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Date: 23 June, 1988

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

Dear Rudy,

May I present to you the following information about the present
situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT):

1. A lecture on the present situation of tribal minorities in Bangladesh - delivered at a conference held on the occasion of the opening of the CHT Exhibition at the Völkerkunde Museum der Universität Zurich on 5 May, 1988.
2. An article, "Sie wollen das land, aber ohne sein Volk", from the Basler Zeitung of 6 May, 1988.
3. A report, "Bedrohte Bergvölker in Bangladesh", from the Neue Zürcher Zeitung of 6 May, 1988.
4. A statement, "The recent situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in relation to the political development in Bangladesh", presented at the Conference Against Racism that took place in West Berlin on 13 May, 1988.
5. An article, "Ershad move for Sharia law prompts opposition to warn of a violent backlash", from the Times of May 21, 1988.
6. A news, "Official Islam", from the Daily Telegraph of 8 June 1988.
7. A report, "Dhaka passes Islamic law", from the Guardian of June 8, 1988.
8. A report on Chittagong Hill Tracts Project for Buddhist Peace Fellowship - sent by Mr. Johnson Thomas, the Director of the CHT Project, on April 25, 1988.
9. A report, "Atrocities, arsoning, looting, murder & rape committed on the innocent Jumma people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts by Bangladesh army, para-military forces & illegal Bengalee Muslim infiltrators - October 1987 - April 1988", compiled by the Jana Samhati Samiti (JSS) on 7 April, 1988.
10. A report, "Killing, arsoning, tortures, arrests & communal riots against the innocent Jumma people by Bangladesh army & Bengalee Muslims in the Chittagong Hill Tracts - April, 1988" and a list of Jumma refugees, "New influx at Pancharam Para and Karbook Refugee Camps (Tripura, India) from the Chittagong Hill Tracts - waiting to be registered as Refugees since 16 May, 1988", compiled by the JSS on 10 May, 1988.

A. INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION

The compassionate international community has responded to the Jumma people's appeal for help. The prestigious human rights group in Switzerland, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs - Local Group of Zurich (IWGIA - Local Group of Zurich) has opened an exhibition on the CHT crisis in collaboration with the Völkerkunde-Museum der Universität Zurich on 5 May, 1988, as part of its programme to make both the people of Switzerland and the Government of Switzerland aware of the genocide of the Jumma people committed by the Bangladesh Government. On this occasion it has organized a conference and widely publicised the plight of the Jumma people in the press and on the radio and television. The CHT Exhibition Committee. M/s Jenny Dwyne intends to

people and their benign Government would take all necessary steps to save the CHT people from extinction. Perhaps, it is noteworthy that the CHT Exhibition Committee published a book, "Bedrohte Zukunft - Bergvölker in Bangladesh", as a complementary literature to the exhibition. Prof. Dr. Lorenz Böffler, Dr. André Werner and Dr. Andreas Wimmer have depicted a clear picture of the CHT crisis in the book.

The influential human rights organization of West Germany, Bildungswerk für Demokratie und Umweltschutz organized the Berlin Conference on 13 May, 1988, in order to intensify the CHT campaign in the West. Dr. Wolfgang Mey, the brain behind the conference, edited a book, "Wir wollen nicht euch - wir wollen euer Land", for the occasion to explain to the audience the real causes of the crisis in the CHT. At the conference he proved that the Bangladeshi regime had been exterminating the Jumma people systematically with a view to grabbing their villages and farmlands for the members of the majority community of Bangladesh. The conference gave full support to the Jumma people's demand for autonomy and made a plan to help the Jumma refugees and also to persuade the humane Government of West Germany to take economic actions against the Bangladesh Government.

On behalf of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship, the Director of the CHT Project, Mr. Johnson Thomas conducted the CHT campaign in America for two years. Despite his commitment to various humanitarian works, he very kindly took up the CHT case and moved heaven and earth to bring the matter to the notice of the compassionate American people from journalists to Congress leaders. The noble efforts of this holy-minded American gentleman roused the American sympathy for the Jumma people and thus brought hope to these threatened communities of the CHT. For instance, Mr. Thomas was able to persuade Representative Stephen J. Solarz, the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Pacific and Asian Affairs, to introduce a bill to the Congress to link the U.S. aids with human rights in Bangladesh. This bill will certainly compel the brutal military regime of Bangladesh to change its genocidal policy in the CHT.

B. RECENT ATROCITIES OF THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT

In spite of tremendous international pressure against the Bangladesh Government, the situation in the CHT is worsening alarmingly. The armed forces of Bangladesh and the Bangladeshi settlers are jointly committing murder, rape, torture, robbery, arsoning, and religious persecution against the innocent Jumma people every day in order to colonise the area. A few examples are given below:

1. MURDER

On 30 October, 1987, four Jummas of Dighol Chari village under the Subalong Union Parishad (Council) within Barkal Upazilla (Sub-District) were returning from the market by boat. At Barunachari village the Bangladeshi settlers and the members of the Village Defence Party (VDP - the Bangladeshi settlers trained by the Bangladesh army in the use of fire arms) attacked them, looted their money and rice, and murdered them brutally. The victims were - i) Mr. Shantimoy Chakma, 28 yrs, son of Mr. Gunachandra Chakma, ii) Mr. Sachi Ranjan Chakma, 25 yrs, son of Mr. Pakka Chakma, iii) Mr. Akshay Mani Chakma, 31 yrs, son of Mr. Kishta Chakma, and iv) Mr. Sneha Ranjan Chakma, 35 yrs, son of Mr. Ghuchaga Chakma.

On 24 November, 1987, Lt. Col. Akram Hossain, Commanding Officer of 12 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army, from the army camp at Banjogi Chara carried out military operations in the villages of Banjogi Chara Union Council within Zurachari Upazilla. The invaders burnt houses, looted money and valuable things, tortured the villagers enmasse injuring them seriously, killed a number of Jummas and took away many people to the military camps. The following innocent people were shot dead: i) Mr. Kalachan Chakma, 22 yrs, son of Mr. Braja Mohan Chakma, of Bamey Chuma Chumi village, ii) Mrs. Medera

On 1 February, 1988, Lt. Col. Akram Hossain, Commanding Officer of 12 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army, from the army camp at Banjogi Chara, raided the villagers of Banjogi Chara village of Banjogi Chara Union Council within Zura Chari Upazilla, beat them severely and molested many women. Mr. Sneha Kumar Chakma, 55 yrs, son of Mr. Padma Dhar Chakma, was arrested, beaten inhumanly and then shot dead by Lt. Col. Akram Hossain.

On 28 April, 1988, under the instructions of the Bangladesh Army, a group of Bangladeshi settlers attacked the Harina Para village which is about one hundred fifty metres away from the Khagrachari BDR (Bangla Desh Rifles) camp. The hooligans burnt fourteen houses and hacked one girl and two men. One of the victims, Mr. Arabindu Chakma, son of Mr. Chikonya Chakma, died on the spot and the other two were wounded seriously in the head.

2. RAPE

On 2 February, 1988, the soldiers of the 43 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army from the Panchari Zone, barbarously gang-raped Miss Latoi Santhal, daughter of Mr. Laxmi Ram Santhal, of Santhal Para village of Kanungo Para area within Panchari Upazilla.

On 26 March, 1988, a BDR (Bangla Desh Rifles) personnel from the BDR camp at Dhuduk Chara in Logang area savagely raped Miss Sama Devi Chakma, 16 yrs, daughter of Mr. Pulin Bihari Chakma, of Madhu Ranjan Karbari Para village of Logang area within Panchari Upazilla and bit her ear while raping her.

On 28 April, 1988, the Bangladesh Army personnel shot a Jumma gentleman and a Jumma lady teacher because she resisted against being raped by the soldiers. The gentleman died then and there and the lady was seriously wounded. The victims were - i) Mr. Sashankha Chakma, 23 yrs, son of Mr. Saminda Chakma, of Baradam village in Dighinala Upazilla, and ii) Mrs. Kalpana Chakma, 27 yrs, wife of Mr. Jay Chandra Chakma of Dane Banchara village in Dighinala Upazilla.

3. TORTURE

On 31 October, 1987, Lt. Mustafa and soldiers of 12 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army, from the army camp at Fakira Chara, carried out massive military operations in several villages and tortured many Jumma men and women. For instance, i) Mr. Sumanta Chakma, 50 yrs, the Chairman of the Dumdumya Union Council and the son of Mr. Dila Kumar Chakma, and from Panchari Mukh village of Dumdumya Union Council within Zurachari Upazilla, was subjected to electric shocks. Water was poured through his nose. He was hung upside down and then beaten severely till he was injured seriously. His house was looted and burnt to ashes. ii) Mr. Mana Chakma, 60 yrs, son of Mr. Gasya Chakma, of Bandar Haza village of Dumdumya Union Council within Zurachari Upazilla, was taken to the army camp at Silchari where he was brutally tortured and injured. iii) Mrs. Dina Mukhi Chakma, 60 yrs, wife of Mr. Batya Chakma, of Upak Chari village in Dumdumya Union Council within Zurachari Upazilla, was inhumanly tortured and very seriously injured.

On 9 November, 1987, Lt. Shahjahan of 32 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army from the army camp at Guimara raided the Jumma village, Barthali in Ramgarh area of Khagrachari District and subjected the following innocent people to inhuman beating and torture: i) Mr. Ripru Marma, 28 yrs, son of Mr. Pano Marma, ii) Mr. Dhan Tripura, 26 yrs, son of Mr. Prabhat Chandra Tripura, iii) Mr. Amey Marma, 27 yrs, son of Mr. Chaila Pru Marma, iv) Mrs. Aungya Zai Marma, 33 yrs, wife of Mr. Aungya Zai Marma, v) Mr. Kyaw Marma, 30 yrs, and vi) Mr. Kasam Tripura, 35 yrs, son of Mr. Ram Tripura.

On 15 April, 1988, Lt. Nurul Alam of 20 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army from the army camp at Baradam of Dighinala area tortured the villagers of Pabla Khali region in Dighinala Upazilla.

Sub-machine gun butts and squeezed their testicles. Some of the victims were: i) Mr. Laxmi Ranjan Chakma, 22 yrs, son of Mr. Satish Chandra Chakma, of Indra Muni Para village, ii) Mr. Shanti Ranjan Chakma, 30 yrs, son of Mr. Indra Kumar Chakma, of Indra Muni Para village, and iii) Mr. Sureshwar Chakma, 32 yrs, son of Mr. Surenya Chakma, of Indra Muni Para village.

4. DETENTION

On 31 October, 1987, Lt. Mustafa and soldiers of 12 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army from the army camp at Fakira Chara arrested many Jumma people of several villages in Dumdumya Union of Zurachari Upazilla, tortured them injuring them seriously, and have been keeping them under army custody without charge or trial. For example, no body knows what happened to i) Mr. Sudatta Priya Karbari, 30 years, Member of the Dumdumya Union Council and son of Mr. Tena Karbari, of Upak Chari village, ii) Mr. Bira Sen Karbari, 47 yrs, of Zamer Chari village, and iii) Mr. Tena Karbari, 58 yrs, of Upak Chari village, after being taken to the military camp.

On 2 November, 1987, Lt. Shahjahan of 32 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army from the army camp at Guimara arrested Mr. Usha Marma, 27 yrs, of Barthali village in Ramgarh area of Khagrachari District, subjected him to inhuman tortures, and has been keeping him in the military camp without charge or trial. The victim is an innocent person.

