Amtali Adam** was charged by Lt. **Hatem** from the Bangladesh Army Camp at **Changra Chari** with arson following the burning of a Bengali settler's house which had been built, without the owner's permission, on his land. Lt. **Hatem** ordered the village leader (**karbari**) **Indrajoy** to pay compensation of Tk 10,000 to the settler.

#### **Chotomerung**

Also on December 31, local tribal leaders **Gunadhar Chakma**, **Hriday Chakma**, **Nihar Bindu Chakma** and **Bimal Kanti Chakma** went to the police station at **Dighinala** to protest the illegal acquisition of the land of **Tagen Chakma** of the village of **Chotomerung**. The leaders, however, found themselves arrested by the Commanding Officer and accused of setting fire to the houses of Bengali settlers. They were imprisoned in **Khagra Chari jail**.

#### **Deno Adarok**

Also on the last day of the year, a number of Bengali settlers, occupied the plough lands of **Lushaimohan Chakma** of the village of **Deno Adarok**. When he appealed to the Camp Commander at **Karelyachari Camp** he was told flatly that if the tribals did not give their lands to the settlers, none of them would be allowed to plough their own lands. He was told that, if necessary, tribal villages would be burnt down as part of combing operations against the **Shanti Bahini**.

#### **Munigram**

On January 2 1985, soldiers commanded by a Major **Akhtar** from **Khagrachari Army Camp** carried out a search in the village of **Munigram**. The soldiers raped a number of young girls and women. Men, young and old, were led away to a nearby field where they were subjected to tortures. Some of the women were stripped naked and made to dance. About a hundred people were arrested and taken into custody.

#### **Hatimara**

Also on January 2, soldiers entered the village of **Hatimara** and violently raped **Kerengi Chakma**, 18, till she lost consciousness. **Bhogotya Chakma**, 16, was also raped.

#### **Manchua Chara**

The same day soldiers from the same unit also visited the community of **Manchua Chara**. They raped **Madhu Bala Chakma**, 33, in front of her husband and other members of her family and broke her knee. Three men from the village were arrested on suspicion of being involved with the **Shanti Bahini**. **Sumati**

Ranjan Chakma, 22, had his hands and legs tied with ropes and was made to lie on the ground. The soldiers poured water through his mouth and nose during interrogation and he was then taken back to the Army Camp, where he has been repeatedly tortured. Gyana Bikash Chakma, 25, was also arrested and taken to the camp blind-folded. After being tortured he was released. Dederda Chakma, 28, was also taken to the Camp blind-folded. He was beaten up by soldiers in the Camp and during interrogation had his hands and legs tied with nylon ropes, while lighted matches and cigarettes butts were applied to his genitals.

#### **Khedara Chari**

Soldiers from the same unit also visited the village of Khedara Chari, on January 2. They raped Mhettoli Chakma, 17. The house where she lived was set on fire and the family abandoned their community. They are now reported to be living in the jungles.

#### **Rangipara**

On January 4, soldiers under the command of Capt. Jilani of 305 Brigade from Thalchara Army Camp entered the community of Rangipara. The members of the household of Purnachela Chakma were rounded up in the evening and his wife was raped repeatedly. Purnachela, 28, was made to lie prostrate on the ground and was then covered with sun-dried grass, which the soldiers then set fire to. His back was burnt, injuring him severely.

#### **Ranachara**

On January 11, soldiers from Bhailon Chara Army Camp entered the house of Birbahu Chakma, 27, at 2 am and forced him to carry looted fowls, goats etc. to the Camp. Again on January 18, he was taken to the Camp and after being physically tortured was thrown into a dirty pit. When last reported, on February 3, he was still under army custody with no sign of being released.

#### **Rangapani Chara**

The following day soldiers from the same Camp entered the village of Rangapani Chara. Hangsha Moni Chakma was beaten up by the soldiers and forced to carry looted proerties to the Camp. He was also confined in Army custody. During the same operation the soldiers assaulted Adujya Chakma, 32, and Krishna Chalkma, 35, beating them with their rifle butts and asking them about the Shanti Bahini. Arya Mitra Chakma, 25, was tied to a tree and stripped. He was beaten with a heavy stick and had lighted cigarettes stubbed out on his body.

