

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

Date: 11 Sept. 1984

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

Dear Sir,

May I present to you another evidence regarding the crisis of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). I enclose herewith a copy of the article, "Even after twenty years 25 thousand Chakmas have not acquired citizenship" from the Ananda Bazar Patrika of 15 August 1984.

This report shows that the Bangladesh Government is indulging in state terrorism in order to grab the tribal farming land for the outsider Muslim Bengalis. In May this year a very serious turmoil took place at Bhushanchara near the border of Mizoram when the local Muslim Bengali officers illegally and forcibly acquired tribal farming land for the Muslim Bengali settlers from the plain districts of Bangladesh such as Patuakhali, Barishal, Khulna, Jessore, Faridpur, Comilla and Noakhali. The Bangladesh army and police also took the side of their fellow Bengali brethren and attacked the tribal villages in the Bhushanchara area. Hundreds of tribal men, women and children have been murdered. Five thousand tribal people sought refuge in the Indian State of Mizoram and at least ten thousand tribal people fled to the forests because they had no official and police protection. Now there is not a single tribal people in the area and the entire Bhushanchara area is under the occupation of the outsider Muslim Bengalis. The government is now pouring millions of rupees to settle the Muslim settlers there. In this way the Muslim Bengalis have occupied almost all the valleys in the CHT. The indigenous nationalities of the CHT are facing the prospect of total extinction.

The Bangladesh Government's programme of systematic extermination of the indigenous people is going on unabated. I shall be most grateful to you if you would kindly take all positive actions to protect the helpless people of the CHT and also their homeland from the extremely hostile Muslim Bengalis invasion.

To  
Rudy Ryser Esq.,  
Centre for World Indigenous Studies,  
P.O. Box 911, Snoqualmie,  
Washington 98065,  
U.S.A.

Yours sincerely

*Ramendu Dewan*

THE ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA

15 August 1984, Calcutta

Even After Twenty Years 25 Thousand Chakmas have not acquired citizenship

Staff reporter: The fate of 25 thousand Chakmas, who left their country and fled to Arunachal Pradesh, is uncertain even after 20 years. Even now they have not acquired citizenship. In May this year five thousand new Chakma refugees have come to Mizoram. This influx of refugees is the result of continuing dissatisfaction and turmoil in the region of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. According to the Border Security Force these Chakma tribesmen, who have come from the other side of the border and taken refuge this side, are suffering from lack of security. None of them wants to return. The infiltration of the Chakmas into Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and other north-eastern States of India has gradually been increasing for the last few years. The Chakmas live more or less in the three districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts - Bandarban, Rangamati and Khagrachari. But the largest number of Chakmas live in the Rangamati district. In May this year a terrible turmoil took place at Bhushanchara near the border of Mizoram. A spokesman of the Border Security Force informed that according to their news that conflict of Bhushanchara was caused by a land dispute.

The camp of the Chakmas was attacked. At least 90 people died. Then the influx of new Chakma refugees entered Mizoram. The Chakmas, who came to this side of the border, complained that military repression on the other side of the border compelled them to leave their homes.

The informed circles think that the situation has become more complicated by the breakup of the armed wing of the Chakmas, the "Shanti Bahini", into two groups. The Shanti Bahini is now divided into two belligerent factions of Priti Kumar Chakma and Santu Larma. Disagreement in opinion of the two groups has increased after '82 and now conflict between the two groups is taking place regularly. In fact, the "civil war" started after November '83. Even now the Shanti Bahini is waging guerilla-type attack everywhere in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. In January this year the Larma group in Kachalong kidnapped five foreign experts of an American oil exploration company and exacted one and half crore rupees in cash and 19 kg gold as ransom. The hostages were released after 49 days.

The experienced circles report: since the time of the former President of Bangladesh, Ziaur Rahman, the settlement of non-tribal people has been accelerated. The Shanti Bahini comment: in accordance with the Chittagong Hill Tracts Manual of 1900 the outsiders are not allowed to settle in that region. They do not like the immigration of non-tribal people in <sup>to</sup> Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari and that is the dispute.

Meanwhile in April this year the present President of Bangladesh,

H.M. Ershad/-

H.M. Ershad called the members of the Shanti Bahini to surrender. The time-limit for surrender was once again extended. The Bangladesh Authorities claimed: many hostile Chakmas surrendered in response to the call of the President. But it has been learnt from the news coming to this side of the border that the call for surrender has totally failed. Even now the hostile activities are going on in full swing.

**গোনে ক বঙ্গীয় পত্রিকা**  
২৫ জুলাই ১৯৭১

## নিগাহে ৩২৫ হাজার চাকমা নাগরিক পত্রিকা

চাকমা নাগরিক পত্রিকা... (The rest of the page contains dense, mostly illegible Bengali text, likely a newspaper clipping or a large advertisement.)