On 24 November, 1987, Lt. Col. Akram Hossain, Commanding Officer of 12 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army from the army camp at Banjogi Chara arrested many people of Bamey Chuma Chumi village of Banjogi Chara Union Council in Zura Chari Upazilla and tortured them with brutality. They are still under army custody without charge or trial. All of them were hung upside down, beaten severely and water was forced through their noses. Some of the victims are - i) Mr. Milanya Chakma, 40 yrs, son of Mr. Kamaleshwar Chakma, ii) Mr. Kali Kumar Chakma, 55 yrs, Member of the Banjogi Chara Union Council, iii) Mr. Chikka Chakma, 22 yrs, son of Mr. Sangha Sur Chakma, iv) Mr. Inanda Mohan Chakma, 30 yrs, son of Mr. Bishwa Muni Chakma, and v) Master Jnana Chakma, 14 yrs, son of Mr. Dhalya Chakma.

On 6 April, 1988, Major Mahfuj of 20 East Bengal Regiment of the Bangladesh Army from the Army Sub-Zone at Babuchara severely beat and tortured i) Master Shanti Ranjan Chakma, 16 yrs, son of Mr. Magya Chakma, of Baghai Chari Mukh village in Dighinala Upazilla, and ii) Mr. Ranjan Kumar Chakma, 40 yrs, Head Master of Babuchara High School and son of Mr. Satyendra Lal Chakma, of Babuchara village in Dighinala Upazilla. The Head Master is still being kept under army custody without charge or trial at Babuchara army camp.

5. ROBBERY

On 24 December, 1987, the Jumma village, Sasala Beel, of Ichamati area, was attacked by the armed Bangladeshi settlers with the active support of the local Bangladesh Army authorities. The invaders fired on the villagers and wounded many of them with gun-fire, swords, knives and spears. Then the Bangladeshi robbers stole the food stocks, clothes, money, jewelry, live-stocks and all other valuable things of the Jumma people, and set the houses on fire. For example, the raiders attacked the house of i) Mr. Feni Dhan Chakma, 55 yrs, son of Mr. Sukra Mani Chakma, wounded him seriously and stole 1500 Takas and 1 kilo of silver jewelry from his house. Similarly the attackers injured ii) Mr. Bira Kanta Chakma, 26 yrs, son of Mr. Zura Kanta Chakma, looted clothes, utensils, cash Taka 1500 and all other household properties from his home, and destroyed his house. The Bangladeshi settlers also injured iii) Mr. Laxmi Kumar Chakma, 40 yrs, son of Mr. Gakul Chandra Chakma, by beating him severely,

Government of India has given them refuge on humanitarian grounds. Despite various economic problems, India is spending crores of rupees to save the lives of these helpless people. She is extremely generous, helpful and compassionate. Her commitment to the cause of humanity is reflected in her great humanitarian efforts to save the Jumma people from being exterminated by the brutal and fanatic regime of Bangladesh. The Islamic Government of Bangladesh wanted either to kill these refugees or to starve them to death. However, its genocidal policy has failed because God is protecting the refugees through the noble hands of India.

The Jumma refugees are not willing to return to the CHT as the regime of Bangladesh does not want to create a normal situation in the area by removing both the Bangladeshi settlers and the Bangladeshi armed forces from the region. On the other hand the Bangladesh Government has intensified its atrocities on the civilian Jumma people in order to depopulate more Jumma villages for the resettlement of its co-religionists in the area. As a result more and more Jumma people are being forced to seek refuge in the Tripura State of India. The new influx of refugees has heightened the fear of the refugees now camped in Tripura that the situation in the CHT is not favourable for their return. In fact, there is no safety for any Jumma people at all in the CHT and the refugees have no chance to get back their native villages and farmlands as the Bangladeshi settlers have already occupied their landed-property.

The Government of Bangladesh has no intention to take back the Jumma refugees although it often misleads the international community by giving false assurances that it has made the situation in the CHT conducive to the return of the refugees. I believe it will create a congenial climate for the rehabilitation of the refugees only if the world community compels it to do so by taking constructive actions against it. In present circumstances the refugees cannot go back home and they will have to stay longer in the refugee camps. The Jumma refugee problem is an international problem and it can be resolved easily if all members of the international community share the burden of it. The benign Government of India has done much more than its part. Now the other members of the compassionate international community are urgently required to do their parts. The Jumma refugees badly need their help.

Recently the regime of Gen. Ershad has made Islam the State Religion of Bangladesh. The major opposition political parties in Bangladesh have refused to accept this controversial law and "vowed to wage a fresh movement against what they called 'a conspiracy to Islamise the country' ". When the religion bill, known as the Eight Amendment Bill, was introduced in the parliament all segments of the Bangladeshi society were dismayed and horrified. The leader of the Awami League, Sheikh Hasina Wazed said, "The Government is trying to fan communalism and take attention away from the campaign on democracy, rising prices and unemployment". The bill delivered a devastating blow to the morale of all minority communities of Bangladesh. Their reaction is best expressed in a comment made by Mr. Anukul Chandra Dev, the chief of the Hindu League - "In an Islamic state non-Muslims will become second class citizens". The Jumma people have already been victimised by the Islamic law. Since Gen. Ershad has declared Islam the State Religion of Bangladesh, the Bangladesh armed forces have been committing the genocide of the Jumma people with greater ferocity and brutality than before.

The Jumma people will not survive in the Islamic State of Bangladesh as Islamization is spreading hatred against the minority communities in the country. I appeal earnestly to you to take economic actions against the Ershad-regime in order to force it to accept the just demands of the Jumma people. With my best regards.

To

Dr. Rudolph C. Ryser,
Chairman of the Center for World Indigenous Studies,
P.O. Box 82038, Kenmore,
Washington 28028, U.S.A.

Yours sincerely

Ramendu

A LECTURE ON THE PRESENT SITUATION OF TRIBAL MINORITIES IN BANGLADESH

EXHIBITION: "BEDROHTE ZUKUNFT: BERGVÖLKER IN BANGLADESH"
(THREATENED FUTURE: HILL PEOPLE IN BANGLADESH)

Organized by the Ethnographic Museum of Zürich University
in co-operation with the Department of Social Anthropology
of Zürich University and the International Work Group for
Indigenous Affairs Section in Zürich.

Völkerkundemuseum der Universität Zürich,
Pelikanstrasse 40, CH-8001 Zürich, Switzerland.

May 5, 1988

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

With your kind permission I would like to introduce myself - I am a Chakma from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) of Bangladesh. I represent the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti, the only political party in the CHT, in Europe. The organizers of this Ethnographic Exhibition have kindly invited me to speak on the Present Situation of Tribal Minorities in Bangladesh.

The majority of tribal peoples of Bangladesh live in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, an area in the south-eastern part of Bangladesh. Britain recognized the CHT as the homeland of the Jumma people composed of ten Tibeto-Burman tribes namely - Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Chak, Murung, Khyang, Khumi, Lushai, Pankho and Baum. The Chakmas make the bulk of the tribal population of over 600,000. The Jumma people are Buddhist, Hindu and Christian and their culture is similar to that of the Tibeto-Burman peoples. They have been victimised by the majority community of Bangladesh because of their difference in race, religion and culture.

The Bangladesh Government is fully responsible for the crisis in the CHT. It is trying to Bangladeshize and Islamize the tribal homeland by systematically exterminating the indigenous population on the one hand and then by resettling the depopulated area with the people of the majority community of Bangladesh on the other. As a result of the extremely brutal Bangladesh invasion, thousands of tribal men, women and children have died, thousands of women have been abducted, raped and converted to Islam, hundreds of non-Muslim places of worship have been desecrated and destroyed, and tens of thousands of Jumma refugees had to seek refuge in India and Burma.

The Bangladeshi resettlement in the CHT is not justifiable. Flat agricultural land is very scarce in the CHT. The Karnafuli Hydro-electric Project submerged forty percent of the total cultivable land in the area. The remaining agricultural land is not adequate for fifty percent of the tribal people even after the land-holding limit was brought down to ten acres per family. There is no limit to land-holding in the rest of Bangladesh. According to experienced economists, all landless Bangladeshis can be provided with sufficient land if the land-holding ceiling is fixed at twenty acres per family. There is no need to bring them into the CHT where the scarcity of agricultural land is much more acute than any parts of Bangladesh. Doubtless, the Bangladeshi regime is putting the cart before the horse by trying to solve the problem of landless Bangladeshis in such inhuman way. The Bangladeshi resettlement scheme has clearly exposed the sinister motive of the fanatic Islamic regime of Bangladesh. The leaders of Bangladesh, in fact, had to admit publicly that their policy was - "We want the land and not the people of the CHT".

The peace-loving people of the CHT have tried again and again to solve the crisis by non-violent methods. But the Bangladeshi regime has refused to find a political solution and continued to exterminate the help-less Jumma people. Then the people of the CHT rose under the leadership of Mr. Manabendra Narayan Larma to defend their land, people, religion and culture from the extremely brutal Bangladeshi invasion. They formed a

briefly Jana Samhati Samiti (JSS) - and organized the Shanti Bahini, the resistance force of the JSS.

All tribal peoples have given spontaneous support to the JSS as it is spearheading the popular uprising against the Bangladesh Government tyrannies. Every village has the party organization the members of which are both men and women. The JSS has also established a police force known as Village Militia. While the Shanti Bahini conducts resistance activities against the Bangladeshi invaders, the Village Militia maintains law and order in the village in full co-operation with the democratically elected Village Council. Like any governments, the JSS has established various departments such as defence, police, finance, food and agriculture, health, information and publicity and so on to administer the CHT. For example, it collects taxes and revenues even from the Bangladesh Government. It also provides medicines to the Jumma people as they are not allowed by the Bangladesh Authorities to buy medicine, rice, clothes and other daily necessities of life. The present President of the JSS is Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma. He is also the Commander-in-Chief of both the Shanti Bahini and the Village Militia. Through the eyes of the Jumma people he is the best leader in the country.

Gen. Hossain Mohammad Ershad has undermined democracy by naked fraud and eroded last traces of secularism by declaring Islam the State Religion. The JSS realises that the Jumma people have no chance to survive in the Islamic State of Bangladesh without their right to self-determination. Therefore, it has consistently demanded Provincial Autonomy for the CHT with a separate legislature. The JSS is determined to continue its movement until this aim is achieved and the identity of the Jumma people is fully ensured.

The JSS has adopted three strategies to fight off the Bangladeshi invasion. First, it will continue to negotiate with the Bangladesh Government for a political solution to the crisis in the CHT. Second, the Shanti Bahini will intensify its resistance efforts. It has become so effective that it can operate anywhere in the region and that it has already expelled over 100,000 invaders from the area. The Shanti Bahini is committed to liberate all tribal villages which have been occupied by the Bangladeshi settlers. Third, the JSS has appealed to the international community to intervene in the CHT crisis with a belief that the civilized world has the will to compel the Bangladesh Government to accept its just demands.

The compassionate international community has responded to the appeal made by the JSS. Many humane countries and various human rights groups have taken the matter up with the Bangladesh Government. The United Nations bodies such as the UN Human Rights Commission and the International Labour Organization are bringing tremendous pressure to bear on the Government of Bangladesh. Amnesty International has been able to force the Bangladeshi regime to discuss the CHT issue with it and also to open up the area to it for the first time. In its report, Amnesty has suggested that an independent inquiry commission should investigate the Bangladesh Government violence in the CHT because the Government-conducted inquiries have failed to establish responsibility for all the atrocities committed by the Bangladesh armed forces in league with the Bangladeshi settlers.

Intense international pressure compelled the Bangladeshi regime to meet with the JSS to find a political solution instead of a military solution. But the Government of Bangladesh rejected the JSS's demand for Autonomy and thus shattered any hope of a political solution. It proves that the Ershad-regime does not want a peaceful political solution and doubtless, it called the meeting just to hoodwink the international community particularly the donor countries. The JSS believes that economic actions will be necessary to force the Government of Bangladesh to solve the CHT crisis by political and constitutional means.

democracy

The JSS is a democratic party. It is absolutely convinced that only a

are absolutely necessary for their existence in their homeland:

1. The removal of non-tribal settlers from the CHT.
2. The withdrawal of all Bangladesh armed forces including the non-tribal police force from the CHT.
3. Autonomy for the Chittagong Hill Tracts with its own legislature.
4. Adequate financial help for the rehabilitation of Jumma refugees in their native villages and on their farmlands.
5. The deployment of the United Nations Peace-keeping force in the CHT and the implementation of these measures under the auspices of the UNO.

