

# Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission

## Co-Chairpersons:

Sultana Kamal, Elsa Stamatopoulou  
Myrna Cunningham Kain

## 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  
Michael C. van Walt van Praag, Iftekharuzzaman

## Statement of CHTC

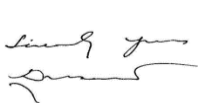
**The International Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission expresses deep concern and condemns the destruction of the Buddha statue in Khagrachhari. The Commission demands that an independent and impartial enquiry committee be set up to ensure arrest of the culprits and rebuilding of the statue of the Buddha.**

**24 October. 2018, Dhaka:** On the night of October 23, 2018 a newly-constructed Buddha statue was destroyed in Kukichara area of Hafchari union under Guimara Police Station of Khagrachari District. The Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission expresses deep concern and condemns the incident which occurred just a day before the Buddhist festival of Prabarona Purnima.

Buddhist monks generally conclude three months of meditation in the temple on the day of Prabarona. But it is a matter of great concern that the Buddha statue was destroyed just a day before in Kukichara Buddhahihar. This has undoubtedly had a very negative impact on and humiliated the followers and disciples of Buddhism as well as the secular people of the country. The incident establishes the fact that the right to observe religious activities of minority communities cannot be ensured although that is a commitment that is enshrined in the Bangladesh Constitution. The Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission believes that the attackers are against the very idea of communal harmony in the country and that this was therefore a pre-meditated attack intended to destabilize the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission therefore demands the formation of an independent and impartial enquiry committee, immediate detention and arrest of the culprits and exemplary punishment as per the law of the land. The Commission also demands that the state must help to reconstruct the Buddha statue immediately and ensure the safety and security of the Buddhist community in order that they can have the freedom to observe their religious activities without fear.

On behalf of the CHT Commission,



Sultana Kamal  
Co-chair of the  
CHT Commission



Elsa Stamatopoulou  
Co-chair of the  
CHT Commission



Myrna Cunningham Kain  
Co-chair of the  
CHT Commission

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

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