

From Dr. Ramendu S. Dewan,
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Date: 3rd Sept. 1986

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

Dear Brother,

May I present to you a report on Dighinala massacres under the heading, "An account of violence, murder, arsoning on tribal people in Dighinala areas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts from 13th June 1986 to 15th June 1986 by Bangladesh forces", sent by the Jana Samhati Samiti (JSS), the only political party in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), on 1st August 1986.

In the last week of May 1986, the Commanding Officer of the 20th East Bengal Regiment at Dighinala cantonment and the leaders of Bengali settlers in the Dighinala Upazilla (Sub-District) met secretly and chalked out a plan to carry out the massacres in the Dighinala Upazilla. According to this plan, one Abdul Mannan, a leader of the Bengali settlers of Rashik Nagor Para in Dighinala Upazilla, set fire to his own house and also to the houses of other Bengali settlers on 10th and 11 June 1986. Then on 13th June 1986, the Bengali settlers led by Muslimuddin (a teacher), Abdul Mannan (a leader), Fazle Rehman (a Member), Hafiz Molla (a Mullah), Nazrul Islam (a Chairman), Khaleque Mia (a teacher), Muttaleb (a Chairman), Akbar (a teacher) and other Bengali leaders, and supported by the Bangladesh army, attacked all tribal villages in Pabla Khali, Kawba Khali, Bara Merung and Bhoiraba areas of the Dighinala Upazilla. They killed many unarmed tribal people, looted properties, stole stocks, raped tribal women, tortured the tribals, burned houses, arrested indigenous villagers, converted some local inhabitants to Islam forcibly, and destroyed many Hindu and Buddhist temples.

By 14th June 1986, about 5,000 homeless tribal men, women and children took refuge in the Parbattya Chattagram Bouddha Anath Ashrama (an orphanage run by the Buddhist monks of the Dashabal Bouddha Raj Vihara) at Boal Khali in Dighinala Upazilla. The Director of the Ashrama tried to contact the Commanding Officer of the Dighinala cantonment to persuade him to stop the Bengali violence. But he was told that the Commanding Officer was not available. However, one junior officer assured him that there would be no more violence by the Bengali settlers. Despite such assurance, the Bangladesh army and the Bengali settlers raided the tribal villages jointly again on 15th June 1986 and unleashed a reign of terror in the area. An army lieutenant with 50 Bengali soldiers came to the Ashrama and told the Director that he had come to protect the tribal people. Then the soldiers interrogated the helpless refugees, searched their bodies, beat them and threatened them with dire consequences. As soon as the soldiers left the Ashrama, the Bengali settlers came in. They ransacked the Ashrama and stole all valuable things including stocks. When the Director of the Ashrama requested them not to plunder the orphanage, the Bengali raiders told him, "Go to the Army authorities, they know better what we ought to do".

As a result of the Dighinala massacres, 29 villages were burnt to ashes and about 40,000 indigenous people lost their homes and farmlands. Some 5,000 of them have fled to the Tripura State of India. The remaining 35,000 refugees have taken shelter in the forests. Their fates are not known. It is feared that many of them died of starvation and diseases.

The Buddhist temples were the main targets of the Bengali attacks. About a dozen Buddhist temples were looted, desecrated and damaged. Four of them were burnt to ashes. The monks were tortured and harassed.

Twenty Buddhist monks had to flee to the Tripura State for their lives. There were 300 orphans in the Parbattya Chattagram Anath Ashrama. Only 106 orphans managed to take refuge in Tripura. The fates of other orphans are not yet known. It is very likely that the girl orphans have been abducted, raped and forcibly converted to Islam and that many of the boy orphans were murdered by the Bengali invaders.

The tribal refugees in India and those refugees who have taken refuge in the upland forests in the CHT need all kinds of help including relief supplies. I shall be most grateful to you if you would kindly send financial and material help to the refugees as their survival is totally dependent on your compassion and generosity.

