

From Dr. R.S. Dewan,
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Date: 14 Aug. 1985

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

Dear Friend,

May I present to you the following documents regarding the crisis
in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT); the traditional homeland of 13 tribes.

1. A copy of the Anti-Slavery Society's report presented at the
Conference of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations held
from 29 July to 2 August 1985 in Geneva.
2. A copy of the International Fellowship Of Reconciliation (IFOR)'s
submission at the Conference of the UN Working Group on Indigenous
Populations held in Geneva from 29 July to 2 August 1985.

In view of the extreme hostility of the Bangladeshi regime, the
Anti-Slavery Society recommended the appointment of a "Special Rapporteur"
to study the situation in the CHT and "to make recommendations as to
measures to be taken to restore peace to the region, to ensure the conti-
nuance of the tribal peoples way of life and culture, and for the harmonius
development of the area in the best interest of its inhabitants."

International Fellowship Of Reconciliation recognises the tribal
peoples' right to land, to autonomy and to develop their traditional
culture, language and religion. It also stressed the need for a political
solution to the crisis in the CHT. It is, perhaps, noteworthy that the
people of the CHT have tried again and again to negotiate with the govern-
ment for a political settlement. But the Bangladeshi regime rejected their
proposals for a peaceful solution and resorted to a military solution.

I shall be most grateful to you if you would kindly persuade the
UNO to take measures as suggested by these two prestigious human rights
bodies. The indigenous nationalities of the CHT need your help in their
just struggle for existence in their own traditional homeland.

Yours sincerely

To

Mr. Rudolph C. Ryser,
Chairman of the Center for World Indigenous Studies,
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Ramendu Dewan