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Sub: An appeal to save the Jumma Nation from being totally
exterminated by the Bangladesh Government.

Dear Rudy,

May I present to you the following information about the genocidal atrocities committed by the Bangladesh Government against the Jumma men, women and children:

1. "Accounts of atrocities, killings, arsoning, looting, arrests, tortures and rape on the Jumma people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts committed by the Bangladesh Army, Para-Military Forces and Bengalee Muslim infiltrators (Jan., 1990 - Dec., 1990)" - issued by the Jana Samhati Samiti on 19 February, 1991.
2. A paper, "Human Rights in the Chittagong Hill Tracts", submitted to the Seminar which was held at the University of Oxford on 13th February, 1991.
3. A report, "CHT - No Change", from the Anti-Slavery Newsletter, No. 16, 1/1991.
4. A statement, "Bangladesh - Reprisal Killings of tribal people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in May, 1989 - an update (AI Index: ASA 13/05/90)", issued by Amnesty International in August, 1990.
5. A piece, "Bangladesh", from the Amnesty International 1990 Report.
6. An article, "Tribal atrocities in Bangla continue", from the Telegraph of 23 February, 1991.
7. A report, "Massaker und Mord in Bangladesh", from the Hamburger Abendblatt Zeitung of 6 Marz, 1991.
8. An article, "Sonderausstellung im Völkermuseum", from the Hamburger Eppendorfer Zeitung, Nr. 11/13 Marz, 1991.
9. A piece, "Bedrohte Zukunft. Bergvölker in Bangladesh", issued by Hamburger Museums.
10. A report, "In the land of the small tigers", published in the Weekend Guardian of August 4-5, 1990.

The Bangladesh Government is employing all types of genocidal tactics such as arson, robbery, religious persecution, forcible eviction, relocation to concentration camps, detention without charge or trial, rape, torture and murder in order to seize Jumma villages and farmlands for its co-religionists from the plains of Bangladesh. A few examples of the Bangladesh Government terrorism are shown below:

A. MURDER

1. On 29 April, 1990, the Bangladesh Army personnel of the 11 East Bengal Regiment from the Galengya Army Camp and the Ruma Cantonment were led by Capt. Hassan to attack Datlir Para village in Ramagri Prangsa area within Ruma Sub-District. They arrested many innocent villagers and tortured them in various ways. For instance, the victims were kicked, beaten, hung upside down and water was forced through their nostrils. As a result, many of the victims were wounded. Then the Bengali soldiers shot dead i) Mr. Jamkar Bawm,

28 yrs old, the son of Mr. Reings Bawm. Among the other victims, ii) Mr. Tangam Bawm, 33 yrs old, the village leader, the son of Mr. Datlir Bawm, iii) Mr. Siamto Bawm, 35 yrs old, the son of Mr. Siamtir Bawm, and iv) Mr. Lalpianmay Bawm, 25 yrs old, the son of Mr. Simsuai Bawm are still being detained by the Army.

2. On 12 May, 1990, the Bangladesh Army personnel from the Manikchari Army Camp encircled the house of Mr. Chandu Chakma of Baraichari village in Manikchari Sub-District, at night and then opened fire with automatic weapons on the sleeping residents killing i) his son, Master Kala Chakma, 10 yrs old, and ii) his daughter, Miss Milabua Chakma, 5 yrs old, and seriously wounding iii) his wife, Mrs. Shanti Pudi Chakma.
3. On 29 August, 1990, Brigadier Salzar Rahman, the Commander of the Artillery Brigade of the Dighinala Cantonment, arrested Mr. Birendra Tripura (Dadu) of Buddha Para village in Boalkhali area within the Sub-District of Dighinala and tortured him to death. His body was returned to his relatives through the Police Authorities of the Dighinala Police Station on condition that they would not file a criminal case against the Brigadier and that they must accept that the victim died of a natural death.