I fervently appeal to you to take all effective measures against the Bangladesh Government to compel it to accept the JSS's just demands. I shall be most grateful to you if you would kindly take care of the Jumma refugees. They desperately need your help.

It is a great privilege to address this historic meeting. Your support for our just cause is extremely important. It will inspire the Jumma people to carry on their struggle for survival till their right to self-determination is fully established. I would like to thank the Ethnographic Museum of Zurich University, the Department of Social Anthropology of Zurich University and the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs Section in Zurich for giving me this great opportunity to draw the attention of the compassionate Swiss people to the crisis in the CHT. Their generous financial help has enabled me to participate in both the exhibition and the meeting. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to all members of the audience for listening to my appeal for help with great patience. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for kindly permitting me to submit my statement to this momentous meeting. Thank you, all Ladies and Gentlemen.

(R.S. Dewan)

A Spokesman of the Jana Samhati Samiti in Europe

«Sie wollen das Land, aber ohne sein Volk»

Seit über einem Jahrzehnt tobt ein blutiger Guerillakrieg im Südosten von Bangladesch: Die Stammesbevölkerung der Chittagong Hill Tracts wehrt sich gegen die der Regierung in Dhaka forcierte Ansiedlung bengalischer Moslems. - Ein Gespräch mit dem Sprecher der Widerstandsorganisation Jana Samhati Samiti (JSS).



Fittet um Hilfe für seine Landsleute in den indischen Flüchtlingslagern: JSS-Vertreter Ramendu S. Dewan (52). Foto hi

«Wir haben das Recht, unser Land, unser Volk, unsere Religion und unsere Kultur zu verteidigen. Und wir haben das Recht, alle Invasoren zu vertreiben.» Das Land, die Chittagong Hill Tracts, ein schwer zugängliches Hügelgebiet im Südosten Bangladeschs. Das Volk: die Jummas, zehn Bergstämme tibeto-burmanischer Herkunft. Die Religion: mehrheitlich der Buddhismus, es gibt aber auch Hindus, Christen und Animisten. Die Kultur: eine Vielfalt äusserst reicher Stammestraditionen. Die Invasoren: bengalische Siedler, allesamt Moslems, und deren Beschützer: die Armee von Bangladesch. Wir: die Widerstandsbewegung Jana Samhati Samiti (JSS), im westlichen Ausland vertreten durch Ramendu S. Dewan, Doktor der Chemie, wohnhaft in Manchester, dieser Tage in der Schweiz zu Gast (vgl. Kasten).

Seit nunmehr zwölf Jahren findet in der Südostecke des asiatischen «Armenhauses» Bangladesch ein grausamer Kleinkrieg statt, vom Rest der Welt kaum zur Kenntnis genommen. Die Stämme in der abgeschiedenen Bergwelt haben nur wenig Mitspracher im Ausland. Und die Regierung in Dhaka bemüht sich, alle Nachrichten aus den Chittagong Hill Tracts zu unterdrücken. Die Weltöffentlichkeit soll nicht erfahren, was sich dort abspielt. Von einem «systematischen Völkermord» spricht Widerstandsvertreter Dewan. Von «systematischen Menschenrechtsverletzungen» durch die Streitkräfte, von Vergewaltigung, Verschleppung, Folter, Mord und Massakern an unbewaffneten Stammesangehörigen berichtet Amnesty International.

Im Rahmen eines 1976 eingeleiteten Umsiedlungsprogramms dringen Bengalen unter dem Schutz der Armee aus den überdülkerten Ebenen in die dünn besiedelte Bergregion vor: bereits eine halbe Million laut JSS-Sprecher Dewan, rund 250 000 nach unabhängigen Schätzungen. Die Umsiedlungen laufen immer noch dem gleichen Muster ab. Mit Waffengewalt vertreibt die Armee die Einheimischen von ihrem Land, um sie dann in sogenannten Modelldörfern (Dewan: «Konzentrationslager») wieder anzusiedeln. Dort leben und arbeiten die Stammesangehörigen unter militärischer Kontrolle. Dort werden sie mit einer neuen Identität versehen und zum Islam bekehrt, kurz: «bengalisiert» (Dewan). Wer sich nicht fügt, liefert sich der Willkür der Soldaten aus.

Flüchtlingsstrom

Wer sich dem Zugriff der Regierungstruppen entziehen kann, flieht ins benachbarte Ausland, nach Indien oder Burma. Allein 50 000 Menschen, rund die Hälfte der Jumma-Bevölkerung, fristen ein kümmerliches Dasein in Flüchtlingslagern auf indischem Territorium. Für Indien stellen sie eine schwere finanzielle Belastung dar. Deshalb appelliert Ramendu Dewan an die Weltöffentlichkeit, seinen Landsleuten in den indischen Flüchtlingslagern Hilfe zukommen zu lassen. Bis jetzt wurde er kaum erhört. Die Bergstämme von Chittagong passen eben nicht in den Rahmen der gängigen Konfliktmuster: «Wir sind keine afghanischen Mujaheddin», seufzt Dewan.

Petition an das EDA

Baz. In Anwesenheit von JSS-Sprecher Ramendu S. Dewan ist am Donnerstag im Völkerkundemuseum der Universität Zürich die Ausstellung «Bedrohte Zukunft - Bergvölker in Bangladesch» eröffnet worden. Gleichzeitig wurde eine Petition an das Eidgenössische Departement für auswärtige Angelegenheiten (EDA) zur Unterschrift aufgelegt. Die Initianten fordern darin, dass die Schweizer Entwicklungshilfe für Bangladesch (1986: 6,9 Mio. Franken) künftig von der Einstellung der Armeemassaker an den Bergvölkern, der Rückführung der Flüchtlinge in ihre Heimat und von der Öffnung der Chittagong-Berge für neutrale Beobachter abhängig gemacht wird.

Auf den ersten Blick erscheinen die Motive der Regierung in Dhaka durchaus verständlich. Mit 100 Millionen Menschen auf nur 144 000 Quadratkilometern Fläche ist Bangladesch das am dichtesten besiedelte Land der Welt. Um den Druck der Überbevölkerung etwas zu mildern, sollen landlose Bauern aus dem Gangesdelta in die von nur rund 500 000 bis 600 000 Stammesangehörigen bewohnten Chittagong Hill Tracts umgesiedelt werden. Dort stehe ja, so die Begründung der Regierung, genug Land zur Verfügung. Diesem Punkt widerspricht Ramendu Dewan: «Die Umsiedlungen können nicht mit der Überbevölkerung in Bangladesch gerechtfertigt werden, weil das Kulturland in der Bergregion ohnehin zu knapp ist.» Seitdem der Karnafuli-Stausee etwa 40 Prozent der gesamten landwirtschaftlich nutzbaren Fläche überflutet hat, stehe nicht einmal mehr genug Land für die einheimische Bevölkerung zur Verfügung.

Druck von aussen

Geht es nach Ramendu so versteht die Regierung in Dhaka eine Sprache: Druck von aussen einer diplomatischen Intervention. Die Widerstandsorganisation der Jumma-Völker fordert die Führung der bengalischen Siedler zurückzugewanderten Armee und der paritätischen Polizei, Autonomieerlangung Hill Tracts mit eigener Initiative, Finanzhilfe für die rückenden Flüchtlinge und die Entsendung einer UNO-Friedenstruppe. JSS-Sprecher Dewan streicht, dass die Bergstämme Chittagong nicht Unabhängigkeit Bangladesch, sondern Autonomie innerhalb Bangladeschs fordern. Dem jüngsten Fehlschlag halter Jana Samhati Samiti zu weiteren sprächen bereit, doch müsse der Aufrichtigkeit der Regierung sein, um den ausländischen bern zu gefallen.»

nehmen haben sich denn auch an die Ausbeutung dieser natürlichen Ressourcen gemacht. Zudem laut Dewan in der Region reich Gas- und Uranvorkommen von Der Ausbeutung dieser Bodener steht aber der Kampf der Jumma ker um Autonomie und Selbsternung im Wege: Deshalb die Entschlossenheit, mit der das von General Ershad den Wider der Bergstämme zu brechen v

THE RECENT SITUATION IN THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS IN RELATION TO THE
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN BANGLADESH.

A CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM
organized by the Bildungswerk für Demokratie
und Umweltschutz e.V. at its Office.

Zeughofstrasse 20, 1000 Berlin 36,
Federal Republic of Germany.

13th May, 1988

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a matter of great honour to participate in this historic Conference. I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for kindly allowing me to take the floor. May I take this opportunity to introduce myself - my name is Ramendu Shekhar Dewan; I am a Chakma from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) of Bangladesh; the only political party of the CHT, Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) or briefly Jana Samhati Samiti (JSS) has appointed me its Spokesman in the West. I am very lucky indeed as the prestigious human rights organization, Bildungswerk für Demokratie und Umweltschutz e.V. has kindly invited me to describe the Recent Situation In The Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts lies in the south-eastern corner of Bangla Desh. This semi-autonomous area was created by Britain exclusively for ten indigenious Tibeto-Burman ethnic groups known as Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Chak, Murung, Khyang, Khumi, Lushai, Pankho and Baum. Collectively they are called the Jumma people. Their population is well over 600,000 and the Chakma is the largest group. In culture, the Jumma people are very close to other Tibeto-Burman peoples. They faced extreme hostility of the majority community of Bangladesh for ages due to their different race, religion and culture.

All successive Governments of Bangladesh have persued virulent racial policy in the CHT. They committed systematic genocide of the unarmed Jumma people with a view to resettling their co-religionists in the region. The genocidal atrocities involved cold-blooded mass-murder, wholesale burning of Jumma villages, herding the Jummas into concentration camps, imprisonment of innocent Jumma people without charge or trial, torture, abduction and rape, forcible eviction of Jumma farmers from their villages and farmlands, desecration and destruction of non-Muslim places of worship, and killing of non-Islamic priests. A Jumma delegation led by Mr. Manabendra Narayan Larma urged the Bangladesh leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, to stop the government violence and demanded autonomy for the CHT. Sheikh Mujib rejected the demands and told the Jumma delegation - "Forget about your identity, go home and become Bengalis". The racial and genocidal policy of the Bangladesh Government became crystal-clear when Brigadier Hanman declared in a public meeting at Panchari on 26 May, 1979, - "We want only the land and not the people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts".

The regime of Gen. Ershad closed the CHT to human rights groups and journalists and launched military campaigns in the CHT to eliminate the Jumma people and then resettled over half-a-million Bangladeshi settlers in the depopulated areas. For example, in 1986, the Bangladesh armed forces in league with the Bangladeshi settlers massacred the people of hundreds of villages in Matiranga, Lakkhichari, Panchari, Khagrachari and Dighinala Upazillas (Sub-Districts). As a consequence, some 5,000 Jummas mostly old people, women and children died and about 50,000 Jumma people sought refuge in the Tripura State of India. Now the Government of Bangladesh has distributed their villages and farmlands to the Bangladeshi settlers.

The Jama Samhati Samiti has made every effort to solve the CHT crisis by peaceful constitutional means. But the Bangladeshi regime preferred a military solution to a negotiated political solution. It simply refused to negotiate with the JSS. The peaceable Jumma people had no other choice but to take up arms against the Bangladeshi brutal invaders. Their poli-

Shanti Bahini as it proved to be very effective against the Bangladeshi invaders. Under the leadership of Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, the JSS has been able to unite the entire Jumma people to carry on their just struggle for survival from the Bangladeshi onslaught.

