

Yearly Report 2006

At a glance

Form of atrocity ↓	Perpetrator →	Security Forces	Bengali Settlers	SF+BS	UPDF	Total
No. of person killed		16	2	-	13	31
No. of person tortured		33	53	31	13	130
No. of person arrested		31	-	1	-	32
No. of person harassed		50	-	-	8	58
No. of person against whom case lodged		11	1	-	-	12
No. of house set fire		-	11	-	-	11
No. of house looted & destructed		1	104	-	10	115
No. of house searched		1	-	-	1	2
No. of person raped		1	7	-	-	8
No. of person sexually harassed		1	2	-	-	3
No. of person kidnapped		-	-	-	13	13
No. of person whose land grabbed		1	1	5	-	7
Total		146	181	37	58	422

SF+BS = Security Forces & Bengali settlers; UPDF = United Peoples' Democratic Front

Headline of the Report 2006

January 2006

- 3 January 2006: Innocent Jumma villagers brutally tortured by Major Nasim of Panchari zone
- 8 January 2006: One innocent villager killed after abduction by UPDF in Laxmichari
- 14 January 2006: Communal attack on Jumma made by Bengali settlers villages in Mahalchari
- 21 January 2006: Photo with arms taken forcefully by army in Nakkhyangchari
- 29 January 2006: Jumma woman wounded by army in Rangamati

February 2006

- 6 February 2006: One Jumma woman tried to rape by army person in Naniarchar
- 20 February 2006: Jumma girl raped and killed by Bengali settlers in Nakkhyangchari

March 2006

- 5 March 2006: Army seized arrestees from courtyard and took snap of them without court order
- 8 March 2006: International Women Day observed in CHT
- 10 March 2006: Jumma villager forced to sign for giving up landownership by the police in Baghaichari
- 20 March 2006: Expansion of Fresh Settlement at Gamaridhala in Khagrachari of CHT
- 23 March 2006: Communal attack on Jumma village made by Bengali settlers in Ghagra

April 2006

- 3 April 2006: Communal attack on Jumma People by Bengali Settlers at Maischari under Mahalchari
- 7 April 2006: Innocent girl raped by Bengali settler in Manikchari
- 10 April 2006: One Jumma widow raped by army in Baghaichari
- In April 2006: UPDF extended its so-called General Amnesty for PCJSS
- In April 2006: Bengali settlers occupied Jumma's land in Guimara
- 17 April 2006: A Jumma girl raped by a group of Bengali settlers in Matiranga
- 23 April 2006: Parliamentary Committee recommended to continue rationing to the Bengali settlers in CHT
- 27 April 2006: Bengali settler occupied five acres of garden of Sanjib Chakma

28 April 2006: 16 innocent Jumma villagers arrested and tortured by army in Longadu

May 2006

4-5 May 2006: 6 innocent Jumma villagers arrested by the army in Mahalchari
 7 May 2006: A returnee PCJSS member arrested by the army in Panchar
 9 May 2006: UPDF issued letter for collecting illegal tolls in Panchari
 17 May 2006: Jumma villagers brutally tortured by army in Longadu
 29 May 2006: Anti-accord motion in the meeting of Parliamentary Standing Committee on CHT
 In May 2006: Bengali settlers occupied the lands of Buddhist Bihar

June 2006

19 June 2006: CHT people demanded ban of Khagrachari DC's booklet
 19 June 2006: PCJSS conference attacked by Bengali settlers in Alikadam
 21 June 2006: Meeting of Cabinet Committee on CHT Affairs held in Dhaka
 30 June 2006: A Jumma woman raped by the Bengali settlers
 30 June 2006: An innocent Jumma arrested by RAB in Ghagra

July 2006

12 July 2006: Innocent shopkeeper arrested by the army in Mahalchari
 18 July 2006: One PCJSS member kidnapped by UPDF in Longadu
 22 July 2006: One villager killed by the UPDF in Longadu
 22 July 2006: Two villagers killed by the UPDF in Ramgarh
 23 July 2006: Meeting between Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Santu Larma
 29 July 2006: Villagers abducted by UPDF armed cadres in Kaukhali

August 2006

2 August 2006: Innocent school teacher and public representative arrested by army in Baghaichari
 6 August 2006: Buddhist temple burnt to ashes by Bengali settlers in Longadu
 7 August 2006: Maischari rape case transferred to Chittagong
 8 August 2006: Roundtable conference on International decade of the world's indigenous peoples held in Dhaka
 9 August 2006: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples observed through colourful programmes
 10 August 2006: Workshop on Primary education in adivasi mother tongue held in Dhaka
 17 August 2006: BDR plan to set up a new camp in Jurachari
 22 August 2006: A Jumma girl attempted to Rape by BDR Personnel in Barkal
 In August 2006: Meeting of Sama Odhikar Andolan held with help of army in Naniarchar
 23 August 2006: UP Chairman held by the army in Mahalchari
 24 August 2006: Jumma students attacked by the cadres of BNP student organisation at Rangamati Govt. College
 26 August 2006: Innocent villagers beaten by UPDF armed cadres in Guimara
 26 August 2006: Five villagers injured by UPDF cadres
 27 August 2006: Land grabbing by Bengali settlers with the help of army in Khagrachari sadar upazila
 27 August 2006: An adolescent girl raped by Bengali settler in Baghaichari
 29 August 2006: Kraosong Marma injured by UPDF cadres in Guimara
 31 August 2006: A student leader abducted by UPDF and released later
 In August 2006: Continuous brutal atrocities committing by the UPDF in Laxmichari

September 2006

2 September 2006: A Jumma adolescent raped and killed allegedly by Bengali settlers in Dighinala
 2 September 2006: 3 killed and 1 abducted by UPDF cadres in Manikchari

- 4 September 2006: One Jumma youth killed by the UPDF in Guimara
- 7 September 2006: Jumma women tried to rape by Bengali in Bandarban
- 8 September 2006: A minor Jumma girl raped by a Bengali settler in Rajasthali
- 10 September 2006: PCP welcome reception for new students held peacefully in Bandarban

October 2006

- 7 October 2006: One Jumma killed by Bengali settler in Bandarban
- 11 October 2006: Prime Minister Khaleda Zia visited CHT

November 2006

- 10 November 2006: 23rd Death Anniversary of M N Larma Observed
- 13 November 2006: PCJSS activities at Baghaihat stopped by Army
- 15 November 2006: Jumma woman in Barkal attempted to rape by Bengali settler
- 18 November 2006: Passengers of bridegroom harassed by Army in Rajasthali upazila
- 24-26 November 2006: Members' Conference of PCJSS held in Rangamati

December 2006

- 1 December 2006: Discussion on land issue, problem of IDPs and implementation of Accord held in Dhaka
- 2 December 2006: 9th Anniversary of CHT Accord Observed
- 8 December 2006: New army camp set up in Panchari
- 9 December 2006: PCJSS fields its candidates in the general election of 2007

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January 2006

(1) 3 January 2006: Innocent Jumma villagers brutally tortured by Major Nasim of Panchari zone

On 3 January 2006 at night around 10.30 Major Nasim of Panchari zone in Khagrachari district tortured brutally following villagers of Dewan Para under Khagrachari sadar upazila in Khagrachari district:

- 1) Mr. Sindhu Kumar Chakma (42) s/o late Dayal Kumar Chakma
- 2) Mr. Arun Bikash Dewan (27) s/o Umakanta Dewan
- 3) Mr. Bibha Dewan (22) s/o Umakanta Dewan.

It is learnt that on that day, Major Nasim came to Bhaibonchara camp and stayed whole night at Bhaibonchara camp. During the staying at the camp, he sent a group of army from Bhaibonchara camp to arrest Sindhu Kumar Chakma. Sindhu Kumar was brought at Bhaibonchara camp and tortured brutally. After that, latter two villagers mentioned above who were sons of returnee PCJSS member were brought from their home and also tortured by the army. Major Nasim asked them to present their father (who stayed in Rangamati for treatment) to him. He also ordered them to leave village if they could not present their father before him.

On the other, on 4 January at around 7.00 a.m. Major Nasim also tortured following villagers at College Gate area while returning his zone headquarter from Bhaibonchara camp. The victims were:

- 1) Mr. Apo Chakma (40) s/o Kamesh Chandra Chakma; he is General Secretary of PCJSS of Panchari branch
- 2) Mr. Binoy Chakma (28) s/o late Sukomal Chakma.

(2) 8 January 2006: One innocent villager killed after abduction by UPDF in Laxmichari

On 8/01/2006 one innocent villager was killed after kidnapping by UPDF armed cadres in Laxmichari upazila under Khagrachari district. It is reported that at mid-night an armed group of UPDF led by Ratan Basu Chakma alias Joy (30) s/o Dulal Basu Chakma of Dilyatali village and Laxmi Chakma (28) s/o late Taruni Mohan Chakma of Golachari under Laxmichari upazila conducted operation at Bengmara village under Laxmichari upazila in Khagrachari. They looked for PCJSS member Mr. Kala Baran Chakma there and kidnapped two villagers from the following village:

- 1) Mr. Juddha Mohan Chakma (25) s/o Breja Chakma
- 2) Mr. Lajya Chakma (26) s/o late Shanti Chakma.

Next day (on 9 January) Mr. Lajya Chakma was killed at Battala of same village in front of some villagers and ordered villagers to cremate dead body. Other person Mr. Juddha Mohan Chakma was taken to more remote area and Taka 2,00,000/- was demanded as ransom for releasing him. On that day, Taka 60,000/- have been paid by his relatives to UPDF cadres. After paying all the money, he was supposed to release.

On 11/01/2006 same group of UPDF attacked again at Bengmara village. During the attack, they had beaten up Ms. Jali Chakma (50) w/o late Shanti Chakma. She is mother of Lajya Chakma and mother-in-law of Kala Baran Chakma (PCJSS member). She was ordered to present her son-in-law Mr. Kala Baran Chakma before them otherwise Taka 3,00,000/- have to be paid to UPDF. Fearing further attack, she left village for safe area. One villager named Shanti Chakma of Bhijakijing under Laxmichari upazila protested against this inhuman act. With an aim to kidnap him (Shanti Chakma), the UPDF cadres rounded up his house on 22 January. Shanti Chakma was not home at that time. Then UPDF cadres had beaten up his wife and ordered her to present her husband before them. The UPDF cadres seized all the property (movable and immovable) of Shanti Chakma till he is presented before them. The village committee of UPDF was bestowed to look after this property.

The same group of UPDF kidnapped two Bengali labourers who engaged construction of bridge from Durang Para under Sindukchari union under Mahalchari upazila. They demanded Taka 2,00,000/- as ransom.

(3) 14 January 2006: Communal attack on Jumma made by Bengali settlers villages in Mahalchari

On 14 January 2006 at around 7.30 p.m. Bengali settlers from Jamtali cluster village under Mahalchari upazila made an communal attack on Jumma-inhabited villages of Jamtala and Kalo Pahar area under Mahalchari upazila in Khagrachari district. In this attack, the Jumma villagers were beaten up and at least 4 Jumma houses have been looted by Bengali settlers.

It is learnt that on that day around 6.00 p.m. Md. Jasim, member of Mahalchar union was tried to halt at Jamtala area by unknown miscreants while he along with 3 companies was coming home from Khagrachari district headquarter by motorbike. But the miscreants failed to stop Md. Jasim, however they hit on victim's head. Soon after reaching at cluster village of Bengali settlers, Md. Jasim rumored that the Jumma people were attacking on Bengali settlers at Jamtala.

(4) 21 January 2006: Photo with arms taken forcefully by army in Nakkhyangchari

On 21/01/2006 Major Abdul Awal of Nakkhyangchari BDR camp of 40 Battalion called following persons to the camp and took video recording with arms. In the video recording, the two Jummas were treated as 'tribal miscreants' and two Bengali Muslims as 'Rohingya miscreants'. For this acting as miscreants, they were given Taka 200 for each. The victims were:

- 1) Mr. Chailung Aung Marma (50) s/o late Mongkhyoiri Marma of Dhungri Headman Para of Douchari union under Nakkhyangchari upazila
- 2) Mr. Mongcha Hla Marma of Dhungri Headman Para of Douchari union under Nakkhyangchari upazila
- 3) Md. Mukhtar Ahmad of Douchari union under Nakkhyangchari upazila
- 4) Md. Jafar of Douchari union under Nakkhyangchari upazila.

(5) 29 January 2006: Jumma woman wounded by army in Rangamati

On 29/01/2006 one Jumma woman named Mita Chakma (23) w/o Punangchan Chakma of Sapchari village under Rangamati sadar upazila was wounded by army. On that day, as daily routine the army from Rangamati zone under Rangamati brigade started target shooting at Sapchari hilly area under Rangamati sadar upazila. But they started fire indiscriminately nearby locality. As a result, one bullet hit Mita Chakma while she sat in front of her house. She got bullet injury at right shoulder and got admission at Rangamati hospital.

February 2006

(6) 6 February 2006: One Jumma woman tried to rape by army person in Naniarchar

On 06/02/2006 one Subedar (name was not available) of Bagchari camp of 28 Bengal under Naniarchar zone in Rangamati district tried to rape one Jumma women named Ms. Kalindi Rani Chakma (19) d/o Mano Ranjan Chakma of Bagchari Jouta Khamar village under Naniarchar upazila in Rangamati district.

(7) 20 February 2006: Jumma girl raped and killed by Bengali settlers in Nakkhyangchari

On 20/02/2006 a Jumma girl named Ms. King Chaiye Marma (14) s/o late Kyafa Mrama of Dhaman Para of Baishari union under Nakkhyangchari upazila in Bandarban district was raped and killed by employees of Humayan Jabir Chowdhury Rubber Factory, namely, (1) Belal s/o Siddique Ahmad, (2) Joynal s/o Nazir Ahmad, (3) Md. Kamal, (4) Md. Abdullah, (5) Md. Akhter, (6) Shah Alam, (7) Md. Alam and other 4/5 persons of Thoigya Karta of Gajania union under Ramu upazila in Cox's Bazar district.

It is learnt that on that day at 5.00 p.m. Ms. King Chaiye Marma was returning home from Magya Para under Lama upazila. While she reached nearby area of Humayan Jabir Chowdhury Rubber

Factory, she was kidnapped by the culprits mentioned above. In connection with this kidnapping, uncle of victim Mr. Mong Owang Marma s/o Namey Marma of Sadhu Para of Baishari union under Nakkhyanhchari upazila lodged general diary with Nakkhyangchari police station (GD no. 881, dated 27/02/2006). Later main culprit Belal s/o Siddique Ahmad was arrested by the police and according to his confession, the dead body of victim was recovered on 15 March 2006 at 3.00 p.m. from Humayan Jabir Chowdhury's rubber plantation area. On 16 March her dead body was taken in Bandarban district headquarter for post mortem. Other culprits have not been arrested so far.

March 2006

(8) 5 March 2006: Army seized arrestees from courtyard and took snap of them without court order

On 5 March 2006 at around 3 p.m. a group of army led by captain Zahid seized Mr. Sushil Chakma alias Banamali (46) s/o Harishchandra Chakma of Rubber Bagan and Mr. Kamala Ranja Chakma (45) s/o Late Buddha Mani Chakma of village Bijitala from the police custody and took photo of them giving them an arm. Local journalists and lawyer witnesses the incident. Khagrachari district Bar Association protested this incident and issued a press release. The press release is given below.