B. RAPE

1. On 28 Dec., 1990, three girls and a boy went to catch fish in a stream. Eight Members of the local Village Defence Party (who were under the command of Maj. Gulzar of the 32 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army posted at Laxmi Chari Camp and Lt. Col. Hameed Iqbal of the 32EBR of the Bangladesh Army, the Zonal Commander of the Manikchari Zone) deployed at No. 10 Sentry Post at Laxmichari within the Laxmichari Sub-District murdered them after gang-raping the girls. Later the villagers found out their bodies cut up into pieces. There were biting marks on the breasts and cheeks of the girls. A complaint was lodged with the above-mentioned Commanders but no action was taken against the culprits. The victims were: i) Miss Shukka Bala Chakma, 18 yrs old, the daughter of Mr. Bangalya Chakma of Beltali village in Laxmi Chari Sub-District, her sister ii) Miss Anandamala Chakma, 13½ yrs old, and her brother iii) Master Satish Kumar Chakma, 10 yrs old, and iv) Miss Nirandevi Chakma, 12 yrs old, the daughter of Mr. Sukracharya Chakma of Beltali village in Laxmi Chari Sub-District.
2. On 19 October, 1990, 14 girls, 2 women and 10 youths were returning home by boat after attending a Buddhist religious ceremony, Kathin Chibar Dan, at Raj Ban Vihar Buddhist temple in Rangamati. At about 4 p.m., the Bangladesh Army personnel of the 21 East Bengal Regiment under the 65 Infantry Brigade stopped them at Bilaichari village in No. 104 Jhagarabeel Mouza and forced them to disembark from the boat. Then the girls were gang-raped and the boys were tortured by the Bengali soldiers till 10 p.m. On 20 October, 1990, the victims asked the Government of Bangladesh to bring the culprits to book but no action appears to have been taken to punish the military rapists. It is, perhaps, important to note that these criminals were under the command of Maj. Gen. Mahmudul Hasan, the GOC of the Chittagong Division of the Bangladesh Army. The five of the victims were: i) Miss Binata Tangchangya, the daughter of Mr. Sudarshan Tangchangya, ii) Miss Chintarani Tangchangya, the daughter of Mr. Jiban Kumar Tangchangya, iii) Miss Kalabi Tangchangya, the daughter of Mr. Karna Tangchangya, iv) Miss Kalkoi Tangchangya, the daughter of the late Krishna Kumar Tangchangya, and v) Miss Chintoi Tangchangya, the daughter of Mr. Laxmi Kumar Tangchangya all from No. 108 Manikchari Mouza within the Rangamati Sub-District.
3. On 20 January, 1990, Lt. Sharif of the 17 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army from the Subalang Army Camp arrested i) Mrs. Kundali Chakma, 35 yrs old, the wife of Mr. Ananda Chakma of Chilak Dhak village....page 3/-

village in No. 1 Dhamaichara Mouza within the Barkal Sub-District and her daughter, ii) Miss Niyatibala Chakma, 13 yrs old, and took them to the Army Camp. There Lt. Sharif and his soldiers gang-raped them whole night and released them next day.

C. TORTURE

1. On 1 May, 1990, Capt. Ali Haider and Subadar Bashir of the 2 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army from the Dulyatali Army Camp and Major Salim of the 2 EBR of the Bangladesh Army from the Army Camp at Laxmi Chari arrested an innocent person, Mr. Padma Muni Chakma, 40 yrs old, of the Member Para village in No. 80 Durchari Mouza within the Laxmi Chari Sub-District and took him to the Army Camp. These military officers tortured him so much that he died on 6 May, 1990, in the Laxmi Chari Army Camp.
2. On 8 September, 1990, Brig. Salzar Rahman, the Commander of the Artillery Brigade of the Dighinala Cantonment, arrested two innocent Jummas and subjected them to various forms of torture. In his torture one of the victims, Mr. Buddha Ranjan Chakma, 35 yrs old, the son of Mr. Birasen Chakma of Baghaichari village within Dighinala Sub-District, died. The other victim was Mr. Debaranjan Chakma of Kawbakhali village within Dighinala Sub-District.
3. On 3 October, 1990, the Bangladesh Army personnel of the 305 Brigade stationed in Rangamati arrested Mr. Sushil Kumar Chakma, the Chairman of the Kudukchari Union Council within Rangamati Sub-District and tortured him to death during interrogation.