The extremely hostile Bangladeshi regime is determined to destroy the indigenous people of the CHT on the grounds that they refused - to become Muslims, to become Bengalis and to give up their identity and culture. So the Jumma people (the people of the CHT) have no chance to survive under the Bangladeshi rule. I appeal earnestly to you to take all necessary measures in order to liberate them from the yoke of the Bangladeshi tyrants.

With my best regards.

Yours sincerely

Ramendu
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To

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AN ACCOUNT OF VIOLENCE, MURDER, ARSONING ON TRIBAL PEOPLE IN DIGHINALA
AREAS OF CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS FROM 13TH JUNE, 1986, TO 15TH JUNE, 1986
BY BANGLADESH FORCES

The recent incidents of brutal genocide and massacres of innocent tribal people carried out by the Muslim settlers and Bangladesh army in the Chittagong Hill Tracts has shaken the humanitarian world in total surprise. General Ershad's military government has drawn up a policy of total extermination of the tribal people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). Well-coordinated attacks on the innocent tribal villages resulting in the total destruction of their homes, deaths, rape and atrocities which surpass even the crimes committed by the Nazis on the Jews in the second World War.

Today, the innocent tribal people of CHT are the victims of Bangladesh Government's Islamic Bengalee racism. Since 29th April 1986, Bangladesh Government has systematically carried out inhuman genocide, massacred and made thousands of innocent tribal people homeless in implementation of its policy of "Not the tribal people but the land for Bengalee Muslim settlers in the CHT".

Not long after the Panchari genocide on 1st May 1986, in the Chengi valley, Bangladesh army and the Muslim settlers again laid their hands on Dighinala Upazilla of Mainee valley in the northern part of CHT. The Mainee valley which comprises of fertile cultivable lands and accommodates quite a large population of tribal people has been in the crooked eyes of Bangladesh Government. After the emergence of Bangladesh, Dighinala was given the most priority for the implementation of its sinister plans and programmes which include - establishment of a cantonment, bringing in Bengalee Muslims from Bangladesh as settlers etc.

In 1974, a Bangladesh army officer known as Lt. Kabir who was posted at Dighinala when Dighinala cantonment was being constructed. This Lt. Kabir, one day, went to the Dighinala High School, lined up girl students and said "No autonomy, no tribals, if necessary, sperms of five lac Bengalees would be in your wombs and you will give birth to Bengalee children". The matter was reported to the authorities but no action was taken against this fanatic racist army officer.

Recent communal riots and arsoning in Dighinala Upazilla committed by Muslim settlers with active assistance from Bangladesh army is a deep rooted conspiracy of Bangladesh Government to uproot the tribals from their ancestral lands. It was in the end of May, 1986, a secret meeting was held which was attended by leaders of Muslim settlers and presided by the Commanding Officer of 20th East Bengal Regiment at Dighinala cantonment. In that secret meeting a decision was taken in unison to give immediate effect to the ways and means and methods so that total communal violence could flare up in favour of the Muslim settlers. As a part of the plan - in order to establish their claims that Shanti Bahini members have resorted to arsoning and burning down Muslim settlers' houses - on 10th and 11th June 1986, Abdul Mannan, a leader of Muslim settlers of Rashik Nagor Para in Dighinala Upazilla, set fire on his own house along with other houses of Muslim settlers. So everything was ready for the zero hour. It was on 13th June 1986, at 1100 hrs, total communal violence erupted in Dighinala Upazilla. Muslim settlers supported by Bangladesh army attacked all the tribal villages in Pabla Khali, Kawba Khali, Bara Merung and Bhoiraba areas of Dighinala, setting fire, looting and committing inhuman massacres on the Jumma people. By 14th June 1986, about 5,000 tribal men, women and children were rendered homeless who in order to save their lives took shelter at Parbattya Chhattagram Bouddha Anath Ashrama (an orphanage run by Buddhist monks of Dashabal Bouddha Raj Vihara) at Boal Khali in Dighinala Upazilla.