#### **Morachengi**

On January 14, soldiers of 305 Brigade from the cantonment at Rangamati paid a surprise visit to the community of Morachengi. Anadi Ranjan Chakma, 34, was asked if he knew anything concerning the Shanti Bahini. When he replied in the negative he was beaten with a bamboo until he lost

consciousness. Manurom Chakma, 22, was also beaten up seriously. Surjya Mohan Chakma, 70, was also beaten and ordered to report to the Army Camp every Saturday.

#### Dewanpara

Soldiers of the Bangladesh Rifles from Dewanpara Camp entered the community of Dewanpara on January 14 and ransacked the house of Sabhunath Chakma, 45. The soldiers looted the house and then gang-raped his daughter, Jhurongini Chakma, 17. She was left senseless and bleeding profusely. Hearing the girl's screams, Amar Singh Chakma, 30, a teacher at Tabalchhari High School, went to his doorway but was stopped by a soldier aiming his rifle at him. He tried to run away but was shot dead. Another girl, Sunila Chakma, 15, also hearing the screams tried to run for shelter at the house of her aunts. She was caught by the soldiers and raped.

#### Hayachara

Some time between January 14 and January 19, soldiers from the Army Camp at Dhudukchara and from Logang Bazaar Camp surrounded the community of Hayachara at night. At dawn they rounded up all the inhabitants. A number of women were raped and people beaten. The army took a number of goats and fowl without making payment.

#### Bhuiyachara

Soldiers from Bhaibon Chara Army Camp carried out a surprise raid on the community of Bhuiyachara on January 15. Sashi Ranjan Chakma, 36, and Praphat Chandra Chakma, 26, were arrested and taken to the Army Camp and confined there without charge. Both were tortured. Lalit Chandra Chakma, 65, was blind-folded and beaten while being interrogated. He was ordered to report to the Camp every day. Pulin Bihari Chakma, 22, his son, was also beaten up. The soldiers also raped the wife of Binoy Chakma in his presence. Entering the house of Alendra Chakma, the son of Lalit Chandra, the soldiers ordered him to cover himself with his bedclothes while they raped his wife in the bed next to him. He was struck with the butt of a machine gun. The soldiers also entered the house of Mukul Kanti Chakma, 25, and raped his wife while holding him at gun point. When his brother, Surat Bihari Chakma, 23, heard his sister-in-law crying for help, he tried to rescue her but was knocked unconscious to the ground by the soldiers. The soldiers also entered the house of Priti Bindu Chakma, 24, and demanded gold ornaments of him and his wife, who was seven months pregnant. As they could not comply, the soldiers kicked them brutally causing her to have a miscarriage. During the same raid, the soldiers also caned 58 year-old Rabindra Chakma, after asking him the whereabouts of his sons. The soldiers ransacked the house of Dhira Dutta Chakma and charged his son Kaliprasanna Chakma, 25, with being a member of the Shanti Bahini. His son was beaten up mercilessly. His other two sons, Joyanta Chakma, 22, and Subanta Chakma, 18, were also tortured during interrogation about the Shanti

Bahini. Similar treatment was also meted out to Krishna Manik Chakma, 19, and Maina Ranjan Chakma, 22.

#### Nua Adam

On the same day, soldiers of the same unit also visited the community of Nua Adam. They questioned Subho Sen Chakma, 40, about his children and beat him severely.

#### Dadi Adam

On January 15, soldiers of the 26th Bengal from Bhaibon Chara Army Camp entered the community of Dadi Adam. They questioned Kukchan Chakma asking him where the food of the Shanti Bahini was stored and who collected donations for them. Four soldiers kicked him to the ground when they found his answers unsatisfactory.