D. DETENTION

1. On 11 January, 1990, the Bangladesh Army personnel from the Bizitala Camp within Khagrachari Sub-District arrested three Jummas at their homes at dead of night and took them to the Army Camp. All the victims were tortured and charged with the false allegation of being the Members of the Shanti Bahini. i) Mr. Dhrubajay Chakma, 53 yrs old, the son of Mr. Chandra Mohan Chakma of Ultachari village, was released after being subjected to various types of torture. The other two victims, ii) Mr. Rangachan Chakma, 61 yrs old, the son of Mr. Subal Chandra Chakma, and iii) Mr. Debachandra Chakma, 28 yrs old, the son of Mr. Kamini Ranjan Chakma - both from Ultachari village - are still being detained at Khagrachari Army Camp.
2. On 22 February, 1990, a Bangladesh Army Major from the Bizitala Camp arrested two innocent persons on a false charge of being the members of the Shanti Bahini. They are still being detained at the said Army Camp and tortured regularly. The victims are - i) Mr. Bijay Kumar Tripura, the son of Mr. Gunacharan Tripura of Nunchari Roaza Para village in No. 257 Nunchari Mouza within the Khagrachari Sub-District and ii) Mr. Krishna Tripura, 22 yrs old, the son of Mr. Kamal Krishna Tripura of the same address.
3. On 11 March, 1990, Major Kazi Kaiser of the 34 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army from the Nakya Para Army Camp arrested two boys as the children of the members of the Shanti Bahini. They are still being kept at the Army Camp. The Children are - i) Master Ananta Prasad Tripura, 12 yrs old, the son of Mr. Gopinath Tripura of the Toikatang Para village in No. 205 Toikatang Mouza in the Sub-District of Matiranga, and ii) Master Satyanarayan Tripura, 9 yrs old, the son of Mr. Gopinath Tripura as above.

E. ROBBERY

1. On 13 January, 1990, the members of the Bangladesh Army of the 5 East Bengal Regiment from the Ghagra Zone raided two Jumma houses in the Chowdhury Para village in No. 1 Betbunia Mouza within Kaukhali Sub-District, tortured the residents and then robbed them of their money and valuable things. The raiders stole Taka 4000/- from i) Mr. Aungsa Prue Marma, 65 yrs old, the son of Mr. Kaung Krey Marma, and some 6000 Taka worth....page 4/-

6000 Taka worth of rice, money and goods from ii) Mr. U Hla Prue Marma, 37 yrs old, the son of Mr. Aungsa Prue Marma.

2. On 21 July, 1990, Subadar Bashir of the Bangladesh Army Camp at Dulyatali forcibly took away a pair of bullocks worth Taka 12000/- from Mr. Chandraketu Chakma, 80 yrs old, the son of the late Ladi Chakma of Naubhanga village in Laxmi Chari Sub-District.
3. On 30 August, 1990, Maj. Salim from the Banyashola Army Camp, Capt. Zahir and Capt. Ziaur from the Dulyatali Army Camp and one Captain from the Manikchari Zonal HQ carried out a massive operation against the inhabitants of Suknachari, Guichari, Pekku Para, Naubhanga and Morachengi villages. They looted all valuable things, tortured the villagers and then set many houses on fire. The three of the many affected villagers are:- i) Mr. Mangaldhan Chakma, 35 yrs old, the son of Mr. Fakira Chakma of North Suknachari in Barmachari area within the Sub-District of Laxmi Chari, lost property worth Taka 120000/-, ii) Mr. Bashi Chakma, 45 yrs old, the son of Mr. Dhananjay Chakma of Guichari village in Barmachari area within Laxmi Chari Sub-District, suffered a loss of property worth Taka 85000/-, iii) Mr. Amish Kumar Chakma, 40 yrs, the son of Mr. Bujya Chakma of Morachengi village in Dhurung area within Laxmi Chari Sub-District, lost property worth Taka 120000/-.