In a press release issued by Khagrachari District Bar Association dated 05/03/2006 states, "Today on 5 March at about 3 pm, some army men of Bangladesh military force under the commandership of one captain named Jahid entering the courtyard during cognigence court session without any reason or order brought (1) Mr. Sushil Kanti Chakma and (2) Mr. Kamala Ranjan Chakma out from Police custody. Both of the above mentioned persons were accused of the same case no- GR-45/06. Adv. Supal Chakma was employed as lawyer to move their case. The military men forced them to take arms brought by themselves and took snap of the accused people holding the arms. After having a snap the army men brought back the arms again in their custody. This is a very rare incident ever happened in the custody of Police. We all concerned including lawyers are highly surprised with such occurrence. This incident is a kind of dishonor of court and naked interference upon judiciary system.

We strongly condemn such illegal act. And along with this we strongly demand proper steps to be taken by the Government against the blamed through judiciary inquiry."

The press release was signed by Advocate Ashutosh Chakma, General Secretary of Khagrachari District Bar Association.

It is mentionable that on 4 March 2006, a group of army led by Major Bashir Ahmed from Bijitala sub-zone commander under Khagrachari upazila in Khagrachari district arrested the following innocent villagers from their homes:

- 1) Mr. Kamala Ranjan Chakma (45), s/o Late Buddha Mani Chakma of village Bijitala,
- 2) Mr. Priti Jiban Chakma (30), s/o Chiring Chakma of village 2 No. Prokalpa Gram,
- 3) Mr. Aung Kya Marma (30), s/o Ni Sai Marma of village 2 No. Prokalpa Gram,
- 4) Mr. Kala Marma (33), s/o PaTu Marma of village 2 No. Prokalpa Gram,
- 5) Mr. Banshi Chakma, s/o Surendra Chakama of Rubber Bagan,
- 6) Mr. Sushil Kanti Chakma alias Banamali (46), s/o Harishchandra Chakma of Rubber Bagan.

The army went to the village in the evening of 4th March 2006 at around 11. The arrested victims were severely beaten. They are now under police custody with falls arms cases. Mr. Sushil Chakma has been hospitalized with serious injury.

This is mentionable that the Bengali settlers with the help of local army authority started construction of houses on indigenous Jumma people's land since 29 January 2005. In the meantime more than 45 houses have been constructed by Bengali settlers. At first local people of Gamaridhala and Bijitala area under Khagrachri upazila called road blockade programme on 6 February 2006 protesting the illegal land occupation and construction of houses by the Bengali settlers with the direct help of army. Second phase of road blockade programme was started from 12 February 2006 for indefinite period. This road blockade ended on the 18 February 2006 after a discussion among the political and local leaders and the Khagrachari brigade commander held on the 18 February 2006. As the decision to

withdraw the Bengali settlers and evict the houses was not honored the local indigenous Jumma people again called general strike from 6 March 2006 for indefinite period. The aforementioned victims were organizing the general strike.

At present the Bengali settlers with direct assistance from the army have been continuing the illegal land occupation throughout Chittagong Hill Tracts including Khagrachari sadar, Mahalchari, Dighinala and Panchari upazilas.

(9) 8 March 2006: International Women Day observed in CHT

On 8/03/2006 International Women Day was observed in three hill districts by Parbatya Chattagram Mahila Samiti (PCMS) and Hill Women's Federation (HWF) urging 'more participation in the CHT Accord Implementation Movement with an aim to establishment of dignity and rights of women'.

In Rangamati, PCMS and HWF jointly organized rally and discussion meeting. At 10.30 a.m. the rally was brought out from Rangamati Shilpakala Academy and ended at the premises Rangamati Poursabha. More than five hundred women participated in rally and discussion meeting. Presiding over by Ms. Madhabi Lata Chakma, President of PCMS, PCJSS General Secretary Mr. Satyabir Dewan, Teacher of Rangamati Government College Dr. Alo Rani Aiech, President of Rangamati Press Club Mr. Sunil Kanti Dey, Coordinator of Himawanti Ms. Tuku Talukder, Advisor of Tripura Welfare Foundation Ms. Sagarika Roaza, local leader of Awami League Ms. Chinu, HWF leader Ms. Jonaki Chakma and HTNF activist Ms. Naiu Prue Marma Marry. Welcome address was delivered by President of Girisur Shilpigosthi Ms. Joyati Chakma Inu. The speakers of discussion meeting demanded full implementation of CHT Accord, direct election of women reserved seat in parliament including reservation of 3 seats for indigenous Jumma women, withdrawal of all temporary camps including military rule 'Operation Uttaron', formulation of CHT voter list only with permanent residents, immediate election of Hill District Councils.

In Baghaichari, rally and discussion meeting were undertaken by PCMS and HWF. Mr. Shaktipada Tripura, Organising Secretary of PCJSS attended the programme as chief guest while PCMS leader Ms. Sagarika Chakma was in chair. Among others, PCMS leader Ms. Banita Chakma, President of Rangamati district branch of PCJSS Mr. Gunendu Bikash Chakma, President of Baghaichari branch of PCJSS Subhash Basu Chakma, women activist Ms. Goirika Chakma, Sunanda Chakma & Mina Chakma, permanent Bengali women leader Begum Jahanara etc.

(10) 10 March 2006: Jumma villager forced to sign for giving up landownership by the police in Baghaichari

On 10 March 2006 a Jumma villager named Mr. Amal Kanti Chakma alias Barapeda (36) s/o late Kumude Ranjan Chakma of Daine Baibachara under Baghaichari upazila in Rangamati district was compelled by Md. Jahedul Kabir, Range Officer of Forest Department of Baghaichari upazila with the help of In-Charge of Baghaihat police outpost Md. Nur Islam to sign in a white paper where stated that he would give up ownership of land for forest department. It is mentionable that Mr. Chakma has been cultivating this land for long time. Earlier officers of forest department seized huge lands cultivated by Jumma villagers.

(11) 20 March 2006: Expansion of Fresh Settlement at Gamaridhala in Khagrachari of CHT

By 20 March 2006 the Bengali settlers completed construction of above 115 houses and occupied around 100 acres of lands. The army continues operation against the Jumma people in Gamaridhala and Bijitala areas for which almost all the male persons have left their houses and villages for avoiding arrest and tortures. It is mentionable that on 29 January 2006 Bengali settlers from Nunchari cluster village under Mahalchari upazila in Khagrachari district directly protected by army from Mahalchari zone and Bijitala sub-zone camps started to construct houses on the recorded lands of Jumma people at Gamaridhala village under Khagrachari sadar upazila.

1. Background:

Between 1979 and 1982 the government of Bangladesh settled 110 families of Bengali outsiders (non-indigenous political migrants) on the lands recorded in the name of the Jumma people of Gamaridhala

mouza under Khagrachari sadar. Owing to security reason and protest from the actual owners of lands the local army and civil authorities closed the Bengali settlers (non-indigenous political migrants) in the Nunchari cluster village under Mahalchari upazila of Khagrachari district later.

As soon as Abdul Wadood Bhuiyan won the MP election in October 2001 and the sitting alliance assumed power in the country expansion of settlements of Bengali settlers as well as fresh political migration of Bengali outsiders intensified.

In order to implementing the plan for forcible land grabbing and fresh expansion of settlements of Bengali settlers along with fresh migration of Bengali settlers from other districts to CHT Abdul Wadood Bhuiyan, MP initiated a move in May 2005 for allotment of food grains for additional 28,000 families by the government.

On 28 December 2005 as a part to the same move a four-member team of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the CHT Affairs Ministry headed by Md. Shahjahan, MP from Jamat-E-Islam paid a visit to some cluster villages in Khagrachari district. The team reportedly known to have their opinion positive for allotment of food grains for additional number of Bengali settlers.

It is notable that as per the CHT Accord of 1997 the government was to make a law and form a commission for settlement of land disputes created out of political migration of Bengali settlers to CHT. The government did not do it until now. On the contrary, the government continues following the policy of outnumbering the Jumma people in the region and making the region stronghold of the terrorists of the Islamic fundamentalists.

2. Commencement of Construction of houses and forcible land grabbing:

On 29 January 2006 Bengali settlers from Nunchari cluster village under Mahalchari upazila in Khagrachari district directly protected by army from Mahalchari zone and Bijitala sub-zone camps started to construct houses on the recorded lands of Jumma people at Gamaridhala village under Khagrachari sadar upazila. The Jumma villagers, who were owners of lands lodged complains against it to the local army authorities including the Region Commander of Khagrachari Region and civil administration, such as, UNO (Upazila Nirbahi Officer) of Mahalchari upazila and DC (Deputy Commissioner) of Khagrachari district. But it yielded no positive result. On the contrary, Lt. Colonel Shamsuddin (alias Shams), Zone Commander of Mahalchari zone and Major Bashir Ahmed Chowdhury of Bijitala sub-zone of 32 EBR (East Bengal Regiment) deployed several patrolling groups in the area for providing security to the Bengali settlers, who were engaged in constructing houses and carrying necessary materials.

3. Perpetrators:

The main perpetrators for fresh expansion of the settlement at Gamaridhala were, in fact, Mr. Abdul Wadood Bhuiyan, MP from Khagrachari and Chairman of the CHT Development Board and the local army authorities in Khagrachari district. The other perpetrators from the Nunchari cluster village of the Bengali settlers were-

- 1) Md. Ismail Fakir (60)- leader
- 2) Md. Ahad (UP member)
- 3) Md. Mostafa (33)
- 4) Md. Matiur Rahman (41)
- 5) Md. Alaluddin
- 6) Md. Yaqub Ali Bahar
- 7) Md. Ruhul Amin.

Md. Ismail Fakir stated to the Jumma people that they had started construct houses with the consent of ruling BNP leaders, civil administration and military forces. He threatened to commit communal attack and to lodge cases against the local Jumma leaders. The other openly active perpetrators from the army under Khagrachari army region were-

- 1) Lt. Colonel Shamsuddin (alias Shams), Zone Commander of Mahalchari zone and
- 2) Major Mashir Ahmed Chowdhury of Bijitala sub-zone of 32 EBR (East Bengal Regiment).

4. Appeal:

Since 29 January 2006 Jumma people of Gamaridhala village placed their appeals to all concerned local authorities of military and civil administration.

On 5 February 2006 the local indigenous Jumma people of Gamaridhala area headed by Mr. Pritibindu Dewan, Chairman of Khagrachari union, as a last attempt for peaceful solution, submitted a written memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachari district on the matter as well as urged for resolution of the dispute. But they received no positive response.

The copy of it was sent to Prime Minister, Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on CHT Accord Implementation, Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on CHT Affairs Ministry, Chairman of CHT Land Dispute Settlement Commission, Chairman of CHT Regional Council, Deputy Minister of CHT Affairs Ministry, Chairman of the Task Force on Rehabilitation of Returnee Jumma Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 24th Infantry Division, Commissioner of Chittagong Division, Chairman of Khagrachari Hill District Council, Region Commander of Khagrachari Region, Superintendent of Police (SP) of Khagrachari district, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Khagrachari upazila and Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Khagrachari police station.

5. Protest:

The Jumma people failed to draw attention of the government authorities to have settlement of the dispute peacefully. So, they, finding no other alternatives, decided to go on protests.

On 6 February 2006 the local Jumma people of Gamaridhala area, held dawn-to-dusk road blockade programme on Khagrachari-Mahalchari-Rangamati road at there village on the following demands:

- To dismantle the houses of the NIPM (Bengali settlers);
- To return back the NIPM to their cluster village;
- To stop forcible land grabbing by NIPM.

On 12-18 February 2006 the Jumma villagers organised road blockade programme in Khagrachari. PCJSS and Khagrachari District Citizen Forum supported it.

It is notable that Bengali settlers of the said Nunchari cluster village with security protection of army tried to occupy these lands in October 2004. As the Jumma people opposed it tremendously so the Zone Commander of Mahalchari army zone returned them back to their cluster village at that time.

He ordered verbally that until and unless CHT Land Dispute Settlement Commission resolved disputes none should construct houses on the said plots of land. Jumma villagers, in spite of being legitimate owners, obeyed it. But Bengali settlers for the second time started grabbing the same plots of lands on 31 December 2004. Once again they were taken back by the same army authority.

During the recent and third time drive, which started since 29 January 2006 is still continuing.

4. Counter steps:

In order to suppressing the movement of the indigenous Jumma people the army authorities in Khagrachari took the following steps:

- Following the road blockade programme, on 12 February 2006 at night the army led by Lt. Colonel Shamsuddin (alias Shams) of Mahalchari zone and Major Bashir Ahmad Chowdhury of Bijitala sub-zone of 32 EBR conducted operation at Gamaridhala area.
- On 13 February early morning the army summoned Mr. Sajai Marma, Chairman of Maischari union and Mr. Nilotpal Khisa, Lecturer of Panchari College to the camp and threatened them to face severe consequences.
- On 13 February mid-night a group of army took Mr. Sushil Jiban Chakma, UP Member of ward no. 9 of Khagrachari union from his house at Gamaridhala village to the local primary school. The army interrogated him there about PCJSS members and Mr. Pritibindu Dewan, Chairman of Khagrachari union, who led the road blockade programmes.

- The Bengali settlers protected by army patrol parties at day and night continued constructing houses and by 18 February 2006 completed making 50 houses.
- The army threatened of taking severe action against Priti Bindu Dewan, Chairman of Khagrachari union, if he was apprehended.

5. Negotiations:

- On 15 February Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachari district held a meeting with local public representatives, political leaders, civil and military officials and local journalists on the issue. The civil administration, the army authority and the leaders of NIPM pushed to resolve the problem to the court. But Jumma people opposed it for they experienced negative outcome for any progress in resolution of land disputes related to NIPM during the post CHT Accord period at Lemuchari (Kutting Tilla), Pakujyachari, Maischari Joysen Para, Saiuprue Karbari Para, Badanala areas through legal procedure. Lower courts in CHT headed by UNOs and DC of Khagrachari district were not neutral and free from military interference. With this backdrop, Jumma people demanded to take urgent action for returning back the NIPM to their cluster village by civil and army authority. As a result, the meeting was ended without any concrete decision.
- On 18 February 2006 Region Commander of Khagrachari army region held talks with Mr. Sudhasindu Khisa, Member and Raktotpal Tripura, Member of the CHT Regional Council and Mr. Santoshita Chakma Bakul, General Secretary of Khagrachari District Citizen Forum to resolve this problem. The Zone Commanders of Mahalchari and Khagrachari zones and one G-2 of Khagrachari brigade attended it. In this meeting, decision was taken to take back the NIPM to their previous locations and to resolve other land disputes, such as, land dispute related to Buddha Shishughar, an orphanage through a local committee.
- Following this decision, local Jumma people withdrew road blockade programme on 18 February 2006.
- On 20 February 2006 Major Bashir Ahmed Chowdhury of Bijitala sub-zone of 32 EBR held a meeting with local leaders of Jumma people and Bengali settlers. Among others Mr. Pritibindu Dewan, Chairman of Khagrachari union; Mr. Kshetra Mohan Roza, Headman of Nunchari mouza; Mr. Dhruva Ranjan Chakma, Headman of Gamaridhala mouza and Mahalchari Zone Commander were present. In the meeting an 11-member Committee was formed with leaders from Jumma people and Bengali settlers and Pritibindu Dewan, Chairman of Khagrachari Union Parishad was made president and Md. Ahad Vice-President. The meeting discussed about implementation of the decisions adopted in the meeting of 18 February at Khagrachari Region Office for taking back the Bengali settlers to their Nunchari cluster village and dismantling the houses made at Gamaridhala. But the resolution was drafted that the Bengali settlers would be taken back to their cluster village but they would have right to cultivate the plots they occupied at Gamaridhala. So, Jumma leaders rejected the resolution.
- On 28 February Commander of Bijitala sub-zone again called a meeting with Jumma leaders mentioned above and NIPM leaders and compelled them to sign on the resolution written by the army authority for settlement of the land dispute through allotment of lands to the Bengali settlers in the area.

