

From Dr. R.S. Dewan,  
C/o Dr. H.D. Locksley, Dept. of Chemistry,  
Salford University, Salford M5 4WT, England.

Date: 24 Sept. 1984

Sub: An appeal to save the Chakma and other tribes of the  
Chittagong Hill Tracts from the total annihilation by  
the Bangladesh Government.

Dear Sir,

May I present to you a copy of the letter sent by the Norwegian Government on 30 December 1983. The humane Government of Norway has kindly taken up the question of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) with the "people dealing with the question of the protection of minorities at an international level" in order to protect the indigenous nationalities of the CHT and also their homeland from the violent Muslim Bengalis invasion.

If all humane countries take similar measures then the brutal regime of Bangladesh will be compelled to stop its genocidal campaign against the innocent and defenceless people of the CHT. Bangladesh is totally dependent on foreign aid and she will never dare to go against the wishes of the international community. I believe that if all foreign aids are suspended, the Bangladesh Government will be forced to change its policy and to restore the birth-right of the tribal people.

The Bangladeshi regime is fundamentally hostile to the people of the CHT because these tribal people are ethnically, religiously and culturally different from the Muslim Bengalis. Perhaps it is worth noting that the military leaders want the soil of the CHT and not its people and that they will make the indigenous people extinct within the next two years. The Bangladesh Government is relentlessly pursuing this policy. It is systematically exterminating the tribal people by employing all inhuman tactics on the one hand and Islamising the CHT by rehabilitating the outsider Muslim Bengalis on the tribal farmlands on the other. They are facing the prospect of extinction indeed and they need your help.

I shall be most grateful to you if you would kindly take all necessary actions in order to bring pressure against the Bangladeshi regime.

Yours sincerely

To  
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*Ramendu Dewan*



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Ref. no.:

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the honour to refer to your letters of 14 September, 4 December and 17 December 1983 regarding the situation for the Chakma and other tribes of the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh. The Ministry would like to thank you for the information given. The material transmitted has been sent for information and for comments to people dealing with the question of the protection of minorities at an international level.

Norwegian authorities will follow the matter with concern.

Yours sincerely,

Kirsten Ohm  
Special Advisor  
Human Rights