The Bangladesh Government scheme to resettle the landless Bangladeshi people in the CHT is not only unjust but also totally unrealistic. The CHT has very little flat agricultural land. Besides, forty percent of its best arable land was flooded by the Kaptai Hydro-electric Dam. The flat cultivable land in the CHT is so scarce that most of the 100,000 farmers, who were uprooted by the Dam, could not be rehabilitated. The shortage of flat agricultural land in the CHT is so acute that it is more serious than any parts of Bangladesh. The economic observers say that if the land-holding limit is fixed at twenty acres per family, then all landless people of Bangladesh can be provided with sufficient land. Despite the Land Reforms Committee's recommendation for limiting the land-holding ceiling to twenty five to thirty acres per family, the Bangladeshi regime has done nothing to make land reforms. On the other hand, the military leaders forcibly brought down the land-holding limit from ten acres to five acres per family in the CHT in order to accommodate their coreligionists. There is no need to resettle the Bangladeshi settlers in the Jumma homeland where the majority of the Jumma people are landless. The diabolical policy of the Bangladeshi regime is designed to wipe out the Jumma people from their homeland. This is also an example of glaring racial discrimination practised by the Bangladesh Government in the CHT.

The extremely racist regime of Bangladesh discriminates against the people of the CHT in all spheres of life. For instance, America built the Kaptai Hydro-electric Dam but the Government did not employ any Jummas either during the construction of the Dam or after the completion of the Project. The Jumma people have been deprived of all benefits of the Hydro-electric Project. They have not been supplied with electricity nor have they been given other economic benefits such as fishing, fish farming and other related industries. Japan built Paper Mills and Rayon Mills at Chandraghona. Only a few Jummas have been given jobs in these industries. Similarly the Government employs very small number of Jumma people in government offices, courts and semi-autonomous organizations. Sweden stopped the Forest Development Project because the Bangladesh Government refused to employ the Jumma people. Australia pulled out the Chengi Valley Road Building Project as the road was being used to open up the interior to Bangladeshi immigrants and also to carry out military campaigns against the Jumma people.

The benign Government of Sweden established a polytechnic at Kaptai to educate the Jumma students in science and technology. But the Government of Bangladesh offers only three to four places to the Jumma students every year there. Similarly very few Jumma students get chance in Medical, Engineering, Agricultural institutions and other higher studies. The Jumma students are rarely sent abroad for higher education and research.

The Jumma people are required to carry identity card whereas a Bangladeshi does not have to carry any such card. The Bangladeshi regime does not allow any Jumma people to buy medicine without a Government permit. To get a permit, a Jumma has to go to the Government centres which are miles away from Jumma villages. On the way there are military and police checkpoints where the Jumma people are harassed, tortured and even killed and the Jumma women are raped. So the Jumma people are virtually deprived of medicines. A Jumma is not allowed to buy rice more than two kilos per family per week. Normally a Jumma family has at least six members and this amount of rice is totally inadequate for a family. As a result, the Jumma people suffer from lack of food. The Bangladeshi regime is trying to get rid of the Jumma people by starving them to death. It has also restricted the selling of clothes, oil, kerosene, salt, soap, sugar and other daily necessities of life to the Jumma people.

Gen. Ershad has declared Islam the State Religion of Bangladesh and

survive in the Islamic State of Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Government has drawn a secret plan to destroy the entity of the CHT people. It has circulated a letter urging all members of the Bangladesh armed forces to marry forcibly the Jumma girls in order to assimilate the Jumma people. The Bangladesh Government is destroying hundreds of non-Muslim places of worship and at the same time it is building hundreds of Mosques in the CHT with the financial help of Saudi Arabia. It has constructed a huge Mosque and an Islamic Cultural Centre at Rangamati with the intention of converting the Jumma people to Islam. Gen. Ershad's Islamic policy is a great threat indeed to all minority communities in Bangladesh.

Under intense international pressure the Bangladeshi regime was compelled to hold the first dialogue with the JSS on 21 October 1985. The JSS submitted a charter of demands including the demand for autonomy for the CHT to the Bangladesh Government. The latter rejected all the demands of the former except the proposal that the CHT issue was a national and political problem and that it should be resolved by peaceful political means. The Government delegation also agreed to meet again on 25 December, 1985. But it did not attend the proposed meeting without notice. As the pressure from the international community continued to grow, the Bangladeshi regime very reluctantly participated in the second, third and fourth dialogues which took place on 17-18 December 1987, 24-25 January 1988, and 17-18 February 1988 respectively. As usual, it rejected the just demands of the JSS and there is no certainty whether the talks will be resumed or not. The JSS thinks that the Ershad-regime is not willing to find a political solution to the crisis in the CHT and that it came to the negotiating table only to mislead the donor countries.

Amnesty International was able to force the Government of Bangladesh to discuss the CHT issue with it and to open up the CHT to it in January 1988. Although Amnesty is still waiting for replies from the Bangladesh Government on some points, it has suggested that an independent inquiry commission should investigate the Government violence in the CHT because the Government-conducted inquiries failed to establish responsibility for all genocidal crimes committed by the Bangladesh armed forces against the unarmed Jumma men, women and children.

Initially the Bangladeshi regime denied that the 50,000 Jumma refugees now camped in Tripura were from Bangladesh. In spite of tremendous international pressure, the Bangladesh Foreign Minister, Mr. Humayun Rasheed Choudhury, and the Bangladesh Foreign Secretary, Mr. Nazrul Islam, have recognized some 30,000 Jumma refugees as Bangladeshis with extreme reluctance. Perhaps, it is noteworthy that Gen. Ershad confessed to the Editor of Far Eastern Economic Review, Mr. Derek Davies, that all the Jumma refugees were from Bangladesh. The Bangladeshi military leader also could not deny that his armed forces massacred the innocent Jumma people. However, the Ershad-regime has failed to create a congenial climate for the safe return of the refugees. It does not want to remove the Bangladeshi settlers from the Jumma villages and farmlands nor does it want to withdraw its armed forces from the area. The refugees cannot be rehabilitated unless their native villages are vacated by the Bangladeshi settlers and there will be no peace unless the Bangladesh armed forces are withdrawn from the CHT. If they are repatriated, then it is very likely that they will be put into concentration camps where they will be tortured and starved to death. The refugees, therefore, are not willing to go back to the bayonets of the Bangladesh armed forces.

The compassionate Governments of India and Tripura have housed the Jumma refugees in Tripura on humanitarian grounds. Despite various economic problems in the country, India has already spent not less than one hundred million rupees to save their lives. All Indian humanitarian organizations are generously helping the refugees. Although the refugees are causing very serious strain on the economy of India, the humane Indian Government has given assurance to them that they will not be sent back to Bangladesh against their will. Perhaps, it is worth-noting that the kind-hearted Indian people have appealed to both the Governments of India and Tripura to keep the refugees in Tripura till the situation in the CHT becomes normal.

Madame Danielle Mitterrand, the wife of the French President, and Monsieur Pierre Marchand, the Director of the Partage avec les Enfants du Tiers-Monde, have kindly found foster homes in France for seventytwo Jumma refugee orphans. They are also very generously sending relief supplies to the refugee children in Tripura. The Copenhagen-based human rights agency, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs has kindly collected funds from the Scandinavian humanitarian organizations for the refugee children now camped in Tripura.

To house and to feed 50,000 refugees for years costs India so much money which India cannot afford. She has done her best to help the Jumma refugees. India will be able to save their lives provided other humane countries also share the burden of the refugee-expenses. The refugee problem is an international problem. So the JSS has appealed to the international community to look after the refugees.

The JSS is a democratic party. It believes that democracy is the best system for the Jumma people. The JSS has been greatly alarmed by the rapid growth of Islamic fundamentalism in Bangladesh. The land-slide victory of the Jatiya Party in the 3rd March voterless general election proves that Gen. Ershad has no respect for democracy. He did not need voters and what he needed was only ballot papers to win the election. Under such a corrupt, irresponsible and Islamic Bangladesh Government, the Jumma people will not survive unless the following demands of the JSS are met by the Bangladeshi regime:

1. The removal of Bangladeshi settlers from the CHT.
2. The withdrawal of all Bangladesh armed forces including the non-Jumma police force from the CHT.
3. Provincial Autonomy for the CHT with a separate legislature.
4. Adequate financial help for the rehabilitation of Jumma refugees in their native villages and on their farmlands.
5. The implementation of these measures under the auspices of the UNO and the deployment of the UN Peace-keeping force in the CHT.

The JSS will continue its fight until its demands are fully translated into actions.

I am most grateful to the prestigious human rights group, Bildungswerk für Demokratie und Umweltschutz for giving me another opportunity to draw the kind attention of the great German people to the plight of the Jumma people. I believe this momentous Conference will make an enormous impact on the public opinion and rouse international support for our just struggle for survival. I would like to express my deep gratitude to the organizers of this great Conference for their tremendous help and compassion to the Jumma people at a time when we are facing the prospects of total extinction at the hands of the Bangladeshi regime. Their extraordinary efforts and sacrifice to save our people from extinction will certainly inspire us to continue our fight for self-determination. The Jumma people are greatly indebted to the German people for their immense contribution to our cause. For example, Prof. Lorenz Lüffler, Dr. Wolfgang Mey and other German scholars carried out research on the political, economic and social aspects of the Jumma people and their findings exposed the systematic genocidal activities of the Bangladesh Government to the civilized world. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for kindly allowing me to speak in this very important Meeting. Thank you very much, Ladies and Gentlemen, for listening to my appeal speech.

(Ramendu Shekhar Dewan)

A Spokesman of the Jana Samhati Samiti in
Europe

Ershad move for Sharia law prompts opposition to warn of a violent backlash

From Ahmed Fazl, Dhaka

Plans by the Bangladesh Government to introduce Muslim law are being bitterly debated nationally, with opponents of President Ershad saying that the proposals will raise the spectre of new communal violence.

"Islamization will spread hatred and distrust between the majority Muslims and minority non-Muslims," said Mr Abdul Qadir, aged 21, a political science student at the University of Chittagong, which saw a series of violent clashes last month between Islamic fundamentalists and left-wingers that forced the closure of the campus.

"More than 85 per cent of the people are Muslims and they have a right to create an Islamic state," insists Mr Mohammad Sattar, aged 35, an activist of the Islami Andolon (movement) which wants rule by the Koran.

The opposing views highlight the growing split in Bangladesh society, which is still scarred by the 1987 floods and protracted anti-government agitation. The divisions centre on a controversial Bill introduced in Parliament last week by the Government of General Ershad. It seeks to declare Islam the country's state religion by bringing in an eighth amendment to the 1972 Constitution and thus clearing the way for laws based on Sharia — the body of doctrines that regulates the lives of those who profess Islam.

Parliamentary approval of the Bill is a mere formality because the ruling Jatiya Party controls 251 of the 300-seat house elected last March in polls remarkable, if nothing else, for their low turnout.

But many Bangladeshis are worried that the fall-out from the Bill will endanger the

country's fragile political stability. The mainstream opposition, the Awami League, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and their allies — which are not represented in Parliament because of a boycott of the March election — have threatened to take the issue onto the streets.

"The Government is trying to fan communalism and take attention away from the campaign on democracy, rising prices and unemployment," said Sheikh Hasina Wazed, aged 43, and the daughter and political heir of the country's founder-President, Sheikh Mujib ur-Rahman.

Sheikh Mujib, killed by right-wing army officers in a coup on August 15, 1975, gave equal status to all religions — Islam, Hinduism, Christianity and Buddhism — although the last three made up less than 15 per cent of the population.

His successor, General Zia ur-Rahman, introduced Koranic verses into the Constitution and dealt the first blow to secularist principles in order to appease pro-Islamic groups in his Government.