6. Latest development:

- On 4 March 2006 at night around 11.00 p.m. a group of army led by Major Bashir Ahmed Chowdhury commander of Bijitala sub-zone camp under Mahalchari army zone of Khagrachari Region in Khagrachari district rounded up some villages of Gamridhala and Bijitala in Khagrachari district. The army arrested innocent villagers from their homes obviously to suppress the movement for resolution of forcible land grabbing in the area. The victims were:-
 - 7) Mr. Kamala Ranjan Chakma (45), s/o Late Buddha Mani Chakma of village Bijitala,
 - 8) Mr. Priti Jiban Chakma (30), s/o Chiring Chakma of village 2 No. Prokalpa Gram,
 - 9) Mr. Aung Kya Marma (30), s/o Ni Sai Marma of village 2 No. Prokalpa Gram,
 - 10) Mr. Kala Marma (33), s/o PaTu Marma of village 2 No. Prokalpa Gram,

- 11) Mr. Banshi Chakma, s/o Surendra Chakma of Rubber Bagan,
 12) Mr. Sushil Kanti Chakma alias Banamali (46), s/o Harishchandra Chakma of Rubber Bagan.

The said persons were beaten severely. Then they were sent to the police custody with false cases. Among them Mr. Sushil Chakma received injuries precariously and admitted to the Khagrachari Sadar Hospital on 4 March.

- On 5 March 2006 at around 3 p.m. another group of army led by captain Zahid took away Mr. Sushil Chakma alias Banamali and Mr. Kamala Ranjan Chakma from the police custody at the Khagrachari District Court premise and took photo of them giving them an arm (country-made gun). Local journalists and lawyer witnessed the incident. Khagrachari District Bar Association protested this incident and issued a press release signed by Advocate Ashutosh Chakma, General Secretary of the Bar Association.
- On 6 March 2006 the Jumma people called for strike for indefinite period. But they postponed it on 7 March until Secondary School Certificate Examination was over in the district in April 2006.
- On 7 March 2006 at night a group army of Mahalchari zone conducted operation at Lemuchari village under Khagrachari sadar upazila. During the operation, the army tried to arrest following innocent persons from their houses of Lemuchari village. But Ms. Arun Bala Chakma w/o late Sona Ranjan Chakma opposed it. Consequently the army brought a group of police from Mahalchari police station and with the help of police they arrested them. They were:
 - 1) Mr. Bibaran Chakma (35) s/o late Sibhash Chandra Chakma
 - 2) Mr. Shanti Mani Chakma (17) s/o Gopal Kanti Chakma
 - 3) Mr. Nanakya Chakma (17) s/o late Sona Ranjan Chakma
 They were taken into Mahalchari police station. The following women namely Ms. Niga Chakma (35) w/o Sona Ratan Chakma, Ms. Kanika Chakma (32) w/o Sugata Chakma and Ms. Arun Bala Chakma (32) s/o late Sona Ranjan Chakma also rushed police station. Due to tremendous pressure, the police released arrested villagers on 8 March.
- On 9 March 2006 at mid-night Mr. Sanghamitra Chakma s/o Dinendra Chakma of Pakujyachari village of Lemuchari was arrested by the army of Mahalchari zone. He was produced to the court on following day (10 March) with a country-made arm. In fact, no arm was found during his arrest. He is an innocent villager and illiterate. He might be arrested, as his father Mr. Dinendra Chakma is Headman of Lemuchari mouza.
- The army continues operation against the Jumma people in Gamaridhala and Bijitala areas for which almost all the male persons have left their houses and villages for avoiding arrest and tortures.
- Till 10 March 2006 the Bengali settlers completed construction of above 70 houses and the army continues patrolling for providing security for them. By 20 March 2006 the Bengali settlers completed making 115 above houses.

The Bengali settlers protected by the army have been continuing forcible land grabbing throughout Chittagong Hill Tracts including Khagrachari sadar, Mahalchari, Dighinala and Panchari upazilas.

(12) 23 March 2006: Communal attack on Jumma village made by Bengali settlers in Ghagra

On 23 March 2006 at 9.30 p.m. Bengali settlers made communal attack on Jumma people at Jouta Khamar village under Ghagra union of Kaukhali upazila in Rangamati district. In this attack, 8 Jumma villagers were wounded and valuables of houses were destroyed and looted.

It is learnt that a Bengali settler named Md. Rafique (30) s/o Abdul Salam caught Ms. Rajeshwari Chakma (40) w/o late Dhenga Chakma of Jouta Khamar village and tried to rape her while he was returning home at 9.30 p.m. after drinking at Jouta Khamar village. The villagers rushed there when Ms. Rajeshwari Chakma shouted. But Md. Rafique could narrowly escape from the village. Soon after reaching at Rangamati-Chittagong road he started to shout that Jumma villagers looted him and seized Taka 10,000 from him. In the meantime a truck carrying 15/20 Bengali labourers reached there and

they (Bengali settlers) also started to attack on Jumma villagers. On the other hand, the truck driver rushed to Bengali-inhabited Maghachari village under Rangunia upazila of Chittagong district and took two trucks of Bengalis to attack on Jumma villagers. Jumma villagers repeatedly informed the incident to Dak Banglow APBN camp. Later police and army rushed there. The following villagers were wounded in this attack:

- 1) Mr. Lalit Kumar Chakma (45) s/o late Labanga Chakma
- 2) Mr. Sajub Chakma (35) s/o late Kali Kumar Chakma
- 3) Mr. Bijoy Shova Chakma (33) s/o Kinaram Chakma
- 4) Mr. Rangachan Chakma (65) s/o late Fagara Chakma
- 5) Mr. Bijoy Chakma (20) s/o Raj Kumar Chakma
- 6) Mr. Rabidhan Chakma (35) s/o Mon Chakma
- 7) Mr. Shanti Bijoy Chakma (35) s/o Agni Mohan Chakma
- 8) Mr. Dhanaiya Dewanji (19) s/o Ratan Dewanji.

April 2006

(13) 3 April 2006: Communal attack on Jumma People by Bengali Settlers at Maischari under Mahalchari

1. Incident:

On 3 April 2006 at around 8.30 a.m. 100-150 Bengali settlers (Non-Indigenous Political Migrants) committed a communal attack on five Jumma (Indigenous Peoples) villages named Saprue Karbari Para, Nua Para, Chakra Para, Paisi Mahajan Para and Patha Para under Maischari union of Mahalchari upazila in Khagrachari Hill District in CHT of Bangladesh.

In this attack 2 Jumma girls were raped and 50 above Jumma persons received injuries. Among injured, 11 villagers including 2 raped were admitted to Khagrachari district hospital. One of them was transferred to Chittagong Medical College hospital with serious condition. About 100 Jumma houses were looted and household goods broken down. The attack was occurred relating to land grabbing by Bengali settlers.

2. Background:

The Government of Bangladesh and the PCJSS (Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti) signed the CHT Agreement in 1997. The Government did not implement it properly. On the contrary, it continues patronizing forcible land grabbing and expansion of settlements of Bengali Settlers as well as fresh migration of Bengali settlers from other parts of the country.

In 2000-2001 Bengali settlers from Pakujyachari cluster village under Mahalchari upazila directly protected by army from Mahalchari army zone and Pakujyachari army camp forcibly grabbed lands recorded in the names of the Jumma people of Joysen Karbari Para under Maischari union of Mahalchari upazila. They expanded their settlement constructing houses funded by Islamic religious organizations and the Government authorities.

In 2004-2005 Bengali settlers protected by military from Keyang Ghat army camp and Mahalchari army zone expanded their settlement on the recorded lands of the Jumma people at Keyang Ghat and Limuchari area under Mahalchari upazila.

Between 29 January 2006 and 31 March 2006 Bengali settlers from Nunchari cluster village along with freshly migrated Bengali settlers built about 150 houses on the recorded lands of the Jumma people of Gamaridhala under Khagrachari sadar upazila.

Since 1 April 2006 Bengali settlers from Nunchari cluster village and Joysen Karbari Para cluster village again started clearing grounds for making houses on the recorded lands of the Bouddha Shishughar Orphanage and Jumma villagers located near the spot of the incident at Saprue Karbari Para. Every day they threatened the Jumma people for committing communal riots.

It is very clear that it was a planned communal attack on the Jumma people for grabbing land and expanding settlement of the Bengal settlers there.

3. Occurrence:

On 2 April 2006 a group of Bengali settler women from Joysen Karbari Para went to Saprue Karbari Para and started to build houses on a land owned by the indigenous Jumma villagers. Some indigenous Jumma women of Saprue Karbari Para resisted the Bengali settler women. Following the incident, next day on 3 April at around 8.30 a.m., a group of Bengali settler women along with men, at first, started throwing brickbats at the houses of Jumma villagers. When Jumma women came out, the Bengali settler women asked them to leave the place forever. Jumma women protested against it and at a stage, the Bengali settlers including women made attack upon two Jumma girls, namely, Ms. Thumrajai Marma (16) d/o late Mamong Marma and Ms. Krajai Marma (20) d/o Riprue Chai Marma. Hearing the shouts, their mothers namely Ms. Abaikrai Marma w/o late Mamong Marma and Ms. Miashu Marma w/o Riprue Chai Marma rushed to the spot to rescue their daughters. The Bengali settlers attacked on them too. They (Bengali settlers) tied up the Jumma women with rope and kidnapped them to a Bengali settler's house of Joysen Karbari Para. The Bengali settlers beat up and raped two girls- Ms Thumrajai Marma and Ms. Krajai Marma there.

At that time, Venerable Sumana Mahathero, a Buddhist monk and Director of Maischari Boudha Shishughar Orphanage was going to Mahalchari upazila headquarters. Hearing the shouts, he (monk) proceeded toward the spot. He found two Jumma girls senseless and naked. When he protested about the girls the settlers beat and ran after him. He narrowly escaped.

Exactly at that moment, a truck carrying a group of Bengali settlers from Nunchari cluster village and adjacent areas under Maischari union equipped with sharp metal weapons and sticks reached there and joined with others from Joysen Karbari Para. They (settlers) found first Mr. Tuku Mani Chakma (30) s/o Asha Purna Chakma at Nua Para road and chopped him indiscriminately. He (Tuku Mani) was left there assuming death.

Then the Bengali settlers numbering to 100-150 proceeded and attacked the Jumma villages, namely, Saprue Karbari Para, Nua Para, Chakra Para, Paisi Mahajan Para and Patha Para respectively. They chopped and hit Jumma people indiscriminately. They looted and broke down household goods. Jumma people tried to flee away from their houses and villages. The Marma villagers of Saprue Karbari Para, Paisi Mahajan Para and Patha took shelter at Bali Para Primary School near to Maischari old bazar. Chakma villagers of Nua Para, Chakra Para, Manikchari Rabi Chandra Karbari Para, Bindu Kamar Chairman Para and Manikchari Master Para took shelter at neighbouring villages, namely, Bihar Para, Jaduganala, Karalyachari, Bishwajit Chairman Para, East Manikchari, Ultachari, Dankupya, Ghatgarh Para and Aparna Mahajan Para etc.

3. Casualties:

In the incident 100 above Jumma houses were exposed and about 50 above Jumma persons received injuries. Of them 11 Jumma men, women and girls admitted to Khagrachari hospital. They victims were:

- 1) Mr. Tuku Mani Chakma (30), s/o Asha Purna Chakma, Vill- Nua Para, Maischari
- 2) Mr. Junal Marma (35), s/o Uhla Aung Marma, Vill- Nua Para, Maischari
- 3) Mr. Sa Prue Marma (65), s/o late Nishi Marma, Vill- Saprue Karbari Para
- 4) Ms. Thumrajai Marma (16), d/o late Mamong Marma, Vill- Saprue Karbari Para
- 5) Ms. Miashu Marma (48) w/o Riprue Chai Marma, Saprue Karbari Para
- 6) Ms. Krajai Marma (20), d/o Riprue Chai Marma, Vill- Saprue Karbari Para
- 7) Mr. Mongshu Marma (70) s/o late Baicha Marma, Vill- Saprue Karbari Para
- 8) Mr. Mongsanai Marma (26) s/o Krai Aung Marma, Vill- Chakra Para
- 9) Mr. Kongjai Marma (18) s/o Riprue Chai Marma, Vill- Chakra Para
- 10) Mr. Mongneo Marma (40) s/o late Baicha Marma, Vill- Chakra Para
- 11) Mr. Mong Pai Marma (50) s/o Kongja Aung Marma, Vill- Chakra Para.

Among them, Tuku Mani Chakma precariously injured was transferred to Chittagong Medical College. He was severely chopped at head, shoulders and other part of his body. Besides, Ms. Aungkra Marma (52) w/o Thowai Aung Marma of Chakra Para was also injured. Her left leg was broken. She is taking treatment from indigenous physician at Dankupya village. Among the Bengali settler attackers, following were injured and admitted Khagrachari hospital:

- 1) Chan Miah (30), s/o Julu Shaikh, Vill- Joysen Karbari Para
- 2) Hawa Khatun (30), w/o Idrish Ali, Vill- Joysen Karbari Para
- 3) Joygun Nesha (35) w/o Abdul Mannan, Vill- Joysen Karbari Para
- 4) Hafizur Rahman (19) s/o Mahiuddin, Vill- Joysen Karbari Para.

4. Perpetrators:

About 100-150 Bengali settlers from Nunchari and Joysen Karbari Para cluster villages participated in this attack. The main perpetrators were identified as follows:

- 1) Md. Mostofa (40) s/o late Mujibur Rahman
- 2) Md. Fazulul Rahman (25) s/o late Moslemuddin
- 3) Md. Kasem (45) s/o late Moslemuddin
- 4) Mr. Lal Mian (28) s/o Ahmad Motaleb
- 5) Md. Sattar Mistri (37) s/o unknown
- 6) Md. Gafur (30) s/o late Kabir Ahmad
- 7) Mr. Shamsu (28) s/o Nurul Islam
- 8) Mr. Ruhul Amin (35) s/o late Mabin Mian
- 9) Md. Shahid (28) s/o Latif Khan
- 10) Mr. Aman Ullah (29) s/o Adan Haque
- 11) Mr. Suraj Mian (26) s/o Mafiz Mian
- 12) Mr. Yakub Ali alias Bahar (42) s/o late Mabin Mian
- 13) Mr. Mian Khan (26) s/o Md. Abdul
- 14) Mr. Hossain Ali (35) s/o Dulu Mian
- 15) Mr. Narayan (22) s/o unknown
- 16) Mr. Firoj Mian (35) s/o Abdul Ali
- 17) Md. Sohel (24) s/o late Jahir Uddin
- 18) Mr. Abu Samad (35) s/o Abdur Rahman
- 19) Mr. Tapan Das (25) s/o Narayan Das
- 20) Mr. Abul Barat (38) s/o late Hafez Ahmad Latif
- 21) Md. Manir Hossain (40) s/o Abdur Rahman

The perpetrators mentioned above were from Nunchari cluster village under Mahalchari upazila. It is reported that 9 Bengali settlers committed the raping. Of them, (1) Babu; (2) Kausar; (3) Sabur Ali and (4) Aminul were identified by the victims.