#### Mohajanpara

On the same day, soldiers from the same unit also visited the community of Mohajanpara. They asked Bihar Chandra Chakma, 40, whether he had a young daughter. When he replied that he had none he was beaten up. The soldiers also ransacked the house of Amit Chandra Chakma.

#### Denolonguda

On the same day, Capt Khaleque and soldiers from Bhaibon Chara Army Camp arrested Amrita Ranjan Chakma and made him lie down on the ground. They then poured water through his mouth and nose while interrogating him.

#### Dadi Adam Horza Chari

On January 17, soldiers from Bhaibon Chara Army Camp set fire to the houses of Surya Mohan Chakma, 34, Saha Mani Chakma, 27, and Demkhula Chakma, 29. The houses were first looted.

#### Denolonguda

The same day the same soldiers under the command of Capt. Khaleque again entered the community of Denolonguda. They caught Shishir Kumar Chakma and beaten him without reason. They asked him if he had a young daughter. They ceased beating him when he replied in the affirmative and asked him to call his daughter. When she appeared, they asked her name and invited them to visit the Army Camp. The soldiers then left.

The soldiers returned the following day, January 18, and questioned Surjya Chakma, 60, about his family. When they discovered he had a granddaughter aged 16, they ordered him to bring her. In the meantime she was caught by other soldiers near the river bank where she was drawing water. She was raped. Four men, Dhira Mohan Chakma, 50, Madhan Mohan Chakma, 60, Gyan Ranjan Chakma, 50 and Bira Kumar Chakma, 41, were all also beaten on suspicion of passing messages to the Shanti Bahini.

### **Bhuiya Chara**

The same day soldiers from the same unit again visited **Bhuiya Chara**. They beat up **Bimal Kanti Chakma**, 23, just as he had returned from ploughing on the pretext that he was unable to supply them with the bananas they demanded.

### **Dela Adam**

On January 25, soldiers from **Ultachari Army Camp** entered the community of **Dela Adam**. They took two girls, **Kuzaruk Bala Chakma**, 18, and **Champa Chakma**, 17, who was visiting the community from **Karalya Chari**, into the house of the headman on the pretext of body searching them. They took off all their clothes and molested them.

### **Gasban**

On January 25, soldiers of 203 Brigade from **Khagrachari Army Camp** visited the community of **Gasban**. They called for **Nila Kanta Tripura**, 32, and interrogated him about the **Shanti Bahini**. He was beaten and tortured and left senseless.

### **Mahalchari**

On February 15 1985, **Lutfur Rahman**, Commanding Officer of **Mahalchari Army Camp** rounded up tribal members of the audience at the Cinema Hall after the evening show. 11 tribals were arrested on suspicion of being members of the **Shanti Bahini**. 8 were released on payment of Tk 4000. The other three were retained in custody, their release being made conditional on the payment of a further Tk 6000.

## **SITUATION OF THE REFUGEES IN MIZORAM STATE, INDIA**

The attacks on the tribal communities of the **Bhushan Chara** area in May 1984 and the subsequent "scorched earth" operations in the **Gaba Chari** region, have resulted in a flood of refugees, variously estimated at 10 to 18,000, attempting to find refuge in Mizoram State in India. Recent information received by **Survival International** suggests that about 4,100 of the refugees, who fled the **Bhushan Chara** massacres, were settled in two camps in Mizoram State. The other refugees were reportedly, forcibly repatriated by the Mizoram administration into Bangladesh. Allegedly they have taken refuge in the upland forests of the Tracts. Their fate is not known.

Those refugees who were allowed to remain in India have been settled in two camps in the **Demagiri** sub-division of **Lunglei District**. They arrived between 2 and 16 June 1984. The camps are named as **Tibira Ghat** and **Tagalak Bak**. According to the information made available to **Survival International**, the refugees receive 1 kg of rice and 1 kg of wheat per week. Half rations are issued to those under fourteen years. Small quantities of dahl, salt and cooking oil have also been provided. Limited supplies of medicines are available at the camps but must be paid for.