Fears that state recognition of Islam would spur Muslim activism in the 250,000 mosques and religious schools in Bangladesh have been growing.

"The Government is treading in a sensitive area and can make the country a victim of fanatical feelings," said Shamsul Huq Chowdhury, president of the Supreme Court Bar Association and one of the 31 intellectuals who signed a press statement calling for the withdrawal of the Bill.

But General Ershad says that he sees no danger of social tension in Islam becoming a state religion. He emphasized that he would like Islamic

values firmly established in society when he addressed a recent conference of Muslim religious teachers. "We should declare a *jihad* (holy war) for an Islamic way of life," he said.

In Dhaka, Western diplomats tend to agree with government officials that nothing much would change in society immediately after Islam is made the official religion. But they fear that it would trigger demands from fundamentalist parties to declare an Islamic republic and change secular laws inherited from the British Raj.

"In an Islamic state, non-Muslims will become second-class citizens," said Mr Anukul Chandradev, the head of the Hindu League.

Bangladesh has been free of communal disturbances since independence from Pakistan in December, 1971, but memories of the traumatic experience of the 1947 Hindu-Muslim fighting during the partition of British India are still fresh among older Bangladeshis. A university teacher lamented: "A whole generation has grown up in a secular climate, but there are attempts to recreate the superheated atmosphere of hatred and bitterness of the 1940s."

The most vocal protests against Islamization have come from women's rights groups, who dubbed the government move a new conspiracy to force women to live behind the veil.

Their fears have not been without foundation. An Islamic newspaper, *Inqilab* which is owned by the Religious Affairs Minister, last week asked state television authorities to force their woman announcers to cover up before appearing on screen.

Official Islam

By Our Dhaka Correspondent

The controversial Constitution Amendment Bill making Islam Bangladesh's state religion was passed yesterday. There was a strong police presence in Dhaka and many shops were closed, but there was little violence.

Dhaka passes Islamic law

Arshad Mahmud in Dhaka

BLANDESH parliament last night passed the controversial religion bill and made Islam the state religion by amending the constitution, but opposition parties said they would not accept it and vowed to wage a fresh movement against what they called "a conspiracy to Islamicise the country."

The bill, known as the Eighth Amendment Bill, was introduced in the parliament last month by the ruling Jatiya (national) party at the behest of President Hossain Mohammad Ershad who is also the chairman of the party.

Mr Ershad declared at a religious meeting last March that he would make Islam the state religion "in deference to the wishes of the majority people." The Muslims make up about 87 per cent of the total 105 million people and Hindus, Christians, and Buddhists account for the rest.

His declaration drew criticism from almost all segments of the society, although there was some support from little-known parties, including the Islami Andolon (movement) and Islamic Oikya (unity).

April 25, 1988

**Report on Chittagong Hill Tract Project
For Buddhist Peace Fellowship**

To: Board Members and Chapters --

From: D.C. project volunteers --

The last progress report to the Buddhist Peace Fellowship from the Washington, D.C., work group on the Chittagong Hill Tract project was submitted in May 1987. Since that date the Bangladesh government has made interesting attempts to convince those nations which supply it with essential aid that genuine efforts are being made to settle the CHT problems peaceably; but reports from the region itself show that acts of violence and great cruelty are still taking place against the non-Moslem tribals of the hill region. Recent reports document dozens of incidents of murder, rape, torture, theft, and the destruction of temples and entire villages from as late as the autumn of 1987 -- and there are no indications that matters have improved since then. As many as one-third of the tribal people have now been killed as the process of genocide continues unabated.

Current Efforts

In an attempt to complete our two year project, the Washington work group plans several last efforts to bring the horrors of the CHT to public attention:

- (1) A letter writing campaign to U.S. officials (with the help of our local chapter of Amnesty International).
- (2) A brief summing-up media campaign.
- (3) One or more independent articles for publications.

The work group hopes to complete these three efforts in the next several months. A reason for completing this task for BPF as soon as possible is that the Sarvodaya Group of Washington, which forms the CHT project work group, has become increasingly involved in social work among the local Indochinese refugees and has decided to devote all of its efforts to this labor. Our workload is expected to increase greatly in the coming months because of the thousands of new Vietnamese and Amerasian refugees who will settle here. More than 100,000 Vietnamese will probably arrive in the United States within the next 24 months.

Current Purpose

The work group's goal for the coming months will include attempts to help Buddhists of this region become more informed about and involved in the CHT problem; to generate a large flow of letters of concern to members of the U.S. Congress; and to get the U.S. media to pay attention to this still largely unknown story. We hope the forthcoming report by Amnesty International on the CHT -- generated after a recent tour of Bangladesh -- will be a strong one and that we can do effective media follow-ups. The extraordinary lack of coverage of Hill Tract conditions by the American press has seriously hampered our efforts to get action here in the U.S.

Unrest in Bangladesh

The current, frequently bloody unrest in Bangladesh, where people are attempting to shake off the military dictatorship of General Ershad, makes our task a lot harder. It appears unlikely that the Moslem opposition to Ershad would think well of any attempt by the current government to assist the non-Moslem tribals at the expense of Bengali settlers or landless people. Recently, by chance, I was able to interview a number of Americans who had spent years in Bangladesh. These included two aid officials (stationed there from 1955 to 1975) who were very familiar with the CHT. Their opinion is that, wherever the grab for land is involved in Bangladesh, prospects for justice are slim.

Minor Accomplishments

In the last six months the D.C. work group has gotten several progressive organizations to join the campaign to save the tribals of the CHT. One is the U.S. Committee for Refugees, a membership group with a good staff and several separate publications. We understand the Committee's first substantial report on the CHT will be out soon. We assisted by sharing our information, supplying detailed documentation on atrocities, and giving them encouragement that this was definitely a project they wished to join.

We are also actively working with Asia Watch, an efficient human rights group with particular skills at Congressional lobbying, to assist them in beginning their own campaign on the Hill Tracts.

The Project

I have informed the Fellowship president Ruth Klein that I will step away as director of the CHT project for BPF after May of 1988. By that date I would have spent two years researching and/or doing projects to halt the abuse of the tribals. After

many years as an activist I wish now to devote my time to writing and to work as a Buddhist lay teacher among the Indochinese refugees of this region. I am now formally asking BPF to replace me as director of the CHT project. I will, of course, continue to do the project duties until I am replaced, and would like very much to talk with the new director; but I wish to impress BPF that we of the Sarvodaya Group will not be truly active participants once the work group completes the phases of the campaign listed above.

Thanks for having trusted me with the job; it was an honor to be asked to help. I hope we did prevent some suffering.

Suggestion

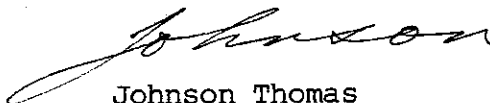
It would probably be helpful to the next director if the BPF board of directors would decide on an overall suggested strategy for the Chittagong project. This could serve as a guideline or reference point and might cut down on possible friction concerning procedure.

It would also be best to have the clearest possible communications between BPF and whoever is doing the action on the project. This should include such obvious things as letting the project director and work group know about CHT decisions or plans made by the board.

I know we are a small organization, with few resources, stretched around a very big world. But such care could make a big difference.

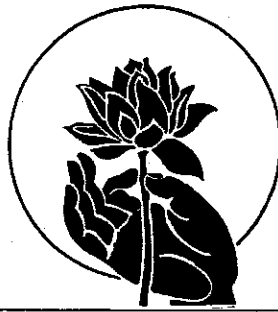
Please feel free to write us about any of the above. We would be happy to receive any comments or suggestions.

Great good fortune to each
of you in your progress,



Johnson Thomas
Sarvodaya Group
P.O. Box 319
Cabin John, MD 20818

Late Note -- On April 14th, the House Subcommittee on Pacific and Asian Affairs, under Rep. Stephen Solarz of New York, held hearings on Bangladesh and requested the South Asia desk of the U.S. Department of State to produce information on the conditions of the tribals in the CHT. We are responding to the encouraging new development with follow-up mailings to the subcommittee.



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4/25/88

Rep. Stephen J. Solarz
1536 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Solarz:

The Buddhist Peace Fellowship wishes to express its gratitude to you and the other members of the House Subcommittee on Pacific and Asian Affairs for bringing to public attention the plight of the Chittagong Hill Tract tribals during the committee hearing on April 14. The abuse of the non-Moslem tribes by the Bangladesh government since 1971 (at a cost of approximately 200,000 lives) is an issue of horrifying magnitude and should be of great concern to the United States which benefits Bangladesh with substantial aid.

Our organization has received the enclosed materials from a tribal contact now in Britain, and we wish to submit it to your office to assist in your investigation. These reports detail abuses in 1986 and 1987 against the Chakma tribe.

Sincerely,

Johnson Thomas

Project Director of the CHT Project
for the Buddhist Peace Fellowship

c/o Sarvodaya Group
P.O. Box 319
Cabin John, MD 20818

P. O. Box 4650 Berkeley, California 94704



JANA SAMHATI SAMITI

(UNITED PEOPLES PARTY)
CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS.

MEMO NO.....

REF.....

DATE 07 APRIL 1988

ATROCITIES, ARSONING, LOOTING, MURDER & RAPE
COMMITTED ON THE INNOCENT JUMMA PEOPLE
OF THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS BY
BANGLADESH ARMY, PARA-MILITARY
FORCES & ILLEGAL BENGALIEE
MUSLIM INFILTRATORS.

(OCTOBER 1987 - APRIL 1988)

30 OCT. 1987 - Four innocent Jumma persons who were returning from the market with food grains in a boat were attacked at Baruna-Chari by infiltrator muslim Bengalees and VDP (Village Defence Party) personnel. The victims were brutally murdered and the following cash and kinds were looted by the murderers from them- Taka 6000 (Six thousand), 3 (Three) maunds of paddy, 1 (One) maund of rice and goods worth Tk. 1000 (One thousand) taka only. Particulars of victims who were killed -

1. Mr. Shantimoy Chakma, 28 yrs. son of late Gunachandra Chakma, of Dhighal Chari, Subalong- U.P., Barkal Upazilla.
2. Mr. Sachi Ranjan Chakma, 25 yrs, son of Mr. Pakka Chakma.
Address -do- .
3. Mr. Akshay Mani Chakma, 31 yrs, son of Mr. Kishta Chakma.
Address -do- .
4. Mr. Sneha Ranjan Chakma, 35 yrs, son of Mr. Ghuchaga Chakma.
Address -do- .