5. Loss of property:

It is reported that more than 100 Jumma houses were looted and household goods broken down. Of them, 30 houses at Saprue Karbari Para, 39 houses at Paisi Mahajan Para, 9 houses at Nua Para and 22 houses at Patha Para were looted and valuables of them were destroyed. In addition, hostel, kitchen and other houses of Bouddha Shishughar orphanage were destroyed and looted. (Please see annex-1).

6. Role of security forces & counter steps:

A camp of the APBN (Armed Police Battalion) of Nua Para Bengali Cluster village is situated at a distance of 150 meters from the spot of the occurrence at Saprue Karbari Para. The commander did not take any step to protect the unarmed and innocent Jumma people.

Mahalchari police station and Mahalchari army zone camp are situated at a distance of 8 kms from the spot only. The police and army from Mahalchari arrived at the spot after one and a half-hour. The attack was by that time almost over.

The Khagrachar sadar police station and Khagrachari army region are situated at a distance of 8 kms while Nunchari Cluster village army camp at 2 kms only. They did nothing to prevent the Bengali

settlers of Nunchari cluster village for proceeding towards the spot for communal attack equipped with lethal weapons.

No sooner had the incident commenced then the army, on the pretext of security, maintained restriction of visiting the area by any journalist or Jumma leaders until 4.00 p.m. on the day. On 7 April 2006 Bijitala army camp led by Major Bashir Ahmed Chowdhury of Bijitala sub-zone of 32 EBR (East Bengal Regiment) did not allow a group of journalists who came from Dhaka to visit Nunchari and Lemuchari area and sent back them to Khagrachari sadar.

7. Arrest and release:

On 4 April 2006 the police of Mahalchari police station arrested 6 innocent Jumma persons, whom they got at Saprue Karbari Para village. The police, of course, arrested 24 Bengali settlers from the spot who were released on bail three days later on 7 April. The leaders of BNP (ruling party) have assisted in getting bail. Until and unless Bengali settlers got bail the BNP leaders confined the Jumma leaders, such as, Sajai Marma, Chairman of Maischari union who were present at the court.

On the contrary, arrested 6 Jumma were set free on 9 April. They were:

- 1) Mr. Priya Ranjan Chakma (22) s/o late Shanti Ranjan Chakma of vill- Joysen Karbari Para
- 2) Mr. Thakkhula Chakma (22) s/o late Shanti Moy Chakma of vill- Chitta Ranjan Karbari Para
- 3) Mr. Nihar Ranjan Chakma (25) s/o Ratnasen Karbari of vill- Manikchari Ratnasen Karbari Para
- 4) Mr. Sajai Marma (25) s/o Mongsajai Marma of vill- Manikchari Ratnasen Karbari Para
- 5) Mr. Sumati Lal Chakma (19) s/o Ramendra Lal Chakma of vill- Manikchari Ratnasen Karbari Para
- 6) Mr. Sahel Chakma (19) s/o Pritimoy Chakma of vill- Purba Manikchari.

8. Case filed:

On 3 April 2006 two cases - one (GR no. 86/2006) by Jumma villager named Mr. Kyajai Marma s/o Labrechai Marma of Saprue Karbari Para and another (GR no. 85/2006) by Bengali settler named Ms. Hasina Begum w/o Md. Abdul Hai of Joysen Karbari Para have been lodged with Mahalchari police station. The police did not take any step to arrest the actual culprits.

9. Protest:

- On 3 April the PCJSS organized demonstrations and protest meetings in Khagrachari district headquarters. On that day the leaders of Khagrachari District Citizen Forum and CHT Jumma Refugee Welfare Association visited spot and condemned the attack. In an e-release Legal Aid Research Association (LARA) based in Khagrachari district protested against it.
- On 4 April PCJSS organized demonstrations and meetings in Rangamati and Bandarban hill district headquarters. PCP (Hill Student Council) also brought out, protesting the attack, processions in Dhaka and Chittagong. Indigenous Student Action Forum and other democratic student organizations also joined the procession. In addition, Marma Unnayan Sangsad also organized protest procession in Khagrachari condemning the attack. They submitted memorandum to the Prime Minister of Government of Bangladesh through Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachari district demanding judicial probe into the attack.
- On 8 April Bangladesh Adivasi Adhikar Andolan and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum organised protest meeting at Shahid Minar in Dhaka. Among others, Laxmi Prasad Chakma of PCJSS, Haidor Akbar Khan Rono of Bangladesh Workers' Party, Ruhin Hossain Prince of Bangladesh Communist Party, Abul Halim Shahabuddin of Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal, Professor Dr. Abdus Salam, Professor Rafiquallah Khan, Professor Dr. Sadeka Halim, Associate Professor Mesbah Kamal, writer Bipradas Barua, Hayat Mahmud, Hilario Foyezi, Sharifuzzam Sharif, James Wolr Kakshi, Ripan Chandra Barman spoke the meeting.
- On 9 April Parbatya Bhikkhu Sangha-Bangladesh brought out procession in Khagrachari and Rangamati hill districts. Adivasi Bhikkhu Society also participated in the procession in Rangamati district. They submitted memorandum to the Prime Minister of Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh condemning the attack and demanding justice.

10. Demands/Appeal:

The Jumma people basically placed the following demands for immediate action:

- 1) Provide adequate medical treatment and compensation to the victims.
- 2) Make immediate arrangements for rehabilitation of the molested girls.
- 3) Evacuate and take severe punitive actions against the Bengali settlers involved in the attack.
- 4) Return the lands to the legitimate owners i.e. indigenous Jumma people and Maischari Boudha Shishughar orphanage.
- 5) Take back Bengali settlers to their clusters villages and finally rehabilitate them outside CHT.
- 6) Withdraw all temporary camps including de facto military rule 'Operation Uttoran'.
- 7) Implement CHT Accord properly and speedy.

On 5 April 2006 a 3-member delegation from CHT Regional Council submitted 2 applications to Mr. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Minister of Local Government and Rural development Ministry for providing relief materials and cash to the victims of the incident and to close down the Bengali settlers to their former cluster villages respectively. Mr. Bhuiyan is the President of the Committee on CHT.

11. Visits of journalists, political leaders & others:

On 3 April 2006 a team of Khagrachari District Citizen Forum and Parbatya Bouddha Mission led by Venerable Sumanalankar Mahathero of PBM and Santoshota Chakma Bakul paid visit to the spot.

On 6 April a group of journalists from Dhaka visited Saprue Karbari Para and other affected villages to look into the fact. The journalists included Ekhteyar Uddin of Daily Bhorer Kagoj, Pinaki Roy of Daily Star, Sirajul Islam Abed of Daily Jugantar, Alamgir Swapan of Daily Janakantha, Sheikh Abdullah of Daily Sangbad and Rajib Tripura of Weekly Ekattur. But on 7 April 2006 Bijitala army camp led by Major Bashir Ahmed Chowdhury of Bijitala sub-zone of 32 EBR (East Bengal Regiment) did not allow them to visit Nunchari and Lemuchari area.

On 9-10 April a 12-member team of human rights activists from Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Dhaka Bar Council, Ain O Salish Kendra, Association of Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Nijera Kori, Bangladesh Women Lawyer Association and Bangladesh Mahila Samiti visited the spot.

On 10 April a team of CHT Regional Council consisting of its member Mr. Raktotpal Tripura and Jafar Ahmad visited the spot. Assistant Commissioner Mr. Ajmal from Khagrachari district administration also accompanied them.

On 10 April a parliamentary team of Awami League (opposition party) consisting Colonel (Retd.) Faruque Khan MP, Bir Bahadur MP, Major General (Retd.) Asma Amin MP, Fazle Karim MP, Rafiqul Anowar MP and Brigadier General (Retd.) Abu Bakar MP paid visits the spot.

12. Present situation:

Though Chakma villagers of Nua Para, Chakra Para, Manikchari Rabi Chandra Karbari Para, Bindu Kamar Chairman Para and Manikchari Master Para have returned their homesteads, but most of Jumma villagers of Saprue Karbari Para, Paisi Mahajan Para and Patha consisting around 400 families of 3 villages are still deserted so far. Most of the students of Bouddha Shishughar orphanage who fled from the orphanage following the attack had not yet returned back and the school remains closed.

13. Government's measures:

The government did not take any positive measure with regard to the incident until present. Even Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Superintendent of Police (SP) of Khagrachari did not visit the spot. Only Additional Superintendent of Police paid visit on 3 April.

(14) 7 April 2006: Innocent girl raped by Bengali settler in Manikchari

On 7 April 2006 at 4.00 p.m. a Bengali settler named Md. Alamgir, s/o Md. Babod of Badnatali under Manikchari upazila raped an innocent Jumma girl named Domra Ching Marama (16 years) d/o Mong Chai Marma, village of Lepya Para, Badnatali under Manikchari upazila in Khagrachari district while she was collecting drinking water from a mad well near the village. Later, the victim was sent to the

Khagrachari General Hospital for medical test but the report has not yet provided. A case has been filed against the culprit with the Manikchari police station. But the police authority did not take any necessary measure so far. On the other, reliable sources alleged that Dr. Tozammel Haque Zoarder, Resident Medical Officer of Khagrachari hospital intentionally destroyed some symptoms of raping and protesting to it, one nurse refused to include herself as a member of the medical board.

(15) 10 April 2006: One Jumma widow raped by army in Baghaichari

On 10 April 2006 at around 11.30 a.m. one Subedar Kobad Ali of Dwi-Tila army camp under Baghaihat army zone raped an innocent Jumma widow named Rupali Chakma (26 years) w/o late Dhana Bikash Chakma, village of Hazachari, Baghaihat under Baghaichari upazila in Rangamati district. On that day the victim was coming back home from Baghaichari UNO (Upazila Nirbahi Officer) office by a passenger bus. When the bus reached at the Dwi-Tila army camp, the military personnel ordered all the passengers including victim to get down from the bus for checking. During checking, the military personnel find the widow allowance book of victim and detained her on the passenger shed. On the other, they ordered the bus driver to leave the place along with other passengers.

It is notable that two Ansar (Islamic Guard – para-military forces) personnel were also present during checking. No sooner had the bus left with other passengers, Subedar Kobad Ali ordered the Ansar personnel to leave the check post and they (Ansar) left the spot accordingly. Few minutes later, Subedar Kobad Ali forcibly took the victim to a room of the camp and raped her there inhumanly. After an hour, the Subedar boarded her in a passenger jeep. The victim was threatened that she would be killed if she disclosed the incident to other. The Parbatya Chattgram Mahilla Samiti (CHT Women Association) and Hill Women's Federation strongly condemned this heinous act and demanded immediate action against the army personnel involved in the rape and termination of Operation Uttoron from CHT.

The victim lodged general diary with Kotowali police station in Rangamati district. She applied for medical test to Rangamati hospital. But medical test was done almost 72 hours later and result was reported negative. On the other, the security intelligence personnel kept continuous vigilance upon her during staying at Rangamati hospital. They tried to harass and interrogate her in the hospital. Due to military interference, the medical test was done lately and result was reported negative.

(16) In April 2006: UPDF extended its so-called General Amnesty for PCJSS

In April 2006 the UPDF (United People's Democratic Front) has extended so-called General Amnesty for the members of PCJSS for May-June 2006. The so-called general amnesty for the period of January-April 2006 was first declared by UPDF during its seventh founding anniversary held on 26 December 2005. In these circumstances, question has arisen that is UPDF a parallel government in the CHT otherwise how did they ask to surrender arms or offer general mercy to the PCJSS? Some experts also said that the UPDF dared to show their political audacity being backed up by a group who provided them arms and financial support to spoil the CHT peace treaty.

(17) In April 2006: Bengali settlers occupied Jumma's land in Guimara

A group of Bengali settlers led by Md. Muklesh Leader and Mahafuz have been occupied near about 50 acres of land of Jummas in Guimara Union of Matiranga Upazilla under Khagrachari Hill District. As a result, the following Jummas have been uprooted from their recorded and ancestral lands.

- 1) Mr. Kanti Chakma, s/o Vakta Chakma
- 2) Mr. Miyadhan Chakma, s/o Chebda Chakma
- 3) Mr. Kuma Ranjan Tripura, s/o Sib Charan Tripura
- 4) Mr. Ajit Tripura, s/o Kunti Chandra Tripura
- 5) Mr. Priya Lal Chakma.

It is reported that Md. Muklesh Leader solely has been occupied a vast of land of Kuitarchara village of Guimara union as soon as BNP led 4 party alliance assumed the state power in 2001 with the assistance of Wadud Bhuiyan MP. Wadud Bhuiyan MP assures him another 50 Bengali Settler families will be involved in the invasion process. Then Muklesh Leader becomes more active and

filed a case against Jummas with Guimara Police station. In the name of resolution of the conflict, the military authority involves in this process. On 29 March 2006 Lt. Colonel Nurul Huda, Zone Commander of Guimara Zone called a negotiation meeting at his Zone office. The following persons were present in the negotiation meeting.

- 1) Md. Nurul Huda, Zone Commander of Guimara Zone
- 2) OC of Guimara Police Station
- 3) Mr. Manindra Kishore Tripura, former Hill District Council Member
- 4) Mr. Riprue Chai Chowdury, Headman, Guimara Mouza
- 5) Mr. Vakta Karbari, Koitarchara village
- 6) Md. Muklesh Leader, a Bengali settler
- 7) Mr. Nagendra Narayan Tripura, Chairman of Guimara Union
- 8) Mr. Hiron Tripura, Karbari of Hatoong Para
- 9) Md. Mahfuz, s/o Abdul halim, a Bengali Setter

Both Jummas and Bengali settlers have alleged each other of land grabbing in this negotiation meeting. So the meeting resulted no positive resolution. However, they took decision that the Chairman of Guimara Union would declare the judgment later.

Following this decision another meeting was held on 4 April 2006 at the residence of the Guimara Union Chairman. In this meeting, the following Bengali settlers leaders were present:

- 1) Md. Abu Yusuf, President of BNP, Matrnga Thana
- 2) Ahammed Kabir, Member of Guimara Union
- 3) Md. Muklesh Leader
- 4) Md. Mahfuz

In this meeting Jummas were threatened by the Bengali settlers. As a result, they declared that there were no lands of Jummas in the dispute areas. Finally, Jummas were bound to sign on paper regarding this declaration. So the Bengali settlers are now building houses on the land of Jummas in Guimara Union with the assistance of army authority.