TABLE 4.

## SITUATION OF REFUGEES IN TAGALAK BAK CAMP, MIZORAM STATE

VILLAGE OF ORIGIN	Bhanu Dak	Chota Harina	Dhumba Talang (1)	Firti Chara	Haja Chara	Bhalu- kya Chari	Dhumba Talang (2)	Kuki Chara	TOTALS
No. OF FAMILIES	71	49	40	60	17	75	34	24	370
Nos. M	222	158	142	184	53	217	107	79	1162
F	213	160	129	189	49	179	115	87	1121
Total	435	318	271	373	102	396	222	166	2283
Deaths M	13	10	6	9	-	13	7	8	66
F	20	7	5	8	3	15	7	1	66
Total	33	17	11	17	3	28	14	9	132
Births M	4	6	3	4	-	3	2	3	25
F	7	1	2	1	3	-	1	1	16
Total	11	7	5	5	3	3	3	4	41
Present Strength	413	308	265	361	102	371	211	161	2194

TABLE 5.

## SITUATION OF REFUGEES IN TIBIRA GHAT CAMP, MIZORAM STATE

VILLAGE OF ORIGIN	Garjan Tali	Het Bharia	Goras- than	Jarul Chari	Bhusan Bak	Bairaqi Para	TOTALS
No. OF FAMILIES	59	58	97	53	50	1	318
Nos. M	161	140	297	170	188	1	957
F	162	136	319	186	155	1	956
Total	323	276	616	356	343	2	1916
Deaths M	6	8	10	16	8	-	48
F	14	10	11	11	3	-	49
Total	20	18	21	27	11	-	97
Births M	3	2	6	4	1	-	16
F	3	6	3	3	1	-	16
Total	6	8	9	7	2	-	32
Present Strength	309	266	604	336	336	2	1853

The total number of refugees received into the camps in June was 4,119. Due to the bad conditions in the camps where death rates have been very high, the actual number of refugees is now rather less, 4047. Deaths have been particularly common among the young and aged members of the population and have been attributed to the scarcity of medicines and the meagre diet. No provisions have been made to supply the refugees with clothing, meat, fish or fresh vegetables. Nor has any cash been supplied.

#### CONCLUSIONS

Evidence continues to accumulate that the Bangladesh government and armed forces are pursuing a genocidal war against the, mainly Buddhist, tribal minorities of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The war has the aim of clearing the area for settlement by non-tribal Muslim Bengalis from the overpopulated lowlands of Bangladesh.

Entry into the area by all foreigners is strictly controlled and no journalists are allowed access to the region. Attempts by human rights organisation to send official investigative missions to the region have been rebuffed. The Bangladesh government denies the existence of a special problem in the Chittagong Hills. In a submission to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in 1983, the official Bangladesh delegate claimed that "the entire population of the territory which now comprises Bangladesh has always been and still is one people - the Bangladesh nation.....Bangladesh is a country with a homogenous population". Similarly in response to Survival International's submission of its report *Genocide in Bangladesh "We Want the Land and not the People"*, the Bangladesh High Commission in London wrote that "the question of any discrimination, relocation or decimation of any tribe or ethnic minority within Bangladesh, does not arise".

The root of the problem in the Chittagong Hill Tracts is the Bangladesh government's refusal to acknowledge the tribal peoples' rights to their traditional lands. The government has repealed the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulation of 1900, which prohibited the sale of tribal lands to non-tribals, and will neither acknowledge the ownership rights of slash-and-burn cultivators, nor respect the rights of tribals with fixed holdings and standing crops.

Bangladesh is a signatory of the International Labour Organisation's *Convention 107 on Tribal and Indigenous Populations*, the terms of which it is blatantly violating. The Government is also acting in clear violation of the *Convention on Genocide*. Its failure to take any action against the perpetrators of the current policy of extermination of the tribal peoples of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, is a direct contravention of the convention's first four articles.

Survival International is appealing to the international community to put pressure on the Bangladesh regime to alter its policy in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

