

Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission

Co-Chairpersons:

Sultana Kamal,
Lord Eric Avebury,
Elsa Stamatopoulou

5 July 2012

To
Inspector General of Police
Police Headquarters
Fulbaria
Dhaka

Re: Alleged attack on Chakma community by Police

Dear Sir,

We are writing to draw your attention to the allegations of torture, looting and rape of members of the indigenous Chakma community at Aamtoli village, Hoaikong Union under Teknaf Upazila in Cox's Bazaar district which reportedly occurred on 30 May 2012, and where no effective investigations or actions appear to have been taken to date to apprehend those responsible or provide security for the victims. We call upon you to conduct fully impartial and credible investigation into the matter and take disciplinary action against those found guilty in a manner that would ensure that no recurrence of such abuse takes place in the future.

According to news reports the attack by police officials took place at around 3 AM on 30 May 2011 and left at least 11 indigenous Chakma men and women, including some students, injured. Reportedly, a pregnant woman was badly injured and gave birth to her child before term.

As far as we are aware, no inquiry into this incident or the allegations against specific police officers has as yet been initiated. We understand that many villagers have gone into hiding fearing further attacks from the police. Those in the village are too afraid to file cases against police as many of their relatives have gone into hiding fearing further attacks from police. However, police have filed cases against villagers, both Bengali and Chakmas. Although all the Bengalis arrested are out on bail, four of the Chakmas are out on bail but many other Chakmas arrested are unable to pay the bail and are still in prison.

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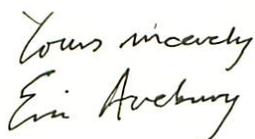
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We request you to investigate these allegations immediately and take exemplary action against any person found responsible for these attacks. The work of the police is to protect each and every citizen of the country and to investigate all alleged crimes and take action to apprehend those responsible. As the head of the police it is your responsibility to publicly and impartially investigate thoroughly every case of reported violence by police personnel and prevent any such violent crimes from taking place by giving strict instructions to the police about how to conduct themselves with members of the public, and ensure compliance with your orders.

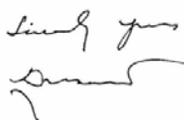
Bangladesh is a signatory of the Convention against Torture and Other Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and the country's human rights record will be put under review at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council in 2013. Conduct by members of the law enforcement personnel will be placed very high on this review. In a democracy, citizens of a country, especially minorities should be able to live free of fear of torture and repression from members of the law enforcement.

We look forward to hearing from you at the earliest on the investigations carried out and the action taken in the above matter.

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