(18) 17 April 2006: A Jumma girl raped by a group of Bengali settlers in Matiranga

On 17 April 2006 a gang of Bengali settlers abducted a Jumma adolescent from her house in the daylight. The victim was Ms Jamuna Tripura (14) d/o Krisna Dayal Tripura of Krina Dayal Karbari Para of Taindong mouza under Matiranga in Khagrachari district. She was studying in class seven at Panchari Bazar School and College. The following main culprits were identified:

- 1) Md. Abul Kalam of DB Para under Matranga upazilla
- 2) Md. Abdul Haque, s/o Chan Miyan of DB Para under Matranga upazilla
- 3) Md. Manir (a tailor), s/o Farid Miyan of DB Para under Matranga upazilla

It is reported that the police authority has denied filing any case against the culprits. The victim has not rescued till writing this report.

(19) 23 April 2006: Parliamentary Committee recommended to continue rationing to the Bengali settlers in CHT

On 23 April 2006 violating the spirit of the CHT Accord, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on CHT Affairs Ministry recommended to the government to continue rationing to the Bengali settlers living in cluster-villages in three hill districts until they return to their villages. Chairman of the said committee Mr. Mohammad Mosharaf Hossain told the journalists after the meeting held at Sangsad Bhaban that we want them to be tack to their native land. The number of people living in the cluster-villages in the three hill districts – Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari – became double and rose to 50,000 families. Currently, government provided 86 Kilogram of rice per family per month. Setting up 58 border outposts in the vast open border areas with neighbouring India and Myanmar also came up at the meeting for discussion. Committee members Mohammad Mujibur Rahman, Shahjahan Choudhury, Syed Moyazzem Hossain Alal and Wadud Bhuiyan were present at the meeting. However, the experts on CHT believe that setting up border outposts is inconsistent with the CHT Accord and politically motivated.

(20) 27 April 2006: Bengali settler occupied five acres of garden of Sanjib Chakma

On 27 April 2006 a Bengali settler named Md. Rafiqul Islam occupied five acres of gardening land of Sanjib Chakma s/o Bhalukya Chakma of Bhakta Karbari Para under Matiranga upazilla in Khagrachari district. On that day a group of Bengali settlers led by Md. Rafiqul Islam consisting 10-15 members occupied the land and uprooted the victim. Before launching this occupation, a Captain named Babor of Matiranga zone called a meeting at zone premise with the dwellers of Bhakta Karbari Para and ordered them to leave the land of Rafiqul Islam. At that time he also noticed that Sanjib Chakma had occupied the land of Rafiqul Islam. In such ways the Bengali Settlers have been occupying a vast land of Jummas of Bhakta Karbari Para and Kuitarchara of Matiranga Upazilla under Khagrachari Hill district.

(21) 28 April 2006: 16 innocent Jumma villagers arrested and tortured by amy in Longadu

On 28 April 2006 a group of army of Maynimukh army zone in Longadu upazila conducted an operation for four hours from 6.00 a.m to 10 a.m at Jatramura village of Atarakchara union under Langadu upazila in Rangamati district. In this operation, the army personnel arrested and severely tortured following 16 innocent Jummas of the village:

- 1) Mr. Smriti Bikash Chakma, s/o Kanchan Kumar Chakma
- 2) Mr. Babul Chakma, s/o Shanti Mani Chakma
- 3) Mr. Sabinoy Chakma, s/o Binanda Chakma
- 4) Mr. Binimoy Chakma, s/o Smriti Bikash Chakma
- 5) Mr. Shantimoy Chakma, s/o do
- 6) Mr. Babulya Chakma, s/o do
- 7) Mr. Shanti Bikash Chakma, s/o Tarani Sen Chakma
- 8) Mr. Baghya Chakma, s/o Nilasen Chakma
- 9) Mr. Tapan Chakma, s/o Jongi Pista Chakma
- 10) Mr. Swapan Bikash Chakma, s/o do
- 11) Mr. Rabi Sankar Chakma, s/o Ukkopeda Chakma
- 12) Mr. Binanda Chakma, s/o Rajamoni Chakma
- 13) Mr. Sunentu Chakma, s/o Binanda Chakma
- 14) Mr. Gunentu Chakma, s/o do
- 15) Mr. Nila Baran Chakma, s/o Hridoy Bap Chakma
- 16) Mr. Amerika Chakma, s/o Ananta Bijoy Chakma

Later 12 persons were released but 4 persons of serial 1 to 4 were handed over to the Longadu police station in connection with false arms case.

May 2006**(22) 4-5 May 2006: 6 innocent Jumma villagers arrested by the army in Mahalchhari**

On 4-5 May 2006 a group army of Kyanghat sub-zone under Mahalchhari zone led by a Major arrested following six innocent Jummas while they were chatting in a village shop at Lemuchari village under Mahalchhari upazila in Khagrachari district. The victims were taken into Mahalchhari zone and were tortured brutally. The victims were:

- 1) Mr. Sona Ratan Chakma (38) s/o late Subash Chandra Chakma, Lemuchari, Mahalchhari
- 2) Mr. Hridoy Bindu Chakma (32) s/o Satya Ranjan Chakma, do
- 3) Mr. Asim Baran Talukder (47) s/o Late Mukundu Lal Talukder, do
- 4) Mr. Priti Bindu Talukder (30) s/o Nabadip Talukder, do
- 5) Mr. Santu Chakma (22) s/o Indumoy Chakma, do
- 6) Mr. Pradip Chakma (18) s/o Rehati Mohan Chakma, do

Later 5 persons were released from Mahalchhari zone due to tremendous pressure of the Chairman of Maischhari and the local prominent persons but Sona Ranjan Chakma was handed over to Mahalchhari police station in connection with false arms case. It is also reported the army authority took a

photograph of the victim in holding a gun for showing him as a terrorist though no arm has been recovered during the arrest.

(23) 7 May 2006: A returnee PCJSS member arrested by the army in Panchari

On 7 May 2006 Md. Belal, a military intelligent of Pancharin zone arrested a returnee PCJSS member named Mr. Buddha Ranjan Chkma alias Kusum (40) s/o Gandharaj Chakma of Nalkata village under Panchari upazila in Khagrachari district while he went to Panchari Bazar. Later the army personnel of Panchari zone led by Second-in-Command Major Nasim tortured him and took a photograph in holding a gun though no arm was found with him. The next day he was handed over to the Panchari police station and a case was also filed against him under arms act with Panchari police station.

(24) 9 May 2006: UPDF issued letter for collecting illegal tolls in Panchari

On 9 May 2006 with a view to collecting of tolls, the UPDF issued a letter to the following Jumma villagers of Nalkata village of Panchari upazila under Khagrachari district for attending at Dudukchara village where UPDF has a military base:

- 1) Bira Chandra Chakma (45) s/o Dina Bandhu Chakma, village of South Nalkata
- 2) Kali Kumar Chakma (50) s/o Dina Bandhu Chakma, do
- 3) Tridip Chakma (40) s/o Dharma Kanta Chakma, do
- 4) Binoy Bikash Chakma (35) s/o Debendra Lal Chakma, do
- 5) Shasi Ranjan Chakma (45) s/o Shira Chakma, do
- 6) Kalendra Chakma (45) s/o Jamini Chakma, do
- 7) Sneha Kumar Chakma (40) s/o Kali Mohan Chakma, do
- 8) Basu Dev Chakma (30) s/o Shanti Mohan Chakma, do

The said people were released from UPDF confinement by giving cash Tk. 30,000 as well as commitment of another payable Tk. 70,000.

It is reported that Mr. Surendra Chakma (70) s/o Sudhanya Chakma and Mr. Birendra Karbari abandoned the village in 2006 and shifted in Dudukchara vilage. As a result, their land was unused. So the victims have been cultivating around 7 acres of their land since their leaving. The victims have been paying tolls for the cultivation to local club named Star Sporting Club. The UPDF became unhappy for collection of tax by the said club. So they noticed the victims to pay tolls to them for previous six years. Finally, the UPDF has settled the issue that the villagers will pay Tk. 23,000 per year to them.

(25) 17 May 2006: Jumma villagers brutally tortured by army in Longadu

On 17 May 2006 at 4.00 a.m. a group of army from Mainimukh zone under Longadu upazila raided Kattali village under Longadu upazila. The army picked up the following villagers from their houses and released after torturing and harassment:

- 1) Mr. Sukanta Jiban Khisa s/o Rehati Mohan Khisa
- 2) Mr. Bibhas Khisa, s/o Rehati Mohan Khisa
- 3) Mr. Satyabrata Khisa s.o Rehati Mohan Jhisa
- 4) Mr. Ashwatama Chakma s/o Behala Chakma (ex-member)
- 5) Mr. Mekela Chakma s/o Aungshu Prue Chakma
- 6) Mr. Anit Kumar Chakma s/o Pancha Mohan Chakma.

(26) 29 May 2006: Anti-accord motion in the meeting of Parliamentary Standing Committee on CHT

On 29 May 2006 a ruling party lawmaker who is also a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on CHT Affairs Ministry Mr. Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan raised anti-accord motion at the said committee meeting. He made the argument, which recommended that the people of the ethnic minority communities should be termed as 'tribal' instead of 'indigenous'. He also made false accusation that the NGO authorities working in the CHT region were giving funds of various donor agencies, including the UNDP, to the 'tribal terrorists' to purchase firearms in the name of development works. He accused the NGOs of working for converting the local people to Christian religion in exchange of money adding '80 percent people of the Tripura community, 60 percent of

Marma, 40 percent of Chakma and above 90 percent of small other communities have already been made Christian.

The Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee Mr. Mosharaf Hossain MP, accepted the allegation against the NGOs and included the issue in the next meeting agenda. However, the Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs Mr. Moni Sawpan Dewan denied the allegations of Wadud Bhuiyan. On the other, some local NGOs in CHT submitted a letter to the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee protesting the said baseless and politically motivated accusation of Wadud Bhuiyan.

(27) In May 2006: Bengali settlers occupied the lands of Buddhist Bihar

Recently the Bengali settlers of Maischari under Mahalchari upazila have occupied the lands of Buddhist Bihar (temple) through torching the huts of the temple and constructing new houses on the lands.

It is reported that on 20 May 2006 the Bengali settlers built houses on temple's lands. The next day, the Managing Committee of the temple called on to UNO (Upazila Nirabahi Officer) of Mahalchari upazila to resolve the dispute. Following this, the UNO called a meeting with Jumma and Bengali people. But the Bengali settlers again constructed more 35 houses avoiding the initiative of the UNO. Then the police destroyed the houses on 25 May. Few days later, on 14 June at night the Bengali settlers torched the house of the temple and again constructed more 40 houses. On the other hand, Md. fanatic leader Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, Chairman of the CHT Development Board supplied seedlings to the Bengali settlers on 17 August 2006. The indigenous people of surrounding villagers of the Buddhist temple submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister of the government of Bangladesh demanding to stop land grabbing by the Bengali settlers and return back their lands. But no action has been taken by the government so far.

June 2006

(28) 19 June 2006: CHT people demanded ban of Khagrachari DC's booklet

On 19 June 2006 the PCJSS has demanded ban of booklet titled 'Khagrachari 2001-2005' published by Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Khagrachari district. Demanding ban of this booklet, an half-day strike was also observed by the Khagrachari District Citizen's Forum and some others organisations in Khagrachari on 16 July 2006. They also demanded seizing of all copies of his books and eliminating him from the post of Deputy Commissioner. They have alleged that this book is reinforcing communal conflict between Bengali and indigenous peoples and threatening communal harmony of the region.

This booklet has been published by the DC of Khagrachari district in April 2006 and distributed to the Ministers, Secretaries and donor agencies through a forwarding letter. Both the booklet and forwarding letter have treated the indigenous peoples of CHT as intruders, terrorist, anti-Bengalis and anti-state culprits. He mentioned in the forwarding letter, "In Khagrachari there are mainly three tribes. They are Chakma (28%), Tripura (13%) and Marma (11%). There are some insignificant numbers of Monipuri and Shawtal here. History says that they all are outsiders. The tribes Kookies found at that time went against British Imperialism and were driven away with the help of new intruder tribes. In fact, we are nourishing these intruders with a lot of facilities by depriving the mainstream people."

Moreover he quoted in his booklet, "Chakma tribe.. speaks ill of establishment, dislikes the mainstream people or the Bengalee, even takes arms against them. Last of all in 1997 they surrendered arms after signing a controversial pact with Government of Bangladesh (GoB)."

The above statements and information of the DC are misleading, self-imaginary and communally motivated.

The history shows that before the British colonization, the indigenous Jumma people of CHT were independent. During the whole period of the Mughal rule in this Indian sub-continent, the Chakma Kings of this region were internally supreme and externally free. In 1550 a Portuguese cartographer

named *Joa De Barros* shown the Chakma kingdom on his map as the Feni river to the North, the Namre or Naf river to the south, the Lushai hills to the east and the sea to the west. Even after 1860 and until 1900 the British government administered CHT through a set of rules promulgated from time to time. In 1900 the British government enacted the CHT Regulation 1 of 1900 and declared it as an Excluded Area, in order to protect the Jumma people from economic exploitation by non-indigenous people and to preserve their traditional socio-cultural and political institutions based on customary laws, community ownership of land and so on. However, from the very outset, the Pakistani government looked upon the Jummas with an eye of suspicion as anti-Pakistani as well as anti-Islamic. Therefore, the Pakistan governments' ultimate aim was to exterminate the people of CHT through its socio-political-economic policy. In 1950s, in implementing her brazen designs violating the principles and spirit of the CHT Regulation of 1900 the government of Pakistan started Bengali Muslim settlement at Longadu and Naniarchar in CHT and it continued up to 1966. On the other, immediately following the independence of Bangladesh in early 1972, the government of Bangladesh did not respect their fundamental rights and did not write even a single word in the constitution regarding the entity and safeguard of the Jumma people. Rather the CHT underwent militarization. The government began state-sponsored migration of Bengali Muslim settlers into the CHT.

(29) 19 June 2006: PCJSS conference attacked by Bengali settlers in Alikadam

On 19 June 2006 the activists and leaders of Sama Adhikar Andolan (CHT Equal Rights Movement), a fanatic organization of Bengali settlers patronised by local military administration attacked thana level conference of PCJSS in Alikadam upazila under Bandarban district. The attackers equipped with sticks, iron rods made attack upon the unarmed workers and supporters of PCJSS who were present in the conference. During the one-hour long attack, at least 30 PCJSS workers and supporters received injuries. Of them, 6 persons were precariously wounded.

On that day around 11.00 a.m. just on the eve of commencing of the conference of PCJSS at Town Hall of Alikadam upazila sadar, Bengali settlers numbering 200 people led by Abul Kalam, Chairman of Alikadam sadar union council shouting communal slogans attacked PCJSS members and supporters. The attackers destroyed the chairs, tables, door and windows of the hall. Then they set fire on the national flag and the party flag of PCJSS hoisted in front of the conference hall. In this attack, the following workers and supporter of PCJSS were injured:

- 1) Mr. Puchoi Thoai Marma (31), assistant general secretary of PCJSS of Bandarban Hill District branch;
- 2) Mr. Konoey Mro (26), member of Hill Students' Council of Bandarban District branch;
- 3) Mr. Thoai Mra Marma (33), President of Youth Association of Bandarban District branch;
- 4) Mrs. Sonari Tripura (70), a villager;
- 5) Mrs. Pongnu Mro (50), Member of PCJSS of Alikadam Union branch; and
- 6) Mr. Mraoa Marma (60), local prominent person.