31 OCT. 1987 - Lt. Mustafa and soldiers of I2 East Bengal Regiment, Bangladesh Army, from the army camp at Fakira Chara, carried out massive operations against the innocent Jumma people, during which the innocent Jumma people were subjected to inhuman beating and tortures. The operations were carried out against the innocent Jumma peoples as a reprisal for the armed clash that occurred between the Shanti Bahini and the Bangladesh army on 31 OCT. 1987. The victims are -

5. Mr. Sumanta Chakma, 50 yrs, son of Mr. Dila Kumar Chakma, of Penchari Mukh, Dumdumya U.P., Zurachari Upazilla. He is the Chairman of Union Parishad (Union Council). He was subjected to electric shocks, water poured through the nostrils and was hung upside down and beaten severely and injured seriously. All his household



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- properties were looted away and his house was burn to ashes.
6. Mr. Mana Chakma, 60 yrs, son of Mr. Gasya Chakma, of Bandar Haza, Dumdumya U.P. & Zurachari Upazilla, tortured at the army camp at Silchari as above and injured seriously.
 7. Mr. Tung Kala Chakma, 40 yrs, son of Mr. Bhula Chakma, of Mondir Chara, U.P. & Upazilla -do-. Tortured as above and seriously injured and being kept under army custody.
 8. Mr. Bali Chakma, 35 yrs, son of Mr. Direndra Chakma, address-do-. As above.
 9. Mrs. Guri Mala Chakma, 26 yrs, wife of Mr. Mahan Chakma, of Bandar Haza, U.P. & Upazilla -do-. Tortured and seriously injured in her village.
 10. Mrs. Dina Mukhi Chakma, 60 yrs, wife of Mr. Batya Chakma, of Upak Chari, U.P. & Upazilla -do-. As above.
 11. Mrs. Sumandini Chakma, 40 yrs, wife of Mr. Ranga Chan Chakma, address-do-, as above.
 12. Mrs. Dhana Mukhi Chakma, 28 yrs, wife of Mr. Sudatta Priya Chakma, address-do-. As above.
 13. Miss Aduri Chakma, 22 yrs, daughter of Mr. Tena Karbari, address-do-. As above.
 14. Mr. Rasikya Chakma, 22 yrs, son of Mr. Jnana Chakma, of Ponchari Mukh, U.P. & Upazilla -do-. Tortured and seriously injured in his village.
 15. Mr. Kanchan Chakma, 23 yrs, son of Mr. Bizu Mani Chakma, address-do-. As above.
 16. Mr. Tridip Chakma, 22 yrs, son of Mr. Chigan Marad Member, of Zamer Chari, U.P. & Upazilla -do-. He was tortured and seriously injured at the army camp at Silchari.
 17. Mr. Sudatta Priya Member, 30 yrs, son of Mr. Tena Karbari, of Upak Chari, U.P. & Upazilla -do-. He was tortured and seriously injured at the army camp at Fakira Chara. He was being kept under army custody.
 18. Mr. Bira Sen Karbari, 47 yrs, of Zamer Chari, U.P. & Upazilla-do-. As above.
 19. Mr. Tena Karbari, 58 yrs, of Upak Chari, U.P. & Upazilla -do-. As above.
- 02 NOV. 1987 - Lt. Shahjahan of 32 East Bengal Regiment, Bangladesh army from the army camp at Guimara, arrested an innocent person and subjected to inhuman tortures. The victim is being kept in army custody without trial. The victim is -
20. Mr. Usha Marma, 27 yrs, of Barthali, Rangarh, Khagrachari, CHT.



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- 09 NOV. 1987— Lt. Shahjahan of 32 East Bengal Regiment, Bangladesh army, from the army camp at Guimara, raided the Jumma village Barthali of Ramgarh, Khagrachari. During the raid the following innocent Jummas were subjected to inhuman tortures and beating -
21. Mr. Ripru Marma, 28 yrs, son of Mr. Pano Marma, of Barthali, Ramgarh, Khagrachari. He was severely beaten by the army personnel at the army camp at Guimara.
22. Mr. Dhan Tripura, 26 yrs, son of Mr. Prabat Chandra Tripura, address -do-. As above.
23. Mr. Amey Marma, 27 yrs, son of Mr. Chaila Pru Marma, address -do-. As above.
24. Mrs. Aungya Zai Marma, 33 yrs, wife of Mr. Aungya Zai Marma, address -do-. She was inhumanly beaten up by the army personnel in her house.
25. Mr. Kyaw Marma, 30 yrs, address -do-. As above.
26. Mr. Kasam Tripura, 35 yrs, son of Mr. Ram Tripura, address -do-. As above.
- 10 NOV. 1987— Lt. Zakaria of Bangladesh army from the army camp at Ganga Ram Para of Ludiban area, Panchari, has tortured Mr. Maung Shill Marma who was looking after the buffalows of Mr. Durga Mohan Chakma of Jagadish Chandra Para, Pujgong. The victim was thrown into the water and beaten severely with a stick. The Lieutenant has tortured and beaten the innocent victim when he replied that he knew nothing about the Shanti Bahini when asked by the Lieutenant. Particulars of the victim—
27. Mr. Maung Shill Marma, 30 yrs, C/O. Mr. Durga Mohan Chakma, Jagadish Chandra Para, Pujgong, Panchari.
- 14 NOV. 1987— Lt. Shahjahan of 32 East Bengal Regiment, Bangladesh army from the army camp at Guimara, has arrested and taken into army custody an innocent Jumma Person. The victim was fired at with automatic weapons by the army personnel but he managed to save his life by running away. As the victim lost his shoes while running for life he came to search for his shoes next day at the place of the incident. He was arrested by the army personnel who waited in an ambush. The victim was taken to the army camp where he was subjected to inhuman tortures. He was given release on 26 Nov. 1987. The victim is—
28. Mr. Sathuai Marma, 20 yrs, son of Mr. Jadu Marma, of Dewan Para, Guimara, Khagrachari, CHT.
- 18 NOV. 1987— An army patrol party at 1400 hrs. opened fire at Bar Pera of Pujgong, Panchari, with ~~an~~ automatic weapons on innocent Jumma people who were returning after marketing. After firing the



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army patrol party proceeded towards Logang Bazar.

- 23 NOV. 1987— Lt. Mustafa and soldiers of I2 East Bengal Regiment, Bangladesh army, from the army camp at Fakira Chara, carried out massive operations against the innocent Jumma people on a false pretext of helping the Shanti Bahini in arms cache. Many innocent persons were tortured, injured and arrested by the army personnel. The victims are—
29. Mr. Deba Brata Chakma, 25 yrs, of Chittima Chara, Dumdumya U.P. & Zurachari Upazilla. He was arrested and taken to the army camp at Zaksha Bazar where he was tortured and injured seriously. He is being kept under army custody.
30. Mr. Kamini Kumar Chakma, 48 yrs, address -do-. Tortured and seriously injured at the army camp at Zaksha Bazar.—
31. Mr. Subash Priya Master, 35 yrs, of Chakpudi Ghat, U.P. and Upazilla -do-. Arrested and taken to the army camp at Zaksha Bazar where he was tortured and injured seriously. He is being kept under army custody.
32. Mr. Ananda Kumar Chakma, 35 yrs, of Sukna Chari, Banjogi Chara U.P. and Zurachari Upazilla. Tortured at the army camp at Zaksha Bazar and seriously injured.
33. Mr. Suresh Kumar Chakma (Teacher), 24 yrs, of Banjogi Chara, U.P. and Upazilla -do-. As above. He is being kept under army custody.
- 24 NOV. 1987— Lt. Col. Akram Hossain, C.O., I2 East Bengal Regiment, Bangladesh army, from the army camp at Banjogi Chara, has carried out operations against the innocent Jumma people creating reign of terror. Many innocent persons were subjected to beating enmasse, tortures and killed. Following are the victims—
34. Mr. Dhanya Chakma, 40 yrs, son of Mr. Bhima Chakma, of Bamey Chuma-Chumi, Banjogi Chara U.P. and Zurachari Upazilla. Injured due to severe beating enmasse. His house was burnt to ashes and properties were looted away by the army personnel.
35. Mr. Fuleshwar Chakma, 30 yrs, son of Mr. Dhunadhar Chakma, address -do-. As above.
36. Mr. Braja Mohan Chakma, 48 yrs, son of Mr. Sisir Kumar Chakma, address -do-. As above.
37. Mr. Barun Kanti Chakma, 27 yrs, son of Mr. Braja Mohan Chakma, address -do-. As above.
38. Mr. Ramani Mohan Chakma, 35 yrs, address -do-. As above.
39. Mr. Dhaneshwar Chakma, son of Mr. Dhunadhar Chakma, address -do-. As above.
40. Mr. Kina Mohan Chakma, address -do-. As above.



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41. Mr. Shantishwar Chakma, son of Mr. Gunadhan Chakma, address -do-. As above.
42. Mr. Jnana Ratan Chakma, 40 yrs, son of Mr. Imanda Mohan Chakma, address -do-. As above.
43. Mr. Shanti Ratan Chakma, 32 yrs, son of Mr. Imanda Mohan Chakma, address -do-. As above.
44. Mr. Nila Ratan Chakma, 36 yrs, son of Mr. Imanda Mohan Chakma, address -do-. As above.
45. Mr. Bali Ratan Chakma, 38 yrs, son of Mr. Binanda Mohan Chakma, address -do-. As above.
46. Mr. Dina Mohan Chakma, address -do-. As above.
47. Mr. Bira Laksha Chakma, 50 yrs, address -do-. As above.
48. Mr. Hari Kumar Chakma, address -do-. He was seriously injured due to severe beating and tortures by the army personnel.
49. Mr. Noachan Chakma, address -do-. As above.
50. Mr. Kalachan Chakma, 22 yrs, son of Mr. Braja Mohan Chakma, of Bamey Chuma Chumi, Banjogi Chara U.P. & Zura Chari Upazilla. He was shot dead by the army personnel.
51. Mrs. Medera Chakma, 35 yrs, wife of Mr. Medera Chakma, of Banjogi Chara, Banjogi Chara U.P. & Zura Chari Upazilla. She was shot dead by the army personnel.
52. Daughter of Mr. Medera Chakma, 15 yrs, address -do-. As above.
53. Mr. Milayya Chakma, 40 yrs, son of Mr. Kamaleshwar Chakma, of Bamey Chuma Chumi, Banjogi Chara U.P. & Zura Chari Upazilla. The victim was beaten severely and injured seriously by the army personnel. He is being kept under army custody.
54. Mr. Kali Kumar Chakma (Member), 55 yrs, address -do-. He was arrested, beaten severely and injured seriously. He is being kept under army custody.
55. Mr. Chikka Chakma, 22 yrs, son of Mr. Sanga Sur Chakma, of Daney Chuma Chumi, U.P. & Upzilla -do-. He was arrested, hung upside down, poured water through the nostrils and beaten inhumanly. He is being kept under army custody.
56. Master Jnana Chakma, 14 yrs, son of Mr. Dhalya Chakma, of Bamey Chuma Chumi, U.P. & Upazilla -do-. Tortured as above. He is being kept under army custody.
57. Mr. Inanda Mohan Chakma, 30 yrs, son of Mr. Bishwa Muni Chakma, address -do-. Tortured as above. He is being kept under army custody.
58. Mr. Rahini Chandra Chakma, 35 yrs, address -do-. Tortured inhumanly by the army personnel.



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- 24 NOV, 1987 - Lt. Mustafa of I2 East Bengal Regiment, Bangladesh army, from the army camp at Fakira Chara, has tortured and injured the following innocent persons -
59. Mr. Kala Ranjan Chakma, 35 yrs, son of Mr. Bindan Mohan Chakma, of Bamey Chuma Chumi, Banjogi Chara U.P. and Zura Chari Upazilla.
60. Mr. Shanti Lal Chakma, 35 yrs, son of Mr. Laxmi Mohan Chakma, address -do-.
- 26 NOV. 1987 - Lt. Col. Akram Hossain, C.O., I2 East Bengal Regiment, Bangladesh army, from the army camp at Banjogi Chara, has inhumanly tortured an innocent person. The victim is -
61. Mr. Shantimoy Chakma, 42 yrs, of Banjogi Chara, Banjogi Chara U.P. & Zura Chari Upazilla.
- 24 DEC. 1987 - The Jumma village Sasala Beel of Ichamati area was attacked by illegal Bengalee Muslim ~~in~~ infiltrators with active support and assistance from the local Bangladesh army authorities. The attackers resorted to looting of the properties belonging to the Jumma inhabitants. The victims are -
62. Mr. Feni Dhan Chakma, 55 yrs, son of Mr. Sukra Mani Chakma, of Sasala Beel of Ichamati. He was injured by the attackers. The attackers looted away cash Tk. 1500 (One thousand five hundred) taka and I (One) Kilo of silver from him.
63. Mr. Sundar Kumar Chakma, 40 yrs, son of Mr. Kalya Karbari, address do-. His household properties including clothes were looted by the attackers.
64. Mr. Sundarban Chakma, 45 yrs, son of Mr. Banya Ram Chakma, address -do-. All his household properties and cash Tk. 200 (Two hundred) taka only were looted away. His house was destroyed by the attackers.
65. Mr. Krishna Kumar Chakma, 30 yrs, son of Mr. Kathin Chandra Chakma, address -do-. His shirts and cash Tk. 200 (Two hundred) taka only were looted away from him and his house was destroyed by the attackers.
66. Mr. ~~MM~~ Brisha Kumar Chakma, 58 yrs, son of Mr. Paban Chandra Chakma, address -do-. His household utensils were broken into pieces and the house destroyed.
67. Mr. Kusha Mani Chakma, 18 yrs, son of Mr. Brisha Kumar Chakma, address -do-. He was severely beaten by the attackers.
68. Mr. Laxmi Kumar Chakma, 40 yrs, son of Mr. Gakul Chandra Chakma, address -do-. He was injured due to severe beating by the attackers. His husking machine as well as the machine house was destroyed.
69. Mr. Daya Mani Chakma, 25 yrs, son of Mr. ~~Zura Kanta~~ Ajit Nanda
address do-. He was severely beaten up.