When the Director of the Ashrama tried to contact the Commanding Officer of Dighinala cantonment on the phone from Thana Bazar, Dighinala, with a view to informing him of the worsening situation, he was told that the

request for giving him an opportunity to talk to the Commanding Officer, an unknown low ranking army officer received his call and gave him assurance that there would be no more violence by Muslim settlers. But to the shocking surprise of the Director who was just assured on 14th June 1986, that there would be no more violence by Muslim settlers, full scale violence erupted on 15th June 1986, as Muslim settlers and Bangladesh army units jointly attacked all the tribal villages killing, looting, arsoning and destroying many tribal villages leaving only traces of ashes.

As the helpless Jumma men, women and children numbering about 5,000 took shelter in the Ashrama, an army officer (Lieutenant) with 50 soldiers surrounded the Ashrama and told the Director that he had come for the protection of these Jumma people. But it was found later that his motive was quite opposite to what he said to the Director. The soldiers started interrogation, body search as well as beating the innocent tribals accusing them of communal violence. The Ashrama was filled with men from the army intelligence who were all the time keeping surveillance on the Ashrama threatening these innocent helpless people with dire consequences. After the departure of the army personnel, a group of Muslim settlers entered into Ashrama and ransacked all the properties and looted food grains and other properties in front of the Director of the Ashram who appealed fervently to them not to indulge in such activities. But the Muslim rowdies told the Director in reply "Go to the army authorities, they know better what we ought to do".

Incidents of persecution, religious conversion and genocide have taken the innocent Jumma people on the verge of being exterminated by the Bangladesh army and the Muslim settlers throughout the CHT. A report on the affected areas and also the innocent people who were the victims of the recent communal violence carried out by the Bangladesh army and the Muslim settlers is shown below:

Miss Gurimila Chakma, 14 yrs, daughter of Ranga Dari Chakma of Betchari Mukh in Dighinala Upazilla, was gang-raped by Muslim settlers on 13th June 1986.

Killed by Muslim settlers and the Bangladesh army

1. Mr. Shyama Charan Chakma, 65 yrs, son of Mr. Bhujendra Lal Chakma of Kawba Khali in Dighinala Upazilla.
2. Mr. Tara Charan Karbari, 75 yrs, son of Mr. Lembo Chakma of Inner Betchari in Dighinala Upazilla.
3. Mr. Ranga Chakma, 72 yrs, son of Mr. Balaram Chakma of Inner Betchari in Dighinala Upazilla.
4. Mr. Swarna Mohan Chakma, 70 yrs, son of Mr. Doya Ram Chakma of Kawba Khali Mukh in Dighinala Upazilla.
5. Mr. Sasadhar Chakma, son of Mr. Doya Ram Chakma of Kawba Khali in Dighinala Upazilla.
6. Mr. Nabha Jyoti Chakma, 40 yrs, son of Mr. Sachindra Lal Chakma of Hutchinsonpur in Dighinala Upazilla, was arrested by the army and taken to Dighinala cantonment where he was beaten to death.
7. Mr. Bapla Chakma, 26 yrs, son of Mr. Fela Ram Chakma of Bhoiraba in Dighinala Upazilla.

Arrested and kept under army custody in Dighinala cantonment since 13th June 1986

1. Mr. Subodh Kumar Chakma, 50 yrs, son of Mr. Ratna Mohan Chakma of Ratna Mohan Member Para in Dighinala Upazilla.
2. Mr. Ananda Ranjan Chakma, 20 yrs, son of Mr. Joy Kumar Chakma of Gulchari in Dighinala Upazilla.

Conversion to Islam

1. Mr. Ananda Ranjan Chakma, 60 yrs, son of Mr. Bijoy Sen Chakma of Betchari Mukh in Dighinala Upazilla, was forcibly converted to Islam by Muslim settlers and the army. He was compelled to embrace Islam or else face death at the hands of Muslim settlers on 13th June 1986.