The attackers ran after the leaders of PCJSS namely Mr. Sadhram Tripura and Chinghla Mong Chak, President and Vice President of PCJSS of Bandarban district respectively who fled away to rest house of Alikadam upazila sadar. The attackers destroyed windows and set fire on curtains of the rest house.

The police, military and local civil administration were onlooker of the attack. A group of police led by Md. Asfaq, Sub-Inspector (SI) of Alikadam police station was deployed for security of conference. But they remained silent. Mostafa Kamal, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of same police station and Shahidul Alam, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Alikadam upazila did not take any action against the Bengali settlers during the attack. Md. Alimullah Bahar, Commanding Officer of Alikadam army zone of 11 Bengal reported instigating Sama Adhikar Andolan to commit this heinous act.

Among the injured persons Mr. Puchoi Thoai Marma and Mr. Konoey Mro were referred from Alikadam hospital to Bandarban District hospital and Sonari Tripura was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with severe injury. The rest 3 of the injured persons were got admitted to the Alikadam hospital.

It is notable that the Sama Adhikar Andolan backed by the local army and the local units of ruling parties has been opposing implementation process of CHT Accord, the PCJSS and indigenous people.

(30) 21 June 2006: Meeting of Cabinet Committee on CHT Affairs held in Dhaka

On 21 June 2006 at 11.00 a.m. 11th meeting of Cabinet Committee on CHT Affairs were held at conference hall of local government division of Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Ministry of Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka. Mr. Adbul Mannan Bhuiyan, Minister for LGRD presided over the meeting. Among others, the following dignitaries were present in the meeting:

Government side:

- 1) Mr. Moudud Ahmad, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs;
- 2) Mr. Mani Swapan Dewan, Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs;
- 3) Mr. Owahidul Alam, Chief Whip

CHT Regional Council side:

- 1) Mr. Goutam Kumar Chakma, Member of CHTRC
- 2) Mr. Sudhasindhu Khisa, Member of CHTRC
- 3) Mr. K S Mong, Member of CHTRC

Besides, government officials also attended the meeting. Discussion was held on the draft of the Rules of Business of CHTRC and is to be completed in the next meeting. In the meeting, it was decided to transfer the following institutions to HDCs:

- 1) Horticulture Centre
- 2) Office of Chief Cotton Development Officer
- 3) Nursing Training Institute, Rangamati
- 4) Family Welfare Inspector Training Institute, Rangamati
- 5) Office of District Education Officer
- 6) Office of Project Officer (Secondary Education)
- 7) Vocational Training Institute (managed under Vocational Education Board), Khagrachari
- 8) Primary Training Institute, Rangamati.

(31) 30 June 2006: A Jumma woman raped by the Bengali settlers

On 30 June 2006 a group of Bengali settlers raped a Jumma woman named Nunu Marma d/o Felang Marma of Bara Kheda Para under Ramgarh upazila in Khagrachari district. It is reported that she was visiting her relatives Jatin Mohan Tripura of Bara Tali Para.

On that day at around 1.30 p.m. a group of Bengali settlers raided the home, tied up Jatin Mohan Tripura and his wife and then kidnapped Nunu Marma. At that time the miscreants told Jatin Mohan Tripura that the Chairman of Patachara Union Momin Habilder has ordered them to pick up her.

The next day, some villagers along with Jatin Mohan Tripura met the said Chairman and asked about Nunu Marma. The Chairman denied to order said miscreants to kidnapping victim. However, he asked called two people to trace Nunu Marma. Then they informed that Nunu Marma was gang raped by the following miscreants and released her in senseless situation.

- 1) Md. Abdul Kader (30) s/o Sayem uddin Munsu, village of Nakapa Cluster village;
- 2) Md. Shahajahan Miyan (35) s/o Ahamudur Rahman, village of Nakapa Cluster village;
- 3) Md. Jakir Hossain (26) s/o Bacchchu Miyan, Nakapa Cluster village.

Then Nunu Marma was rescued from her uncle's house (Mr. Balasu Marma) of Barakheda Tali Para under Ramgarh upazila. Though the victim has filed a case against the miscreants but no one was arrested.

(32) 30 June 2006: An innocent Jumma arrested by RAB in Ghagra

On 30 June 2006 an innocent Jumma named Mr. Suman Chakma (25) s/o Nirmal Chakma of Harangi Refugee Para of Kachukhali mouza under Kaukhali upazila in Rangamati was arrested by the RAB from Ghagra Bazar. After the arrest, he was not traced by his relatives.

July 2006

(33) 12 July 2006: Innocent shopkeeper arrested by the army in Mahalchari

On 12 July 2006 at around 2.00 p.m. a group of army led by Major Bashir Ahmed Choudhury of Bijitola army camp under Mahalchari zone arrested a local innocent shopkeeper named Kali Bandhu Tripura (50) s/o Tangya Dhan Tripura from Thalipara of Nunchari Mouza under Khagrachari sadar Upazila. He was severely beaten and shocked with electricity. It is mentionable that, he has been protesting against expansion of settler's cluster villages. It is reported that Md. Badsha Mian was the main culprit in committing such physical torture of military personnel.

(34) 18 July 2006: One PCJSS member kidnapped by UPDF in Longadu

On 18 July 2006 an armed group of UPDF kidnapped one PCJSS member named Samaraj Chakma (45) s/o late Noaram Chakma of Bhaibonchara under Longadu upazila. On that day the kidnapers raided the village along with his houses and kidnapped him.

The next day Mr. Dharmaraj Chakma, brother of Samaraj Chakma, and some villagers met to the UPDF leaders at Naniarchar Office of UPDF. Firstly the UPDF leaders tried to deny in committing this kidnapping but the villagers insisted that the kidnapers were member of UPDF. Later they were advised to contact again on next Saturday. So the relatives of victim met to the UPDF leaders later. Again, the leaders of UPDF denied the kidnapping. Now the villagers and the relatives of victim are expressing concern that the victim might kill. It is mentionable that the victim's son Shantashil Chakma was also kidnapped and killed by the UPDF armed cadres in same way before one and half year.

(35) 22 July 2006: One villager killed by the UPDF in Longadu

On 22 July 2006 at around 9.00 a.m. the armed cadres of UPDF led by Ujjal Kanti Chakma alias Dajjya shot death a villager named Mr. Prabhat Kumar Chakma of Barkalak under Longadu upazila in Rangamati district. On that day the miscreants opened fire for creating terror while they reached near shop of Barkalak village. Like other villagers, Mr. Prabhat Kumar Chakma came out from the shop and no sooner the UPDF cadres caught him. Then the miscreants shot him to death. Then the villagers were ordered to flame the dead body on that day. The miscreants also threatened the villagers to launch further attack if they informed police. No case was filed.

(36) 22 July 2006: Two villagers killed by the UPDF in Ramgarh

On 22 July 2006 the armed cadres of UPDF led by Napa Marma and Lalit Kumar Chakma shot death two villagers in Ramgarh of Khagrachari district. Among the victims, Anil Chakma (52) of Kumujya Karbari Para of Guimara under Ramgarh upazila was caught by the UPDF armed cadres while he was going towards market. Then he was tortured inhumanly and killed by the miscreants. On the other hand at the same time another victim Keoprue Marma (40) of Baraitali village under Ramgarh upazila was abducted by the same group from his house. He was also severely tortured by the miscreants before killing. At present the villagers of area are living in tension. Though police authority has filed two cases with Ramgarh police station but not miscreants was arrested yet.

(37) 23 July 2006: Meeting between Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Santu Larma

On 23 July 2006 at 1.00 p.m. a brief meeting between the Prime Minister of Government of Bangladesh Begum Khaleda Zia and PCJSS President as well as CHTRC Chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma was held at Prime Minister's office in Dhaka.

During the meeting, Mr. Larma has reported the situation of CHT and requested the PM to hold election in the CHT with the permanent voters as per CHT Accord. He has also urged the Prime Minister to implement the CHT Accord. Begum Zia has assured Mr. Larma that the government would implement the Accord in phases. However, she opposed Mr. Larma while he was reporting on military atrocity and land grabbing by Bengali settlers in CHT. Among others, CHTRC Member and PCJSS leader Mr. Rupayan Dewan also attended the meeting.

(38) 29 July 2006: Villagers abducted by UPDF armed cadres in Kaukhali

On 29 July 2006 a group of UPDF armed cadres conducted armed attack on villagers of Shuknachari and Dhulu Para village under Kaukhali upazila in Rangamati district. In this assault, the following villagers were abducted at gunpoint:

- 1) Mr. Chuchungya Chakma (22) s/o Mangal Chandra Chakma of Chota Dhulu Para under Kaukhali
- 2) Mr. Chanu Mong Marma (30) of Bara Dhulu Para under Kaukhali
- 3) Mr. Thowairee Marma (20) of Chota Dhulu Para under Kaukhali
- 4) Mr. Paimo Ching Marma (22) of Chota Dhulu Para under Kaukhali
- 5) Mr. Hla Thowai Marma (25) of Chota Dhulu Para under Kaukhali
- 6) Mr. Memyae Marma (20) of Chota Dhulu Para under Kaukhali
- 7) Mr. Kyaching Marma (23) of Chota Dhulu Para under Kaukhali
- 8) Mr. Nunue Marma (20) of Chota Dhulu Para under Kaukhali.

The UPDF cadres demanded Tk. 12 lacs as ransom. Chuchungya Chakma and Hla Thowai Marma were release after payment of Tk. 7 lacs. But others are still missing.

It is notable that both the army along with the settlers and the UPDF exacerbated their attacks against the Jumma people and PCJSS probably aiming at the further expansion of settlements of the settlers and for the next parliament election.

August 2006

(39) 2 August 2006: Innocent school teacher and public representative arrested by army in Baghaichari

On 2 August 2006 at night around 2.00 a.m. a group of army from Karengatali army camp under Baghaihat army zone in Rangamati arrested a newly appointed innocent teacher of Rupali Government Primary School named Mr. Pragati Chakma (32) and a public representative named Mr. Suman Chakma (35), Member of Marishya union from the house of latter. They along with 9 round of bullets were handed over to Baghaichari police station in connection with arm case. However, no bullet with them has been recovered during the arrest. Mrs Bidushi Chakma, w/o Suman Chakma alleged that gold ornaments including chain, finger ring, earring and bangle, 4 wristwatches and Tk. 40,170 have been looted by the army during the assault. The local people brought out procession in Baghaichari upazila headquarters protesting against the arrest and submitted memorandum to the UNO (Upazila Nirbahi Officer) demanding immediate release of innocent arrested persons and to stop such inhuman atrocity in CHT. Later on 7 August the arrested persons were released on bail from Rangamati magistrate court.

(40) 6 August 2006: Buddhist temple burnt to ashes by Bengali settlers in Longadu

On 6 August 2006 a group of Bengali settlers from Challyatali mouza of Bhasanya Adam union under Longadu upazila (sub-district) in Rangamati district led by Rafique Uddin s/o Abdul Barek destroyed a Buddhist temple of Challyatali village under Longadu upazila with an aim to occupy the land of indigenous Jumma people. The Jumma villagers put objection to the UNO (upazila executive officer) against Mr. Rafique Uddin and his gang and demanded to stop land grabbing and religious persecution. UNO formed a inquiry committee with Chairman of Bhasanya Adam union Mr. Nurucchafa, former Longau upazila Chairman Mr. Sukhamoy Chakma, representative of Longadu police station, Commander of Challyatali BDR camp and local Kanungo (government employee on land) on 7 August. However, the Bengali settlers led by Rafique Uddin set fire the destroyed temple on 8 August. A case was filed with Longadu police station in connection with the arson. But no culprit was arrested so far. It is mentionable that the temple was built with the financial assistance of Ministry of CHT Affairs.

(41) 7 August 2006: Maischari rape case transferred to Chittagong

On 7 August 2006, the cases were sent to Special Tribunal in Chittagong (memo no. 2734 and 2735) because there is no Tribunal for Prevention on Women and Children Oppression (Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman Special Tribunal) in three hill districts of CHT. On 15 November 2006, the next date of the cases was fixed for put up in the special tribunal. It is noted that on 3 April 2006 a group of

Bengali settlers committed a communal attack on five Jumma villages under Maischari union of Mahalchari upazila in Khagrachari district. In this attack 2 Jumma girls were raped and 50 above Jumma persons received injuries. Among injured, 11 villagers including 2 raped were admitted to Khagrachari district hospital.

On 9 April 2006, Legal Aid Research Association (LARA), a human rights organisation based in Khagrachari district filled two rape cases in the learned first class magistrate Mr. Shafiul Arif's Court. By taking cognizance, Learned Court ordered Officer in Charge (OC) Mahalchari thana (Police Station) to take necessary legal action. On 10 April 2006, relevant papers specially sent to OC Mahalchari thana and the complaint case turned in to G.R. Cases no. GR- 94/06 and GR- 95/06 accordingly. Investigation Officer (IO) was appointed. OC Mahalchari thana Mr. Shahjalal for GR 94/06 (informant Abaikrai Marma, mother of victim Thuimraizai Marma) and Sub Inspector Syeed Iqbal for GR 95/06 (informant Amesu Marma, mother of victim Krazaima Marma). Police investigation started and it will continue three months. On 9 July 2006, IO submitted Charge Sheet after finishing their investigations and on 7 August 2006, the cases were sent to Special Tribunal in Chittagong. Nobody was arrested so far in this connection.

(42) 8 August 2006: Roundtable conference on International decade of the world's indigenous peoples held in Dhaka

On 8 August 2006 Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolan and ActionAid Bangladesh jointly organised the roundtable titled 'International Decade(s) of the World's Indigenous Peoples: Attainments and Expectations' at Cirdap auditorium in Dhaka.

The Roundtable Conference was divided into two sessions. In the first session, President of PCJSS and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma presided over and Director of Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) Mr. Walliur Rehman attended as Guest of Honour. Mangal Kumar Chakma, Secretary for Information and Publicity of PCJSS presented keynote paper on International Decade(s) of the World's Indigenous Peoples: Attainments and Constraints. Executive Director of Institute for Environment and Development (IED) Mr. Numan Ahmed Khan, Prof Dr Niaz Zaman of Dhaka University, Shoaib Siddique of ActionAid Bangladesh and Convenor of Bangladesh Adivasi Union Ms. Rebeka Soren also spoke. Executive Editor of the daily Sangbad Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul moderated the session.

In the second session, Professor Niaz Zaman of English Department of Dhaka University presided over and Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud, Vice President of Bangladesh Bar Association attended as Guest of Honour. Mr. Sanjeb Drong, General Secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum presented keynote paper on International Decade(s) of the World's Indigenous Peoples: Expectations. Barrister Sadia Arman spoke in the session as designated discussant and T I M Zahid Hossain of ActionAid Bangladesh moderated the session.