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70. Mr. Bira Kanta Chakma, 26 yrs, son of Mr. Zura Kanta Chakma, address -do-. One sari, household utensils and cash Tk. 1500 (One thousand and five hundred) taka only were looted away from him. His house was destroyed.
 71. Mr. Guna Dhar Chakma, 30 yrs, son of Mr. Phula Ratan Chakma, address -do-. He was injured due to firing.
 72. Mr. Sasi Dhan Chakma, 20 yrs, son of Mr. Kalyaram Chakma, address -do-. His clothes were looted away by the attackers.
- 16 JAN. 1988 - Bangladesh army personnel posted at the BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) camp at Shankhala Para, Logang, during a raid against the Jumma village - Sandara Karbari Para of Kharubeel, Logang, fired at an innocent person with automatic weapon. The victim did manage to save his life but he was inhumanly beaten up by the army personnel. The victim is -
73. Mr. Bira Karna Chakma, son of Mr. Pradeep Chandra Chakma, of Sandara Karbari Para, Kharubeel, Logang.
- 01 FEB. 1988 - Lt. Col. Akram Hossain, C.O., 12 East Bengal Regiment, Bangladesh army, from the army camp at Banjogi Chara, has shot dead an innocent person and carried out operations against the Jumma people during which many innocent men and women were beaten and molested. The victims are -
74. Mr. Sneha Kumar Chakma, 55 yrs, son of late Padma Dhar Chakma, of Banjogi Chara, Banjogi Chara U.P. & Zura Chari Upazilla. He was arrested from the market and beaten up severely after which he was shot dead by the Lt. Col.
 75. Mr. Shanti Priya Chakma, 29 yrs, son of Mr. Sneha Kumar Chakma, address -do-. Severely beaten up by the army personnel.
 76. Miss Priya Laxmi Chakma, 15 yrs, daughter of Mr. Chikka Lal Chakma, address -do-. She was beaten and molested by the army personnel.
 77. Mrs. Basanti Bina Chakma, 20 yrs wife of Mr. Kalapuna Chakma, address -do-. As above.
 78. Miss Tandra Chakma, 18 yrs, daughter of Mr. Sunil Chakma, address -do-. As above.
 79. Miss Swapna Chakma, 20 yrs, daughter of Mr. Kamini Mohan Chakma, address -do-. As above.
 80. Miss Geeta Chakma, 19 yrs, daughter of Mr. Shantimoy Chakma, address -do-. As above.
 81. Mrs. Meena Chakma, 25 yrs, wife of Bankim Chandra Chakma, address -do-. As above.
 82. Master Nashye Chakma, 7 yrs, son of Mr. Chiba Soga Chakma, address -do-. Beaten severely.



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83. Master Juba Lal Chakma, 7 yrs, son of Mr. Nishi Mohan Chakma, address -do-. As above.
84. Mr. Ananda Mohan Chakma, 60 yrs, son of late Chawdhury Chakma, address -do-. As above.
85. Mr. Ananta Chakma, 18 yrs, son of Mr. Narattam Chakma, address -do-. As above.
86. Mr. Anil Dewan, 28 yrs, son of Mr. Apiteshwar Dewan, address -do-. As above.
- 02 FEB. 1988 - A Santhal tribal girl of Kanungo Para, Panchari, was barbarously raped by the soldiers of 43 East Bengal Regiment, Bangladesh army, Panchari Zone. The victim was looking after the cattles when she was attacked by the army rapists who were on road patrolling duty. The incident occurred at 1600 hrs. (BST). The victim is-
87. Miss Latoi Santhal, daughter of Mr. Laxmi Ram Santhal, of Santhal Para, Kanungo Para, Panchari.
- 09 FEB. 1988 - Lt. Harun with 25 soldiers of 14 East Bengal Regiment, Bangladesh army, from the army camp at Karalya Chari, along with 12 infiltrators Bengalee Muslims raided the Jumma village - Baishnab Headman Para of Bamer Atarak Chara. The raid was conducted on the pretext of cow lifting and meeting held by the Shanti Bahini in the village. A number of innocent Jumma people were victimised during the raid. They were arrested and taken to the army camp where they were subjected to inhuman physical tortures. The innocent victims were given release on the condition that they would again report at the army camp and furnish daily reports about the Shanti Bahini activities. The following persons also took part in the raid against the innocent Jummas - 1. Havildar Shafiqul Islam, R.P. (Regimental Police), 2. Md. Siraj Mia (Infiltrator), Chairman, Atarak Chara U.P.
Name of the Jumma victims -
88. Mr. Binimoy Chakma, 26 yrs, son of Mr. Harish Chandra Chakma, of Baishnab Headman Para, Bamer Atarak Chara, P.S. Longudu. The victim was subjected to inhuman physical tortures with hands, legs tied then water poured through the nostrils, severe beating and kept in a pit whole day without food and water.
89. Mr. Lalit Baran Chakma, 25 yrs, son of Mr. Sukkaram Chakma, address -do-. As above.
90. Mr. Nikhil Priya Chakma, address -do-. As above.
91. Mr. Abani Chakma, 42 yrs, son of Mr. Rizav Chandra Chakma, address -do-. As above.
92. Mr. Tigirikya Chakma, 44 yrs, son of ~~Mr~~ late Viza Chakma, address -do-. As above.
93. Mr. Kali Ratan Chakma, 43 yrs, son of late Jay Sen Chakma, address -do-. As above.



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13 FEB. 1988 - The soldiers of 14 East Bengal Regiment, Bangladesh army, from the Zonal Head Quarter at Mainee Mukh, carried out operations against the Jumma inhabitants of Harikaba and Kattali Baradam, P.S. Longudu. During the operations, the raiding soldiers resorted to looting of the properties of the innocent Jummas and arrested three persons. Particulars of the victims -

Victims of looting by Bangladesh army personnel:

94. Mr. Subha Bhagya Chakma, son of Mr. Jay Kumar Chakma, of Madhya Hari Kaba, P.S. Longudu, II (Eleven) maunds of paddy looted away from him by the army personnel.
95. Mr. Amulya Chandra Chakma, son of Mr. Kamal Charan Chakma, address -do-. 7 maunds of paddy looted away from him by the army personnel.
96. Mr. Ambasur Chakma, address -do-. 5 maunds of paddy looted away from him by the army personnel.
97. Mr. Aswathama Chakma, son of Mr. Nabira Chakma, address-do-. 3 maunds of paddy and a boat worth Tk. 1900 (One thousand and nine hundred) taka were looted away from him by the army personnel.
98. Mr. Pancha Mohan Chakma, of Kattali Baradam, P.S. Longudu. 15 Lbs. of nylon fishing net and 2 trunks were looted away from him by the army personnel.
99. Mr. Mangal Chandra Chakma, son of Mr. Brisha Mani Chakma, address -do-. 45 Lbs. of nylon fishing net and 2 radios were looted away from him by the army personnel.
100. Mr. Sasa Bindu Chakma, son of Mr. Tarani Mohan Chakma, address -do-. 20 kilos of rice were looted away from him by the army personnel.
101. Mr. Sumati Ranjan Chakma, son of Mr. Tarani Mohan Chakma, address -do-. 4 plates were looted away from him by the army personnel.
102. Mr. Maungrey Chakma, address -do-. 2 trunks with clothes were looted away from him by the army personnel.

Arrested persons:

103. Mr. Sashi Nanda Chakma 19 yrs, son of Mr. Gurudev Chakma, of Bara Hari Kaba, P.S. Longudu. He is being kept at the army camp, Mainee Mukh.
104. Mr. Dat Bhangra Chakma, son of Mr. Bujya Mahajan, address -do-. As above.
105. Mr. Badikka Chakma, son of Mr. Bizu Mani Chakma, Bhaiban Chara, P.S. Longudu. As above.

14 FEB. 1988 - Two innocent Jummas were arrested by orders of the camp commander of the army camp at Logang Bazar at 0745 hrs. (BST).



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The cammander was a major of 43 East Bengal Regiment, Bangladesh army. The victims were subjected to physical tortures till 1330 hrs. (BST). They are -

I06. Mr. Atul Prasad Chakma, son of Mr. Swadip Chandra Chakma, of Jurbadhan Karbari Para, Mach Chari, P.S. Mahal Chari.

I07. Mr. Kiran Bikash Chakma, son of late Juba Raj Chandra Chakma, of Changta Chari (Mainee).

26 MAR. 1988 - A Jumma school girl was barbarously raped by a BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) personnel of BDR camp at Dhuduk Chara, Logang. The BDR personnel bit the ear of the victim while raping her. The victim is -

I08. Miss Sama Devi Chakma, 16 yrs, daughter of Mr. Pulin Bihari Chakma, of Madhu Ranjan Karbari Para, Logang, Panchari.

06 APR. 1988 - Major Mahfuz of 20 East Bengal Regiment, Bangladesh army, from the army Sub-Zone at Babu Chara, has subjected the following innocent persons to severe beating and physical tortures.

I09. Master Shanti Ranjan Chakma, 16 yrs, son of Mr. Magya Chakma, of Baghai Chari Mukh, P.S. Dighinala. He was severely beaten by the army major due to which marks of tortures are found on his back.

I10. Mr. Ranjan Kumar Chakma, 40 yrs, son of Mr. Satyendra Lal Chakma, of Babu Chara, P.S. Dighinala. The victim is the Head Master of Babu-Chara High School. He is still being kept under army custody at the army camp at Babu Chara.

06 APR. 1988 - Lt. Alam of 20 East Bengal Regiment, Bangladesh army, from the army Sub-Zone at Baradam, P.S. Dighinala, has tortured an innocent Jumma. The victim is -

III. Mr. Bira Bahan Chakma, 48 yrs, of Rangapani Chara, P.S. Dighinala.

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DATE. 10-5-88.....

REF..... KILLING, ARSONING, TORTURES, ARRESTS & COMMUNAL
RIOTS AGAINST THE INNOCENT JUMMA PEOPLE BY
BANGLADESH ARMY & BENGALEE MUSLIMS IN
THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS.

(APRIL, 1988)

04 APR. 1988 - A communal riot occurred at Batya Para of Langudu when an infiltrator Bengali muslim after illegally occupying the paddy land of a Jumma person refused to give up his illegal occupation of the paddy land after a decree by a court. The Jumma named Mr. Surya Mohan Chakma, after getting a decree from the court went to row paddy in his land but he was attacked by the illegal Bengali muslim infiltrator named Khalil Ur Rehman and his family members with sharp weapons. When Mr. Surya Mohan Chakma was being attacked, his relations came to his rescue but he was already wounded seriously with the blows given with a sharp weapon by the wife of Khalil Ur Rehman when the victim was trying to protect himself from the attack of Khalil Ur Rehman. Particulars of the victim -

I. Mr. Surya Mohan Chakma, 40 yrs, of Batya Para, No.3 Langudu Mouza, P.S. Langudu. He was seriously wounded and hospitalised at Langudu.

