

19 March, 2012

To
Mr. Gowher Rizvi
Adviser to the Honourable Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Old Airport Road
Tejgoan, Dhaka

Subject: Comments regarding "international agencies hampering the work of the implementation of the CHT Accord"

Dear Mr. Rizvi,

We are writing to you to express our disappointment at the comments reportedly made by you about the relation of the work of the international agencies and the implementation of the 1997 CHT Accord.

According to media reports¹ you stated that international organizations “often complicate matters further trying to address the Chittagong Hill Tracts issues” and that “those working on the CHT issues should focus more on how to implement the peace accord”.

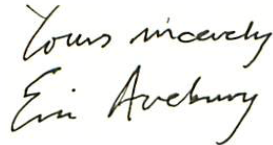
It is regrettable that the Government has taken so few positive steps to implement the Accord, while resorting to such sweeping statements about "international organizations".

Many national and international organisations have consistently called on the Government to implement the Accord. Like many of them, the International CHT Commission (CHTC) has been working towards constructively engaging with all stakeholders in Bangladesh in promoting respect for human rights and implementing the Accord. Unfortunately we have faced continuing obstructions from the Government in doing our work.

¹ “Delay in CHT Development Work: Int'l agencies blamed,” The Daily Star, 5 March 2012.

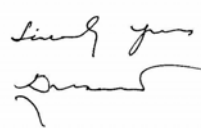
Given the importance of your office in Government we would like to believe that those were not your words. However if you did say those, we would appreciate an elaboration from you on what exactly you meant. We would especially appreciate a strong positive role by yourself and your office towards working together with all stakeholders to implement the Accord.

On behalf of the CHT Commission



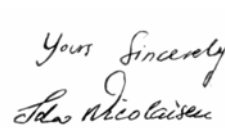
*Yours sincerely
Eric Avebury*

Eric Avebury
Co-chair of the
CHT Commission



*Sincerely yours
Sultana Kamal*

Sultana Kamal
Co-chair of the
CHT Commission



*Yours Sincerely
Ida Nicolaisen*

Ida Nicolaisen
Co-chair of the
CHT Commission