Speakers at a roundtable called for constitutional recognition of the indigenous people and ensuring their participation in mainstream development activities in order to establish their rights. Continuous repression on and eviction of ethnic people from their land have left them marginalised, they said, adding that no governments took steps to protect them, their language and culture.

Bangladesh Bar Council Vice-Chairman Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud said that the culture of indigenous people is part of our culture and we must protect it. They not only are deprived of their rights to land, but also face discrimination in employment, he said, adding that indigenous people are hardly found in government services and private organisations. He called for enactment of a law protecting their land and culture.

Speaking as the Guest of Honour, Mr. Larma said torture, repression and communal violence has put the existence of country's 20 lakh indigenous people at risk. The rights of ethnic people would not be established until a progressive, democratic and secular government is installed in the country, said Shantu Larma, also president of PCJSS. He also called for ensuring participation of indigenous people in the development activities of the government.

Presenting a keynote paper in the first session, Mangal Kumar Chakma said the first international indigenous people's decade, declared by the United Nations, ended on December 31, 2004, while the second decade began in 2005. But no changes have been achieved in the state policies towards the indigenous peoples during the first international indigenous people's decade. The state policy is always reactionary to the indigenous peoples.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum Sanjib Drong, in his keynote paper, called for changing the attitude towards indigenous people, and urged the media to play an important role in this regard.

(43) 9 August 2006: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples observed through colourful programmes

On 9 August 2006 the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum (BIPF) observed the international day of world's indigenous peoples throughout the country. The central program was organised in Dhaka and other programs were observed in CHT, Sylhet and Mymensingh.

In Dhaka, hundreds of indigenous people of all ages from across the county thronged at the central Shaheed Minar premises beating drums and trumpets, and wearing their traditional colourful dresses to celebrated the day. The PCJSS President and BIPF President Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma chaired the meeting. Inaugurating the programme, prominent litterateur Hasan Azizul Haq said, "In the liberation war, both Bengalis and Adivasis sacrificed their lives, but no government give them constitutional recognition. The indigenous people become the subject of all types of exploitation, including killing, rape, loot, and were also evicted from their own lands. The indigenous people are on the verge of extinction. It is high time to build resistance and snatch the khas lands, otherwise, there will be no existence of the Adivasis."

CPB President Mr. Monzurul Ahsan Khan, JCD President Mr. Hasanul Haque Inu, Mr. Fazle Hossain Badsha of Workers Party, Ms. Khushi Kabir of Nejera Kori, Ms. Rokeya Kabir of Bangladesh Nari Progoti Sangho, General Secretary of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad Mr. Rabindranath Saren, indigenous leader Prof Remon Areng, Gobinda Barman and Ms. Rebeka Saren, General Secretary of Hill Women's Federation Ms. Shaswati Chakma, Golam Kuddus, Haji Abdus Samad, Dilip Barua, Mesbah Kamal, among others, addressed the meeting. Mr. Sanjeeb Drong, General Secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples' Forum delivered welcome address in the inaugural session.

Chakma, Garo and tea workers presented their traditional dances on the occasion followed by a colourful rally. The theme of the Indigenous Day is 'Indigenous Peoples have the Right to Territory, Land and Natural Resources'.

At a discussion at the Engineers' Institution in Dhaka, Jyotirindra Bodhipriyo Larma alias Santu Larma, president of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, called on the indigenous people to cast their votes for progressive democratic forces in the upcoming election to help establish a pro-people government, which he said will take effective measures to protect their rights. He added, "We are small in number but we can play a vital role in the next general election through forging a unity and joining hands with the pro-liberation and progressive democratic forces in order to install a pro-people government. Only a pro-people and democratic government can put an end to repression on and discrimination against the indigenous people."

Speaking as the chief guest, retired Justice and former Chief Advisor of Caretaker Government Muhammad Habibur Rahman said the minority communities, including the ethnic people, have always been deprived of their rights.

Deputy Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Moni Swapan Dewan said the leaders of indigenous communities should discuss with both BNP and Awami League, the mainstream political parties, to resolve their problems. He urged the indigenous people to come forward and take part in the mainstream development activities in order to improve their lives. Awami League leader Promod Mankin MP said the Bengali settlers have been grabbing the land property of ethnic people, but the government is not taking any action against the persons responsible.

It is very alarming that repression on minority communities, including the indigenous people, is increasing day by day, said Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno. She also urged the indigenous people to forge a unity to establish their rights. Raja Dabashish Roy said, “The government has been grabbing the land of ethnic people in the name of khas land while the forest department declared their lands as reserve forests, displacing thousands of indigenous people.”

Besides, Charge de Affairs of European Commission Mr. Anthony Goodwin, Deputy Head of the Royal Danish Embassy Ms. Nathalia Finnberg, Dr. Hamida Hossain, Presidium Member of Gono Forum Mr. Pankaj Bhattacharjya, Professor of Dhaka University Dr. Sadeka Halim, eminent journalist Mr. Golam Mortuza, eminent theatre activist Mr. Mamunur Rashid spoke in the meeting. Ms. Chandra Tripura, an indigenous girl, started the discussion with the special address. The indigenous people also demanded ensuring their rights to land and forest, withdrawal of army camps from the CHT, immediate implementation of the CHT peace treaty, cancellation of the eco-park project in Modhupur forest and an end to repression. The European Commission expressed its solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

Apart from Adivashi Forum, indigenous people in Rangamati, Khagrachhari, Bandarban, Rajshahi, Tangail, Sherpur and Mymensingh organised elaborate programmes to mark the day. The programmes included holding of rallies, processions, discussion meetings and cultural programmes.

(44) 10 August 2006: Workshop on Primary education in adivasi mother tongue held in Dhaka

On 10 August 2006 ActionAid Bangladesh and Research and Development Collectives (RDC) jointly organised a daylong Workshop on ‘Primary Education in Adivasi Mother tongues: Expectations, Constraints and the Way Forward’ at Biam auditorium in Dhaka. The workshop was included three research presentations entitled (1) Education and Language Needs of Indigenous Peoples presented by Prof. Muhammad Samad of Institute of Social Welfare and Research of Dhaka University; (2) Performance of Mother Tongue and Bangla Users presented by Prof. Abdul Malleque of Institute of Social Welfare and Research of Dhaka University and Ms. Jobaida Nasreen of Research Institute of Bangladesh and (3) Feasibility Study of Bi-Lingual Education for Indigenous Peoples presented by Mr. Sourav Shikder of Linguistics Department of Dhaka University.

PCJSS President and BAF President Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma, Vice Chancellor Dhaka University S M A Faiz, Professor of Anthropology and Chairman of RDC H K S Arefin, Associate Professor Mr. Mesbah Kamal of Dhaka University, Chief News Editor of Channel I Mr. Sgah Alamgir, Chief Advisor to Adivasi Parishad Mr. Fazle Hossain Badsha, noted adivasi litterateur Mr. Sanjeeb Drong, adivasi teachers and representatives from different adivasi forums spoke at the workshop.

Mr. Larma while in the chair of inaugural session said that the phantom of feudal anarchy is still haunting the hilly region and thus holds the indigenous children back from having compulsory primary education. He posed the question that confined hills, military rule, fear of eviction, threat from Bengali settlers- can these be considered as congenial atmosphere for children to get education?

The workshop ventilated that at present the rate of illiteracy and drop out is the highest in the hilly region, and poverty, inability to follow the medium of instruction, lack of awareness and absence of indigenous teachers and educational institutions are the main loopholes in expanding education. Moreover, the curriculum does not reflect the history, culture, folk-tales and struggles of indigenous people and eventually the children failed to incorporate them. They read Surya Sen, Khudi Ram, Maulana Bhasani and Sheikh Mujib, but were left ignorant of their own heroes. They have the right to know their rich culture and they must be acquainted with MN Larma and other leaders from time immemorial. The speakers gave top priority to appointment of indigenous teachers in schools, preparing books in indigenous languages and bi-lingual textbooks. The discussants voiced concern over the children who have to be occupied in *Jum* cultivation for nearly eight months each year. They emphasised on initiating boarding schools, as did the government of India in Tripura.

(45) 17 August 2006: BDR plan to set up a new camp in Jurachari

On 17 August 2006 BDR selected a place near Bagakhali Nua Bazar under Jurachari upazila in Rangamati district for setting up a new BDR camp. A group BDR personnel led by one Subeder from Gandachara BDR camp under Jurachari upazila visited Bagakhali Nua Bazar for the same. Bagakhali Nua Bazar is 12 kilometres far from Gandachari BDR camp. It is notable that there are army camps in the area. So it is a move for expansion of fresh settlement of Bengali settlers in the area bordering Mizoram of India.

(46) 22 August 2006: A Jumma girl attempted to Rape by BDR Personnel in Barkal

On 22 August 2006 two BDR personnel attempted to rape a Jumma girl named Ms. Samapudi Chakma (16) d/o Aongla Chakma of Falitangyachug under Barkal upazila in Rangamati district. It is reported that on that day at 2.00 p.m. the victim went to the adjacent stream for collecting water for her cows. At that time the cook of Barkal BDR camp Md. Maznu and water supplier of the same camp Md. Bazlu assaulted her in an attempt for rape. Samapudi Chakma shouted out and Manu Mohan Chakma, a villager rushed there. The incident was informed to every one and the Commander of the camp Habilder Habib gave Tk. 200 to the victim and her mother. The miscreants were reported transferred to the BDR zone camp in Barkal.

UPDF shot death an innocent youth in Panchari

On 22 August 2006 around 7.00 a.m. the armed cadres of UPDF rounded up the house of Karbari of Choto Panchari Para of Panchari upazila in Khagrachari district. They shot death Mr. Swapan Jyoti Chakma (22) s/o Gunosindhu Chakma of village Jhagunala of Latiban union under Panchari upazila. At that time, Swapan Jyoti Chakma was going out to call in a doctor for his mother, who had been ill for some days. The UPDF cadres took away the dead body and concealed it probably to avoid any resentment from the local people.

(47) In August 2006: Meeting of Sama Odhikar Andolan held with help of army in Naniarchar

In August 2006 the fundamentalist organisation of the Bengali settlers Sama Odhikar Andolan (Equal Rights Movement) organised meeting in Naniarchar under Rangamati District helped by the departing Zone Commander of Naniarchar Zone Lt. Colonel Md. Fazlu Haque and newly appointed Zone Commander. In the meeting, they have formed a committee consisting of 35 members where Sayed Ali and Salam have selected as President and Secretary respectively. In the meeting, they also decided to gear up their activities against the CHT Accord and PCJSS. It is a move to organize the settlers particularly for the incoming parliament election as well as to oppose the PCJSS.

(48) 23 August 2006: UP Chairman held by the army in Mahalchhari

On 23 August 2006 the army authority of Bijitala zone picked up Mr. Sajai Marma, Chairman of Maischhari Union in Mahalchhari upazila while he was coming back home from Khagrachari district headquarter. He was severely tortured and interrogated by Major Rashid of Bijitala Sub-zone Commander and Lt. Colonel Kazi Samsul Haque, Zone Commander of Mahalchhari Zone. Later he was released taking signature on a white paper at 11.00 p.m. on that day. The chairman has been supporter of PCJSS and raised voice against further expansion of settlements of the settlers in Maischhari union in Khagrachari district in January 2006.

(49) 24 August 2006: Jumma students attacked by the cadres of BNP student organisation at Rangamati Govt. College

On 24 August 2006 the cadres of the Bangladesh Chatra Dal, student wing of the BNP attacked the Jumma students at Rangamati Government College. On that day, some Bengali Muslims, who were supporters of BNP were shouting slogans with slang languages against Mr. Santu Larma. Some Jumma students of the college requested them not to use slang language. The cadres of BNP student organisation being ammoyed at it made attack on Jumma students indiscriminately. In this attack, the following Jumma students were injured and got treatment at Rangamati hospital:

- 1) Mr. Romel Chakma (18) s/o Premendra Chakma, student of Intermediate of Arts;
- 2) Mr. Goutam Chakma (18) student of Intermediate of Arts (IA), who received injury on his head.

(50) 26 August 2006: Innocent villagers beaten by UPDF armed cadres in Guimara

On 26 August 2006 a group of UPDF armed cadres led by Dhanda Tripura (35), Jadha Chakma (30) and Kiren Tripura raided Tarachan village under Guimara police station in Khagrachari district. In this incident the following villagers were wounded:

- 1) Mr. Sukumar Tripura (30) s/o Joyanta Tripura (was cut by blade and torture);
- 2) Mr. Ajit Tripura (38) s/o Deendra Tripura (was abducted and still missing);
- 3) Mr. Niyon Ching Tripura (50) (is a Karbari, village head and was tortured);
- 4) Mr. Chandi Roy Tripura (50) (is a Karbari, village head and was tortured).

(51) 26 August 2006: Five villagers injured by UPDF cadres

On 26 August 2006 at around 6:45 p.m. suddenly the UPDF armed cadres fired indiscriminately over Dewan Para Chairman Tila under Guimara police station in Khagrachari district. The five persons could narrowly escape with injuries. They were as follows:

- 1) Mr. Doya Chakma (28) of Koilash Mahajan Para of Dulyatali union under Laxmichari;
- 2) Mr. Naingda Marma (25) s/o Hlapa Aung Marma of Magrachari of Dulyatali union under Laxmichari;
- 3) Mr. Sathowai Marma (35) s/o Mongri Marma of Guimara;
- 4) Mr. Upendra Tripura (42) s/o Purnachandra Tripura of Balyachari of Matiranga;
- 5) Mr. Suiching Marma (27) of Chandra Ghona under Kaptai upazila in Rangamati.

(52) 27 August 2006: Land grabbing by Bengali settlers with the help of army in Khagrachari sadar upazila

On 27 August 2006 the Bengali settlers equipped with sharp *daos* started clearing jungle of Ultachari village aiming at acquiring lands of Jumma people of Ultachari village. The Jumma people tried to oppose the Bengali settlers from land grabbing. At a stage, a group of army from Ultachari camp rushed there to help Bengali settlers and ordered Jumma people to leave the place. The Bengali settlers attacked a villager named Mr. Dipu Chakma alias Dippa (27) s/o Doyal Kumar Chakma of Ultachari Bihar Para with sharp *daos* while they caught him alone. He was admitted to Khagrachari hospital with a serious wound. While returning back to the camp, the army arrested following Jumma villagers:

- 1) Mr. Tuntu Chakma s/o Satyasen Chakma of Datkupyra village under Mahalchhari
- 2) Mr. Titon Chakma alias Eti s/o Surendra Chakma of Datkupyra village under Mahalchhari
- 3) Mr. Pranoy Chakma (20) s/o Shova Ranjan Chakma of Datkupyra village under Mahalchhari
- 4) Mr. Ghakru Chakma s/o Ananda Bihari Chakma of Datkupyra village under Mahalchhari
- 5) Mr. Prabhat Chakma s/o Kalachoga Chakma of Bihar Para village of Ultachari under Mahalchhari.

Mr. Prabhat Chakma was released from camp on that day but the others were handed over to the police authority of Mahalchhari police station. Lastly they were released on bail from Khagrachari magistrate court on 31 August 2006.