II APR. 1988 - Major Tayeb of East Bengal Regiment, Bangladesh army, under the 203 Inf. Brigade, Khagrachari, carried out operations against the Jumma inhabitants of Harinath Para of Khagrachari. The operation was carried out prior to the "Bizu" festival which is a national festival of the Jumma people and is celebrated as "water festival" in Buddhist countries. First day, soon after arrival in the village, Major Tayeb warned the inhabitants of the village in the following words, "you are not allowed to celebrate your 'Bizu festival' and any one who violates my order would be severely dealt with" and then ordered the inhabitants to give fowls free of cost, crockeries and utensils, for cooking and fetching water for the raiding army group. The group stayed overnight on II APR. 1988. Next day 12 APR. 1988 on the first day of the Bizu festival, in the early hours of the morning the village was encircled by the army personnel and the innocent men, women and children were rounded up after house to house searches. The rounded up inhabitants were then taken at the primary school of Harinath Para where they subjected to interrogation and harrassment by Major Tayeb. The innocent inhabitants were threatened by the Major in the following words: "No one would be spared if I come to know that Shanti Bahini men come to your village. I will shoot all of you." The matter was reported to Col. Syed Ibrahim, Commander, 203 Infantry Brigade, Khagrachari, but no action was taken against Major Tayeb.



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II APR. 1988 - Lt. Nurul Alam of East Bengal Regiment, Bangladesh army, from the army camp at Baradam, Dighinala, at 1600 hrs. (local time) has desecrated and violated the religious rights of the Jumma people. The Lieutenant has by force taken away the religious robes of the following Jumma persons who have taken priesthood during the period of the Bizu festival of the Jumma people. The incident did not end, the fanatic army Lieutenant turned the innocent persons out of the Buddhist Vihara. The victims are -

2. Animoy Chakma, 32 yrs, son of Mr. Purna Moy Chakma, of Nauka Chara Mukh, P.S. Dighinala.
3. Mr. Ram Chakma, 18 yrs, son of Mr. Kamal Chakma, address -do-.
4. Mr. Smriti Chakma, 20 yrs, son of Mr. Nibaran Chakma, address-do-.
5. Mr. Paranya Chakma, 35 yrs, son of Mr. Surya Kumar Chakma, of Baradam, P.S. Dighinala.
6. Mr. Subasya Chakma, 35 yrs, son of Mr. Idi Purna Chakma, of Nauka Chara, P.S. Dighinala.

15 APR. 1988 - ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Lt. Nurul Alam of 20 East Bengal Regiment, Bangladesh army, from the army camp at Baradam, Dighinala, has subjected the following innocent Jumma persons with physical tortures -

7. Mr. Laxmi Ranjan Chakma, 22 yrs, son of Mr. Satish Chandra Chakma, of Indra Muni Para of Pabla Khali, Dighinala. The victim was beaten mercilessly with sticks and with sub-machine gun butt. Then his testicles were squeezed by the lieutenant during interrogation.
8. Mr. Shanti Ranjan Chakma, 30 yrs, son of Mr. Indra Kumar Chakma, address -do-. As above.
9. Mr. Sureshwar Chakma, 32 yrs, son of Mr. Surenya Chakma, address -do-. As above.

28 APR. 1988 - An encounter between the Shanti Bahini and the Bangladesh army took place at Banchara of Dighinala in which the Bangladesh forces suffered casualties. As reprisal the Bangladesh army personnel shot two innocent Jummas, one died instantly and the other a lady teacher of a Primary School was seriously wounded. The lady was shot as she resisted against being raped by the army personnel. The victims are -

10. Mr. Sashankha Chakma, 23 yrs, son of Mr. Saminda Chakma, of Baradam, P.S. Dighinala. He was shot dead by the army personnel.
- II. Mrs. Kalpana Chakma, 27 yrs, wife of Mr. Jay Chandra Chakma, of Dane Banchara, Dighinala

28 APR. 1988 - It was thursday at 1050 hrs, a group of illegal Bengalee Muslim infiltrators attacked a Jumma village - Harina Para, adjacent to Khagrachari. The village is situated at a distance of 150 (One hundred and fifty) metres South East of the BDR camp at Khagrachari. 14 (fourteen) houses were burnt to ashes. One innocent Jumma was hacked to death on the spot and



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Col. Syed Ibrahim, Brigade Commander, 203 Infantry Brigade, visited the affected village. When the affected Jumma inhabitants complained to the visiting army commander that the incident would not have occurred had the army and BDR authorities not remained mute spectators. In reply Col. Ibrahim shouted- "It is more than enough that you are still alive." When reports of seriously injured victims were produced before him, the angry Brigade Commander shouted- "I don't believe, you are making a mountain out of a mole hill." The dead and injured victims are-

12. Mr. Arabindu Chakma, son of Late Chikanya Chakma, of Harina Para, Khagrachari. He was hacked to death by the Bengali Muslim infiltrators on the spot.
13. Miss Ittugi Chakma, daughter of Mr. Taranga Mohan Chakma, address -do-. She was seriously injured when she was attacked by the muslim infiltrators with sticks and sharp weapons as a result she suffered an injury on the head.
14. Mr. Taranga Mohan Chakma, address -do-. As above.

Affected persons of Harina Para with losses -

- I. Mr. Jamani Mohan Chakma, 50 yrs, son of Mr. Bairappya Chakma, of Harina Para, Khagrachari. His house was totally burnt to ashes. Total losses -Tk.70,000(Seventy thousand) taka only.
- II. Mr. Binay Bikash Chakma, 35 yrs, address -do-. As above. Total losses -Tk. 50,00 (Fifty thousand) taka only.
- III. Mr. Ibilichya Chakma, 40 yrs, son of Mr. Tarani Sen Chakma, address -do-. As above. Total losses -80,000(Eighty thousand) taka only.
- IV. Mr. Kumud Baran Chakma, 35 yrs, son of Mr. Sirish Chandra Chakma, address -do-. As above. Total losses - Tk. 40,000 (Forty thousand) taka only.
- V. Mr. Amal Prakash Chakma, 45 yrs, son of Mr. Hara Kishore Chakma, address -do-. As above. Total losses Tk. 30,000 (Thirty thousand) taka only.
- VI. Mr. Ganga Ram Chakma, 40 yrs, son of Mr. Satya Dhan Chakma, address -do-. As above. Total losses Tk. 85,000 (Eighty five thousand) taka only.
- VII. Mr. Ranjit Chakma, 40 yrs, son of Mr. Birendra Kumar Chakma, address -do-. As above. Total losses Tk. 40,000 (Forty thousand) taka only.
- VIII. Mr. Bhupendra Lal Chakma, 42 yrs, son of Me. Bipin Mohan Chakma, address -do-. As above. Total losses Tk. 11,000(Eleven thousand taka) only.
- IX. Mr. Niramay Chakma, 40 yrs, son of Mr. Ganga Ram Chakma, address -do-. As above. Total losses Tk. 15,000 (Fifteen thousand) taka only.



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- X. Mr. Braja Mohan Chakma, 62 yrs, son of Mr. Basanta Kumar Chakma, address -do-. As above. Total losses Tk. 60,000 (Sixty thousand) taka only.
- XI. Mr. Surya Kumar Chakma, 45 yrs, son of Late Kritartha Chakma, address -do-. As above. Total losses Tk. 60,000 (Sixty thousand) taka only.
- XII. Mr. Binay Bhusan Chakma, 35 yrs, son of Mr. Birendra Lal Chakma, address -do-. As above. Total losses Tk. 95,000 (Ninety five thousand) taka only.
- XIII. Mr. Taranga Mohan Chakma, 55 yrs, address -do-. As above. Total losses Tk. 8,000 (Eight thousand) taka only.
- XIV. Mr. Birendra Kumar Chakma, 65 yrs, son of Mr. Burappya Chakma, address -do-. As above. Total losses Tk. 50,000 (Fifty thousand) taka only.
- XV. Mr. Bindu Bikash Chakma, 35 yrs, son of Mr. Birendra Kumar Chakma, address -do-. His valuables were looted. Total losses Tk. 40,000 (Forty thousand) taka only.
- XVI. Mr. Nir Madan Chakma, 28 yrs, son of Mr. Birendra Kumar Chakma, address -do-. As above. Total losses Tk. 35,000 (Thirty five thousand) taka only.
- XVII. Mr. Dhamma Ratan Chakma, 55 yrs, address -do-. As above. Total losses Tk. 30,000 (Thirty thousand) taka only.
- XVIII. Mr. Bimal Kanti Chakma, 35 yrs, son of Mr. Braja Mohan Chakma, address -do-. As above. Total losses Tk. 45,000 (Forty five thousand) taka only.



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NEW INFLUX AT PANCHARAM PARA AND KARBOOK
REFUGEE CAMPS (TRIPURA, INDIA) FROM THE
CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS— WAITING TO BE
REGISTERED AS REFUGEES SINCE 16 MAY, 1988.

<u>Sl.No.</u>	<u>Head of the family</u>	<u>Village</u>	<u>P.S./Upazilla</u>	<u>Family member</u>
1.	Kala Chogi Chakma D/O Ranga Moy	Pujgang	Panchari	I
2.	Mr. Apai Mog S/O Mongkyo	Manik Chari	Manik Chari	4
3.	Mr. Paisi Mog S/O Umong	Gola Bari	Khagra Chari	3
4.	Mr. Ulhaprue Mog S/O Ulha Chai	Jugal Chari	Panchari	I
5.	Mr. Nanda Kumar Chakma S/O Gobinda	" "	"	I
6.	Mr. Bimal Chandra Chakma S/O Kabiraj	" "	"	I
7.	Ms Paisanu Mog D/O Mr. Kyathowai	" "	"	I
8.	Mr. Buddhajoy Chakma S/O Ramani Kumar	Boalkhali	Dighinala	I
9.	Mr. Dina Ranjan Chakma S/O Mr. Kamal Dhan	Harinath Para	Khagrachari	3
10.	Ms Gopadevi Chakma D/O	" "	"	2
11.	Mr. Pravangsu Talukdar S/O Jatin Kumar	Bar Para	"	2
12.	Mr. Milan Chakma S/O	Boalkhali	Dighinala	I
13.	Mr. Samar Bikash Chakma S/O Bindu Chakma	Baradam Khamar Para	"	I
14.	Mr. Anil Bikash Chakma S/O Shantimoy Chakma	Baradam	"	I
15.	Miss Mita Chakma D/O Sukhendra	Bhaibon Chara	Khagrachari	I
	(This is not her permanent address. She was working there as maid-servant.)			
16.	Mrs. Chandra Bala Chakma W/O Giris Chandra	Hajachara	Dighinala	I



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<u>Sl.No.</u>	<u>Head of the family</u>	<u>Village</u>	<u>P.S./Upazilla</u>	<u>Family member</u>
17.	Mr. Priya Darsi Chakma S/O Ajit	Baradam	Dighinala	I
18.	Mr. Kamal Dhan Chakma S/O Japya Chakma	Harinath Para	Khagrachari	4
19.	Mr. Gnana Ranjan Chakma S/O Kamal Dhan Chakma	"	"	3
20.	Mrs. Bindu Bala Chakma W/O Dharma Dhan	"	"	4
21.	Mr. Bibhuti Ranjan Chakma S/O Mr. Kejachya Chakma	"	"	3
22.	Mr. Kumud Baran Chakma S/O Mr. Giris Chandra	Naran Khaiya (Khamar Para)	"	5
23.	Mr. Ratindra Chakma S/O Mr. Nila Moni	Pabla Khali	Dighinala	I
24.	Mr. Chitti Kala Chakma S/O Mr. Bipin Chakma	Chota Haja Chara	"	I

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