F. ARSON

1. On 17 May, 1990, Capt. Rabiul Haque of the 32 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army from the Taimatai Army Camp in Matiranga Sub-District raided the villages - Dewan Para and Misrichara Khamar Bari - in Taimatai Mouza, beat the villagers severely and then set fire to their houses. Some of the victims were: i) Mr. Chandra Mohan Tripura, 40 yrs old, the son of Mr. Mayaram Tripura of Misrichara Khamar Bari village in No. 200 Taimatai Mouza within Matiranga Sub-District, ii) Mr. Shudharam Tripura, 39 years old, the son of Mr. Takrai Tripura of Misrichara Khamar Bari village, and iii) Mr. Remrachai Chowdhury, 48 yrs old, the son of the late Aungkya Marma of Dewan Para village.
2. On 21-22 August, 1990, Capt. Zia Hossain of the 2 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army from the Dulyatali Army Camp launched attacks against the inhabitants of Naubhanga and Durchari villages in Dulyatali area within Laxmi Chari Sub-District, looted all valuable things and then set the houses alight. The affected persons were: i) Mr. Sashi Kumar Chakma, 35 yrs old, the son of Mr. Sugi Karbari (village Head) of Naubhanga village, ii) Mr. Karmachan Chakma, 65 yrs old, the son of Mr. Bizuram Chakma of Naubhanga village, iii) Mr. Ramanisen Chakma, 55 yrs old, the son of the late Pagala Chakma of Durchari village, & so on.
3. On 12-13 October, 1990, Maj. Zubair of the 6 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army from the Babuchara Army Camp raided the villages - Beltala, Nunchari and Sadarachara - in Jarulchari Mouza within the Sub-District of Dighinala, stole stocks and all valuable belongings and then set the houses ablaze. The affected Jummas were: i) Mr. Chigan Chakma, the son of Mr. Bijay Kumar Chakma of Beltala village, ii) Mr. Padmalochan Khisa, the son of Mr. Jamini Mohan Khisa of Nunchari village, iii) Mrs. Mayadevi Chakma, the wife of Mr. Gappua Chakma of Beltala village and so on...

G. RELOCATION OF JUMMA PEOPLE TO CONCENTRATION CAMPS

1. On 9 May, 1990, Havildar (Sergeant) Kasim from the Army Camp at Pukur Para village in Matiranga Sub-District subjected many people to severe beating for their refusal to move to the Guccha Gram (Cluster villages - in fact concentration camp). The victims were: i) Mr. Astidhan Tripura, 55 yrs old, the son of Mr. Jayanta Tripura of Chatipara village in Taimatai Mouza, ii) Mr. Pathoi Singh Tripura, 24 yrs old, the son of Mr. Astidhan Tripura as above, iii) Mr. Kamal Singh Tripura, 38 yrs.....page 5/-

yrs old, of No. 255 Maischari Mouza within Mahalchari Sub-District,... and so on.

2. On 7 August, 1990, Maj. Atiyar of the 14 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army from the Karalyachari Army Camp arrested many Jummas, beat them severely, abused them with filthy languages and then ordered them to move to the Guccha Gram immediately. The Bangladesh Government moves the Jumma people to Cluster villages against their will in order to distribute their ancestral villages and farmlands among its co-religionists belonging to the majority community of Bangladesh. Some of the victims were: i) Mr. Nira Chakma, 55 yrs old, the son of Mr. Babru Bahan Chakma of Karalyachari village in Longadu Sub-District, ii) Mr. Rabana Chakma, 50 yrs old, the son of Mr. Babru Bahan Chakma of the above-mentioned address, and iii) Mr. Birajmuni Chakma, 55 yrs old, the son of Mr. Kalachan Chakma of the afore-said address.
3. On 22 October, 1990, Maj. Haleem of the 10 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army from the Shaheed Atiyar Camp and many soldiers of the 35 EBR from the Thangchi Army Camp carried out an operation to move the people of Panchari village in No. 133 Zurachari Mouza within the Sub-District of Zurachari to a Cluster village. The invaders looted all valuable things, burnt the houses and then forcibly shifted the villagers to a Cluster village at gun-point. The relocated Jummas are: i) Mr. Rebati Mohan Chakma, 60 yrs old, the son of Mr. Jamadhar Chakma, ii) Mr. Gunadhar Chakma, 50 yrs old, the son of Mr. Taluk Chakma, iii) Mr. Ranjan Mohan Chakma, 55 yrs old, the son of Mr. Jogendra Chakma, and so on....

H. RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

1. On 30 June, 1990, the Bangladesh Army personnel from the Babuchara Army Camp opened fire on the Babuchara Bouddha Vihar (temple) and thus damaged it.
2. On 4 January, 1990, Lt. Col. Mustafizur Rahman of the 29 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army from the Baghaichari Zone attacked the village of Rupakari Chara in Baghaichari Sub-District, tortured the innocent men, women and children. The invaders also attacked the Rupakari Bouddha Vihar and assaulted a Buddhist Monk there.

J. LONGADU MASSACRES

Under the instructions of Maj. Gen. Abdus Salam, the then GOC of the Chittagong Division of the Bangladesh Army, and the highest Authorities of Bangladesh, Major Zakir Hossain carried out the Longadu Massacres on 4 May, 1989. The international community pressurised the Bangladeshi Regime to set up an inquiry committee. But the Government has not yet published the committee's report nor has it punished the culprits yet. Perhaps, it is important to note that the Chakma Raja Debashish Roy and 21 leading Jumma leaders had asked the Government on 9 May, 1989, to bring the murders to justice. In stead of punishing the culprits, the Government instructed Maj. Gen. Abdus Salam and Brig. Shafat to place the Chakma Raja under house arrest and to prevent him from speaking at a Buddhist religious ceremony to commemorate the dead. The Bangladeshi Regime has no intention to take action against these military officers because the Longadu massacres and indeed all the other massacres have been committed as part of its policy to systematically exterminate the Jumma Nation.

K. THE SITUATION OF THE JUMMA REFUGEES

The Jumma Refugees numbering about 70,000 could not return to their homes as the Government of Bangladesh has refused - i) to vacate the Jumma villages and farmlands by removing the Bangladeshi infiltrators from the CHT, ii) to stop genocidal atrocities by withdrawing the Bangladesh Armed Forces including the non-Jumma Police Force from the CHT, iii) to find a political solution to the crisis in the CHT, and iv) to rehabilitate the Jumma Refugees under the supervision of the UNO, International Red Cross Committee and human rights organizations. In short, the Bangladeshi Regime is not....page 6/-

is not willing to create a climate conducive to the safe return of the Jumma Refugees to their ancestral villages and farmlands. The Jumma Refugees have no faith in the Bangladesh Government as the latter deceived them on all previous occasions. I, therefore, believe that the Regime of Bangladesh will have to be pressurized to meet the genuine demands of the Jumma Refugees in order to ensure their proper rehabilitation, the return of their ancestral villages and farmlands to them and above all the security of their lives and property. The Refugee problem is an international problem & like the other Refugee problems around the world the Jumma Refugee problem should be dealt with by the international community. It is the responsibility of the entire international community to take care of the Jumma Refugees now camped in the Tripura State of India.

L. INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION

Amnesty International has repeatedly requested information from the Bangladeshi Regime on the composition, terms of reference and findings of an investigation committee which was making inquiry into the Longadu massacres. But it has not yet received detailed information from the Bangladesh Government.

The Anti-Slavery International has been pursuing a gang-raping case in which some 14 girls and women were gang-raped by the Bangladesh Army personnel at Bilaichari on 19 October, 1990. It fears that the Bangladesh Government has not taken any disciplinary actions against the military rapists because "Over the last decade or so rape has been used by the governing military authorities as a weapon of terror". Its fear is well-founded by the fact that Mr. Rupak Krishna Chakma "was threatened by members of the army intelligence corps simply for trying to establish the facts of the case".

