

# Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission

**Co-Chairpersons:**  
Sultana Kamal, Lord Eric Awebury, Elsa Stamatopoulou  
**Members:**  
Shapan Adnan, Sara Hossain, Iftakharuzzaman  
Khushi Kabir, Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Tone Bleie  
Lars-Anders Baer, Michael C. van Walt van Praag  
Hurst Hannum, Yasmeen Haque

7 July, 2013

## Press Statement

### **CHTC deeply concerned with increasing violence in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and calls for specific actions to bring the perpetrators to justice**

The International Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission (CHTC) is alarmed with the increasing level of violence in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and the questionable role of the law enforcement agencies in the area. The Commission calls upon them to discharge their law enforcement duties with highest level of integrity and impartiality. CHTC demands that perpetrators of violence as well as those responsible for inaction of law enforcement agencies be brought to justice in the due process.

The CHTC has received reports that a 50-year-old indigenous woman named Chanchala Chakma was critically injured when riot police open fired at her on 30 June 2013 in south Khabongpujya area of Khagrachari district during a strike called by Democratic Youth Forum (DYF) in the CHT.

The CHTC has also received reports that members of the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) arrested an indigenous villager, 42-year-old Bappi Tripura, without an arrest warrant from his home in the village of Headman Para under Gomati Union in Matiranga Upazila in Khagrachari district and subjected him to physical torture on the same day.

A few days earlier on 18 June in Gomati, 40 Tripura families were forced to flee their homes when about 200 Bengali settlers from Bandorchara near Gomati bazaar allegedly attacked the Tripura village of Takar Moni Para that night.

The CHTC is also alarmed at the allegations of eviction of indigenous Chak and Mro villagers from their ancestral villages by land grabbers in Naikhyongchari and Lama upazila under Bandarban district. It has been alleged that 21 families of indigenous Chak community were evicted from Chak Para of Naikhangchhari Upazila in Bandarban. In addition to this about 210 Mro families are allegedly being threatened with eviction from Lulaing area of Soroi union of Lama upazila.

We have also received media reports that at least 10 people have been killed in intra-party fighting between indigenous political parties from the beginning of this year, 2013. Indigenous citizen's groups have also raised this concern.

The CHTC is very concerned that in all of these cases the police have failed to take control of the situation and protect the indigenous people from eviction, attacks, threats and killings and bring the perpetrators to justice. The authorities need to take urgent measures to protect the land and lives of the indigenous peoples in the above-mentioned areas and ensure that all of these cases are subject to full and effective investigation.

**Co-Chairpersons:**  
Sultana Kamal, Lord Eric Avebury, Elsa Stamatopoulou

**Members:**  
Shapan Adnan, Sara Hossain, Iftekharuzzaman  
Khushi Kabir, Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Tone Bleie  
Lars-Anders Baer, Michael C. van Walt van Praag  
Hurst Hannum, Yasmeen Haque

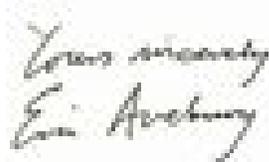
## Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission

The failure to fully implement the 1997 CHT Accord also needs to be addressed very urgently. The Government's claim in its budget speech that "Most of the clauses of the Accord have been implemented" is not justified. Some essential clauses including dismantling of all temporary military camps, functioning of the Land Commission in accordance with the advice of the CHT Regional Council, and the handing over of the crucial subjects to the regional administration remain unmet. The failure to activate these vital provisions, and the discrimination against indigenous peoples by the law-enforcing authorities, are causing a rise in violence in the CHT and this needs to be urgently addressed.

The CHTC calls upon the Government to urgently address these crucial issues to act immediately to ensure that:

- Indigenous peoples are not evicted from their ancestral lands under any circumstances.
- Perpetrators of all forms of violence including those who threaten the lives and livelihoods of the indigenous peoples are immediately brought to justice.
- Law-enforcing agencies refrain from playing a discriminatory role in the CHT against indigenous people, and those responsible for questionable role, should be brought to justice.
- Mixed police are deployed in all parts of the CHT to deal effectively with communal attacks.
- An effective, efficient and acceptable Land Commission chairperson is appointed to deal with disputed land in the CHT.
- All the 13 points for amendment of the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission Act are approved by the parliament in order to ensure fair resolution of land disputes.
- Perpetrators of all violence are brought to justice.
- The Government stops making misleading claims about the status of implementation of the CHT Accord and demonstrate the political will to deliver its own commitment to implement the Accord fully without any further delay.

On behalf of the CHT Commission



Eric Avebury  
Co-chair of the  
CHT Commission



Sultana Kamal  
Co-chair of the  
CHT Commission



Elsa Stamatopoulou  
Co-chair of the  
CHT Commission