Buddhist temples burnt to ashes

1. Dharmankur Bouddha Vihara of Kamakuchara in Dighinala Upazilla.
2. Moitree Vihara of Pablakhali-Shantipur -Do- -Do- -Do-
3. Kawbakhali Bouddha Vihar of Kawba Khali -Do- -Do- -Do-
4. Bana Vihara and Bhavana Ashrama -Do- -Do- -Do-

Buddhist monks forced to take refuge in the Tripura State, India

1. Rev. Uriya Mohasthavira, 70 yrs, of Bouddha Vihara in Bacha Morong within Dighinala Upazilla.
2. Rev. Priya Tissa Bhikshu, 38 yrs, of Dashabal Bouddha Raj Vihara in Boalkhali within Dighinala Upazilla.
3. Rev. Sumanachara Bhikshu, 58 yrs, of Benuban Vihara in Babuchara within Dighinala Upazilla.
4. Rev. Arya Nanda Bhikshu, 35 yrs, of Moitree Vihara in Pablakhali within Dighinala Upazilla.
5. Rev. U Chandra Bhikshu, 45 yrs, of Bouddha Vihar in Baradam within Dighinala Upazilla.
6. Rev. Dharma Darshi Bhikshu, 32 yrs, of Dashabal Bouddha Raj Vihara in Boalkhali within Dighinala Upazilla.
7. Rev. Jnan Pal Bhikshu, 25 yrs, of Moitree Vihara in Pablakhali within Dighinala Upazilla.
8. Rev. Sumangala Bhikshu, 20 yrs, of Benuban Bouddha Vihara in Babuchara within Dighinala Upazilla.
9. Rev. Sumanajyoti Bhikshu, 23 yrs, -Do-
10. Rev. Dhamma Priya Bhikshu, 80 yrs, of Bana Vihara and Bhavana Ashrama in Dighinala Upazilla.
11. Rev. Buddha Nanda Bhikshu, 22 yrs, of Siddha Nanda Vihara in Banchara within Dighinala Upazilla.
12. Rev. Mangala Nanda Bhikshu, 21 yrs, of Dashabal Bouddha Raj Vihar in Boalkhali within Dighinala Upazilla.
13. Rev. Mangalachara Bhikshu, 21 yrs, of Rajani Vihara in Shonkhola Para within Dighinala Upazilla.
14. Rev. Teja Mitra Bhikshu, 21 yrs, -Do-
15. Rev. Agga Bansa Sramana, 19 yrs, of Dashabal Bouddha Raj Vihara in Boalkhali within Dighinala Upazilla.
16. Rev. Sunanda Sramana, 19 yrs, -Do-
17. Rev. Buddha Rabi Sramana, 19 yrs, -Do-
18. Rev. Susanta Sramana, 60 yrs, of Benuban Vihara in Babuchara within Dighinala Upazilla.
19. Rev. Sudarshana Sramana, 14 yrs, -Do-
20. Rev. Supriya Sramana, 15 yrs, -Do-

Tribal villages which were affected by attacks, looting and arsoning committed by the Bangladesh army and illegal Muslim settlers

1. Betchari Mukh - Chakma village in Dighinala Upazilla
2. Middle Betchari - -Do- -Do-
3. Choto Betchari Mukh - -Do- -Do-
4. Bhoiraba - Tripura village -Do-
5. Poang Para - -Do- -Do-
6. Inner Boalkhali - -Do- -Do-
7. Sappai Para - -Do- -Do-
8. Kamakuchara Adam - Chakma village -Do-
9. Mohajan Para - -Do- -Do-
10. Shantipur - -Do- -Do-
11. Langelo Adam - -Do- -Do-
12. Headman Para - -Do- -Do-
13. Harendra Karbari Para - -Do- -Do-
14. Raj Mohan Member Para - -Do- -Do-
15. Hutchinsonpur - -Do- -Do-
16. Khal Kulo Adam - -Do- -Do-
17. Pan Kheiya Para - -Do- -Do-
18. Reboti Karbari Para - -Do- -Do-
19. Duluchari - -Do- -Do-
20. Shantipur of Bara Merung - -Do- -Do-
21. Laxminur - -Do- -Do-

