

# Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission

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**Co-Chairpersons:**  
Sultana Kamal, Elsa Stamatopoulou  
**Members:**  
Shapan Adnan, Lars-Anders Baer, Tone Bleie  
Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Bina D'Costa, Hurst Hannum  
Yasmeen Haque, Sara Hossain, Muhammad Zafar Iqbal  
Khushi Kabir, Myrna Cunningham Kain,  
Michael C. van Walt van Praag, Iftekharuzzaman

## Press Release

### **The International Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission condemns the killing of UPDF leader Mithun Chakma; calls for the immediate arrest and punishment of the culprits and demands an end to the culture of impunity in the Chittagong Hill Tracts**

**7 January 2018, Dhaka:** The Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission (CHTC) is deeply concerned about the killing of Mithun Chakma, a UPDF leader based in Khagrachari who was shot dead near his house, according to media sources (Dhaka Tribune 2018, January 3). The carrying out of such a brutal killing in the heart of town in broad daylight once again brings into focus the abysmal law and order situation in the hill region. It also illustrates the vulnerable situation in which the indigenous rights advocates are operating and the impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of human rights violations. Despite the high level of security and military presence in the area, indigenous people live under constant threat.

According to media sources, earlier in the day Mithun went to the Khagrachari Court to attend a hearing in a case filed against him. After returning to the house from the court he was talking to his brother at around 12:00 noon in front of the gate of his house when a group of armed men came and forced him into a motorcycle and abducted him. Afterwards, they shot him several times on his head and other parts of the body and dumped his body in the Sluice Gate area.

The killing of Mithun Chakma and a number of other recent attacks on indigenous rights advocates, including the murder of a former UP chairman in Naniarchar, and an Awami League leader in Jurachari, indicates an alarming trend in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Although 20 years have passed since the signing of the Accord, these killings and the continued repression of indigenous people and the grabbing of their lands, violence against indigenous women and communal attacks demonstrate that the government has failed to bring peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

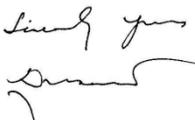
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The Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission demands the immediate arrest and punishment of those involved in the murder of Mithun Chakma. At the same time the Commission urges the Government of Bangladesh to stop the repression and harassment of the general public and indigenous rights advocates in the CHT allegedly by security and law enforcement agencies and to fulfill its legal and constitutional obligations as well as under International Human Rights Law.

On behalf of the CHT Commission,



Sultana Kamal  
Co-chair of the  
CHT Commission



Elsa Stamatopoulou  
Co-chair of the  
CHT Commission

**Members:** Shapan Adnan, Lars Anders Baer, Tone Bleie, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Bina D'Costa, Hurst Hannum, Yasmeen Haque, Sara Hossain, Zafar Iqbal, , Khushi Kabir, Myrna Cunningham Kain, Michael van Walt van Praag, Iftekharuzzaman.

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