Dr. Wolfgang E. Mey of the Hamburgisches Museum für Völkerkunde has been able to collect hundreds of evidence of the genocidal atrocities committed by the Bangladesh Security Forces against the Jumma men, women children. Now the Hamburgisches Museum is showing these evidence with a view to focussing the attention of the international community on the crisis in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

The CHT is like a closed-door slaughter house. All foreign journalists and human rights groups have been banned from making free and independent investigation into the Government violence. The Bangladesh Government used to conceal this fact by telling the world that "any body can go anywhere in the CHT". For example, the then Finance Minister of Bangladesh, Mr. Syeduzzaman told so in a meeting in Oslo to the Norwegian Government, MPs, journalists and various human rights representatives including Dr. Teresa Aparicio, the Executive Director of the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (Copenhagen). Relying on the Government assurance, many foreign journalists and human rights groups went to the CHT but they were not permitted to go beyond Bangamati, the capital of the CHT. One of them was Mr. Lee Swepston of the International Labour Organization. Even he was not allowed to talk with the Jumma people without the presence of military or Government personnel. The Bangladeshi Regime also organised the visits of some foreign dignitaries and Amnesty International to a number of places in the CHT. These visits were meticulously stage-managed and the visitors had no opportunity to talk with the Jumma people privately. In a nutshell, it seemed simply impossible for the foreigners to investigate the Government terrorism in the CHT. Deeply moved by the heart-rending plight of the Jumma people, two adventurous and brave British journalists, Mr. Francis Rolt and Mr. Peter Barker set out at the beginning of 1990 for the CHT to see the situation of the Jumma people for themselves. They managed to slip into the southern part of the CHT and even they succeeded to visit a Jumma village. Their visit was extremely risky indeed! The trigger-happy Bangladeshi soldiers could seriously harm them! Luckily these two intrepid journalists came out of the area unscathed. They were simply thrown out of the CHT after being caught by the military although they had obtained permission from the Bangladesh High Commission in London and the Bangladesh

Tourist Board to visit the CHT. Perhaps, it is worth-mentioning that an international inquiry commission was able to visit the interior of the CHT immediately after Gen. Hossain Mohammad Ershad was forced to step down from power.

M. DISTRICT COUNCIL LAW

The Care-taker Government of Bangladesh has restored democratic rights to the Bangladeshi people by removing all military officers from the State Affairs and by dissolving the Bangladesh Parliament and all elected bodies in the country. But it has not done so to the people of the CHT. The military is still in charge of the CHT and the so-called District Council Law has not yet been repealed. This law has been imposed by the military tyrants on the Jumma people against their will. So far, the new elected Government of Bangladesh has not done anything to meet the just demands of the Jumma people. On the other hand the systematic annihilation of the Jumma people is continuing as before. The Anti-Slavery International is very much alarmed by the continued Anti-Jumma policy of the Bangladesh Government and it has rightly commented - "In spite of the overthrow of General Ershad and of what seem to be moves towards democracy in Bangladesh, it is disturbing that criminal law appears not to be in effect - at least in the case of the indigenous people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts....So far, it would seem that nothing has changed".

N. THE DEMANDS OF THE JUMMA PEOPLE

The Jummas have consistently made the following demands to survive the extreme hostility of the successive Governments of Bangladesh:

1. The removal of all non-Jumma settlers from the CHT.
2. The withdrawal of all Bangladesh Armed Forces including the non-Jumma Police Force from the CHT.
3. Autonomy for the CHT with a separate legislature.
4. Adequate financial help for the rehabilitation of Jumma Refugees and the return of their ancestral villages and farmlands to them.
5. The deployment of the U.N. Peace-Keeping Force in the CHT and the implementation of these measures under the auspices of the U.N.O.

M. CONCLUSION

The change of Government in Bangladesh has not changed the situation in the CHT. The systematic extermination of the Jumma people by the Bangladesh Armed Forces and the Bangladeshi infiltrators is continuing unabated. I, therefore, appeal to you to pressurize the Bangladeshi Regime to meet the demands of the CHT people. At the same time I would like to urge you to take care of the Jumma Refugees who desperately need your help. With my best regards.

Yours sincerely

To

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