22.	Kalachan Mohajan Para	-	Chakma village in Dighinala Upazilla
23.	Ratna Mohan Member Para	-	-Do- -Do-
24.	Kamalapur	-	-Do- -Do-
25.	Kalachan Para in Bhoiraba	-	-Do- -Do-
26.	Babu Para	-	-Do- -Do-
27.	Kattalya Mura Adam	-	-Do- -Do-
28.	Rashik Nagor Para	-	-Do- -Do-
29.	Larma Para	-	-Do- -Do-

The Muslim settlers who are solely responsible for Dighinala massacres

<u>Names of the culprits</u>	<u>Their settlements in the CHT</u>	<u>The areas of Bangladesh they came from</u>
1. Muslimuddin, a teacher	Rashik Nagor Para	-
2. Abdul Mannan, a leader	-Do-	Barisal District
3. Abdul Rashid, a leader	Betchari	-
4. Fazle Rehman, a Member	Rashik Nagor Para	Rangpur District
5. Rezaul Rehman Sarkar	North Betchari	Mymensing District
6. Abul Hossain, a leader	Reng Kajjya	Barisal District
7. Shamsul Talukdar	-Do-	-Do-
8. Hafiz Molla, Imam of Thana Bazar Mosque	Thana Bazar, Dighinala	-Do-
9. Abdul Rab, a leader	Rashik Nagor Para	-Do-
10. Nazrul Islam, Chairman	Shantipur, Bara Merung	Dinajpur District
11. Khaleque Mia, a Teacher	Rashik Nagor Para	-
12. Akbar, a teacher of Rashik Nagor Para Primary School	-Do-	-
13. Muttalib, a leader	Choto Betchari	Barisal District
14. Muttaleb, a Chairman	Rashik Nagor Para	Dinajpur District
15. Khalifa Mushtaque	-Do-	-
16. Hafizuddin, a leader	-Do-	Rangpur District
17. Badshah Mia	-Do-	-Do-
18. Abdul Rezaque	Bara Merung	-
19. Mohammad Toha	Rashik Nagor Para	-
20. Idris Ali	-Do-	-
21. Mohammad Mukhtar	-Do-	-
22. Mohiuddin	-Do-	-

Parbattya Chattagram Anatha Ashrama (an orphanage run by Buddhist monks of Dashabal Bouddha Raj Vihara) which has 300 orphans has been ransacked by the Bangladesh army and the Muslim settlers. All of its members had to leave the Ashrama for their lives. Only 106 orphans managed to take refuge in Tripura State, India. They have been sheltered in refugee camps but the fates of others are not known. To mention further, along with these members of the Ashrama, about 5,000 tribal men, women and children were able to take refuge in India.

Almost 40,000 tribal people have been affected and made homeless due to the communal violence by the Muslim settlers with active participation and support of Bangladesh army in Dighinala Upazilla from 13 June 1986 to 15 June 1986. More than 2,000 houses of the tribals have been burnt to ashes. About 5,000 people managed to take refuge in India but the rest of the affected population are living in subhuman life conditions with no security of life and property in the deep forests and near the international border. Their fates are uncertain until and unless the world community comes to their rescue or else they are sure to face inevitable death due to lack of food and shelter, diseases and above all barbaric genocide by the illegal Muslim infiltrators and the Bangladesh army.

Information Dept.
Jana Samhati Samiti

(This report was sent by the Jana Samhati Samiti on 1st August 1986)