(53) 29 August 2006: An adolescent girl raped by Bengali settler in Baghaichari

On 27 August 2006 at around 2.00 p.m. an adolescent girl named Sebika Chakma (10) d/o Udayan Chakma of Pakkuakhali village of Sarbuatali union under Baghaichari upazila in Rangamati was raped by a Bengali settler named Md. Billal (26) s/o Kasem of Churakhali village under Baghaichari village. It was reported that Md. Billal raped Sebika Chakma while she was staying alone at her home.

(54) Kraosong Marma injured by UPDF cadres in Guimara

On 29 August 2006 at about 10:00 p.m. an armed group of UPDF fired indiscriminately on Kraosong Marma (22) s/o Sathowai Marma while he was staying at his shop at Dulyatali mauza under Laxmichari upazila in Khagrachari district. Kraosong Marma got serious injuries on his left leg. He was sent to Chittagong Medical College hospital with serious condition. It is mentionable that there was an army camp nearby the shop of Kraosong Marma, but the army did not take any initiative while the UPDF cadres were attacking.

(55) 31 August 2006: A student leader abducted by UPDF and released later

On 31 August 2006 Finance Secretary of Khagrachari Sadar Thana branch of PCP (Hill Students' Council) Mr. Sohel Dewan (19) s/o Khukumoni Dewan of Pratap Karbari Para of Agriculture Research Area of Khagrachari sadar upazila in Khagrachari district was abducted by UPDF armed cadres at gunpoint from Khagrachari stadium while he was watching a football match. However due to tremendous pressure from local people, the UPDF was compelled to release him on 1 September 2006.

(56) In August 2006: Continuous brutal atrocities committing by the UPDF in Laxmichari

The UPDF armed cadres led by Ratan Basu Chakma alias Joy and Usha Marma alias Ujjal have been conducting terrorist activities, such as, killing and looting in Laxmichari upazila of Khagrachari district for long days. For instance-

On 9 August 2006 at 10.00 a.m. the armed cadres of UPDF raided Jarulchari village of Dilyatali union under under Laxmichari upazila and looted cash and valuable of the following villagers:

- 1) Mr. Badimila Bap (35) of Jarulchari village of 2 No Dilyatali union under Laxmichari
- 2) Mr. Jamini Mohan Chakma (45) of Jarulchari village of 2 No Dilyatali union under Laxmichari
- 3) Mr. Tukno Marma (25) s/o Merela Marma of Jarulchari village of 2 No Dilyatali union
- 4) Mr. Vejalya Chakm (25) s/o Kali Mohan Chakma of Jarulchari village of 2 No Dilyatali union
- 5) Mr. Lalu Marma (28) s/o Merela Marma of Jarulchari village of 2 No Dilyatali union
- 6) Mr. Serela Prue Marma (65) s/o Augyajai Marma of Jarulchari village of 2 No Dilyatali union

The miscreants looted cash Tk. 11,790, gold necklace 3 Pcs, gold ring 4 Pcs, ring 5 pairs, goats, chicken and utensils, rice 150 kgs, from the above villagers.

Next day on 10 August 2006 at 10.00 a.m. the same miscreants raided the shop of Mr. Sui Prue Marma (48) s/o Mong Chai Marma of Kadam Para under Laxmichari and looted cash Tk. 3200, gold necklace, wrist watch etc. The miscreants also physically tortured him.

It is also mentionable that on 30 July 2006 at around 8.00 p.m. the UPDF cadres kidnapped Mr. Milan Marma s/o Rasik Kumar Marma of Chailyatali village of Dilyatali union under Laxmichari upazila from his house and killed him nearby plough land.

On 14 August 2006 at 10.00 a.m. they also raided two villages of Dilyatali union under Laxmichari upazila and looted following valuables from the villagers: The miscreants looted following valuables from the villagers.

- 4 cows, 15 cocks, 1 gold necklace, 2 gold rings and cash Tk. 7000 from Mr. Mong Sanai Marma (30) s/o Pathowai Marma and Aoungkya Jai Marma (33) of Magrachari village.
- 1 Cow, 5 goats, cash Tk. 180, 1 lap and 2 Mosquito nets from Ms. Surapati Chakma (35) w/o Goyotya Chakma of West Chailyatali village.
- 2 Oxes, 17 cocks, 2 mosquito nets, 5 pans, 7 plates, 1 pair silver bend and cash Tk. 300 from Mr. Rosi Marma (35) s/o Keojoy Marma of West Chailyatali village.

On 15 August 2006 at around 10.00 a.m. the same UPDF armed cadres raided Jarulchari village of Dilyatali union under Laxmichari upazila and ordered villagers to pay Tk. 100,000 as yearly donation. The villagers were compelled to pay cash Tk. 65,000. The miscreants also ordered them to pay the rest of money within 5 days.

On 28 August 2006 the UPDF cadres encircled the house of Ms. Kraucha Marma (28) d/o Sathowai Marma of Dulyatali village undet Laxmichari upazila and fired indiscriminately on the house. As a result, Ms. Kraucha Marma got bullect injuries. She was admitted to Chittagong Medical College hospital with serious conditions.

On 2 September 2006 at around 8.00 a.m. the UPDF cadres led by Ratan Basu Chakma (30) s/o Dulal Basu Chakma of Mongpruetali under Manikchari made an arm attack the villagers who were going to Manikchari bazar. In this attack, Mr. Mong Prue Marma (35) s/o Sudu Aung Marma of Hafchari village under Manikchari upazila and Mr. Pagana Chakma (32) of Juramani Para under Laxmichari upazila was shot death. Mong Prue Marma was killed at the spot. Pagana Chakma got bullet injuries

and he also died while taking into Chittagong Medical College hospital. On the other, one innocent villager named Aungshi Prue Marma (35) s/o Balichai Karbaru of Dulyatali village under Laxmichari upazila was kidnapped. Besides, the UPDF miscreants also looted valuables of the villagers who were going to market.

September 2006

(57) 2 September 2006: A Jumma adolescent raped and killed allegedly by Bengali settlers in Dighinala

On 2 September 2006 a Jumma adolescent girl named Ms. Runa Chakma (15) d/o Gyanajyoti Chakma of Aungana Ranjan Master Para of Chhota Hajachara mauza of Chhota Merung union under Dighinala upazila in Khagrachari district was raped and then killed by unidentified miscreants at Chhota Merung area under Dighinala upazila in Khagrachari district. She was a student of class nine of Chhota Merung High School in Dighinala upazila.

It is reported that at the morning of that day, she went to school to appear school examination, but she did not return to home on that day. Next day (3 September) at the evening around 6:30 a.m. naked dead body of Runa Chakma was recovered at Merung stream near to no. 10 sentry post of Ansar (para-military force) and half kilometer distant from the Bara Merung bridge. Locals suspect that somebody of the nearby Bengali settlers killed her after raping. Later police of Dighinala upazila arrested 6 Bengali settlers, but released 4 persons of them. One of two arrested Bengali settlers was identified as Monowar Hossain s/o Joynal of Khejur Bagan village of Merung. Police suspected them to involve with this incident. Post mortem was done at Khagrachari hospital. But the report of the post-mortem is not available till to-date. However, the police confirmed that the victim was raped. Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachari district Mr. Golam Moula rushed at the spot on 3 September. He assured the local people to arrest and punish culprits.

On the other, at the evening of 2 September Dighinla branch of PCP (Hill Students' Council) brought out procession in Dighinala demanding to arrest and punish the culprits. On 4 September a protest meeting in Dighinala upazila headquarter was also organised where huge numbers of students and teachers of schools and colleges and public under Dighinala upazila attended. In addition, on 13 September a human chain was organised at Khagrachari district headquarters by the teachers and students with the support of PCP.

(58) 2 September 2006: 3 killed and 1 abducted by UPDF cadres in Manikchhari

On 2 September 2006 at around 8.00 a.m. in an armed attack, Mr. Mong Prue Marma (35) s/o Sudu Aung Marma of Hafchhari village under Manikchhari upazila and Mr. Pagana Chakma (32) of Juramani Para under Laxmichari upazila was shot death and Aungshi Prue Marma (35) s/o Balichai Karbaru of Dulyatali village under Laxmichari upazila was kidnapped by the UPDF cadres led by Ratan Basu Chakma (30) s/o Dulal Basu Chakma of Mongpruetali under Manikchhari. This attack was committed while the villagers were going to Manikchhari bazar. Mong Prue Marma was killed at the spot. Pagana Chakma got bullet injuries but he died while taking into Chittagong Medical College hospital. Besides, the UPDF miscreants also looted valuables of the villagers who were going to market. In earlier report it was mentioned that Mr. Mong Prue Marma and Mr. Pagana Chakma were injured. In fact, they were killed.

On that at about 3:00 p.m. the same group of UPDF shot death another innocent Jumma villager named Ning Prue Chai Marma (30) s/o Bela Marma of north Halfchhari village of Guimara area in Khagrachari district.

It is learnt that the armed group of UPDF demanded illegal tolls from the people against the products brought to sell. When the people refused to subscribe the UPDF cadres made fire over them. A case was filed with the Manikchhari police station in this connection.

(59) 4 September 2006: One Jumma youth killed by the UPDF in Guimara

On 4 September 2006 an innocent Jumma youth named Nirmal Kanti Tripura (21) s/o late Hemendra Tripura of Hiran Karbari Para of Guimara area under Matiranga upazila in Khagrachrai district was shot death by the UPDF armed cadres led by Rigen Chakma and Jiginath Tripura. The local people cremated the dead body of Nirmal Kanti Tripura without informing the police as directed by the UPDF miscreants.

(60) 7 September 2006: Jumma women tried to rape by Bengali in Bandarban

On 7 October 2006 at around 10.00 p.m. a group Bengali miscreants tried to rape a few Marma women while they were returning home after attending the religious function in Bandarban district headquarters. It was learnt that the following Bengali miscreants halted Ms. Umeching Marma w/o Sa Aung Prue Marma of Laungi Para of Bandarban sadar while she, along with her husband, reached at Islampur area of Bandarban municipality. The miscreants kicked and fisticuffed Umeching Marma's husband Mr. Sa Aung Prue Marma and took him at nearby jungle. On the other, the miscreants put off Umeching Marma's dresses in order to rape her. But local people rushed there hearing the shouts of the victims and rescued them. Ms. Shoiaung Ching Marma and her husband Uchain Marma were also attacked by Bengali miscreants for same purpose and rescued by the local people. In the attack, Babul Marma s/o Ukyia Ching Marma received injuries on his head and got admitted at Bandarban sadar hospital. Umeching Marma filed a case with Bandarban police station against the following miscreants. But no culprit has yet been arrested by the police. The Bengali miscreants were as follows:

- 1) Mr. Kajal Das s/o Sadhan Das of Islampur village of Bandanban municipality
- 2) Mr. Khairul Amin s/o Naru of Islampur village of Bandanban municipality
- 3) Mr. Harun s/o Abdur Rahman of Islampur village of Bandanban municipality
- 4) Md. Farid s/o Shamsu of Islampur village of Bandanban municipality
- 5) Mr. Soleman s/o unknown of Islampur village of Bandanban municipality
- 6) Mr. Syad Hossain s/o unknown of Islampur village of Bandanban municipality
- 7) Mr. Jahangir s/o Makhan of Islampur village of Bandanban municipality
- 8) Mr. Selim s/o unknown (tea shopkeeper) of Islampur village of Bandanban municipality
- 9) Mr. Ledu s/o Abul Kalam of Islampur village of Bandanban municipality.

(61) 8 September 2006: A minor Jumma girl raped by a Bengali settler in Rajasthali

On 8 September 2006 at about 4:00 p.m. a minor Jumma girl named Nima Marma (11) d/o Uching Mong Marma and m/o Metung Marma of village Mrodong Para of Bangal Halia union under Rajasthali upazila in Rangamati district was raped by a neighboring Bengali named Santosh Das (37) s/o late Man Mohan Das. Santosh Das first took away the girl to nearby jungle and then raped. Later police arrested the alleged culprit Santosh Das.

(62) 10 September 2006: PCP welcome reception for new students held peacefully in Bandarban

On 10 September 2006 the PCP's welcome reception to new students was, amidst communal tension, held at Bandarban Town Hall. Mr. Chingthoikhui Marma, President of the Bandarban Government College branch of PCP presided over the meeting where Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, President of the PCJSS attended as Chief Guest. Among others, President of Communist Party of Bangladesh Mr. Manjuarul Ahsan Khan, eminent theatre activist Mr. Mamunur Rashid, General Secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum Mr. Sanjeeb Drong, Professor of Chittagong University Dr. Hamida Banu, PCJSS leaders Mr. K S Mong Marma and Sadhuram Tripura, and PCP leaders Mr. Mongsingneo Marma and Mr. Juli Mong Marma spoke in the meeting. More than two hundred new students both Jumma and Bengali attended the welcome reception.

It was mentionable that like last year the CHT Sama Odhikar Andolan, an organisation of fanatic Bengali Muslim declared to oppose visit of Mr. Larma to Bandarban. However, amidst threatening by the Sama Adhikar Andolan, Mr. Larma visited Bandarban successfully and without any incident.

October 2006

(63) 7 October 2006: One Jumma killed by Bengali settler in Bandarban

On 7 October 2006 one Jumma shopkeeper named Ringrong Mro alias Niaring Mro (80) s/o late Maklu Mro of Tankabari union of Bandarban Sadar upazila was found death having assaulted at neck at his shop. It is assumed that some unidentified miscreants of adjacent settlers' village might commit this killing as they had been trying to uproot the Mro community from their lands. In this regards, about 612 Mro families of 37 villages are facing threat to evict from their own lands.

(64) 11 October 2006: Prime Minister Khaleda Zia visited CHT

On 11 October 2006 Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia paid hasty visit in three hill districts of CHT. During her visit, she inaugurated a number of development projects in the hill districts of Bandarban, Khagrachari and Rangamati though some of them have already been inaugurated by other ministers. She visited Khagrachari first and then Rangamati and Bandarban district. In Khagrachari, the prime minister inaugurated Khagrachari Gate, Town Beautification Project, Technical Training Institute, Tourism Motel and Youth Training Institute. In Rangamati, she inaugurated Agriculture Training Institute and Youth Training Institute. In Bandarban, she inaugurated Bandarban Radio Station, Tribal Cultural Institute, Sangu River Bridge, Meghla Tourism Motel and Vocational Training Centre.

She attended two public meetings in Khagrachari and Rangamati district organised by BNP. In her speech at two meetings, though she mentioned a list of development initiatives undertaken by the coalition government but she did not mention a single word on CHT Accord and other CHT burning issues. However she said tribal and Bengali settlers - all are the citizens of Bangladesh. She said that the hillmen (indigenous Jumma people) and plain landers (Bengali settlers) should live together in CHT for overall development of the CHT. She also urged them to work unitedly for making the hill districts attractions for local and foreign tourists. As she did not touch on CHT issues, not only the general people of both Jumma people and permanent Bengali residents, members of the BNP also became frustrated and anger on Khaleda Zia.

Meanwhile, CHT Regional Council Chairman Mr. Joytirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma, Chakma Circle Chief Mr. Devasish Roy, Mong Circle Chief Mr. Pailha Prue Chowdhury and a representative of Bohmang Circle Chief Mr. Jimi Chowdhury met Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at Rangamati Circuit House. During the meeting, Mr. Larma expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for her visit to the hill districts and raised some urgent issues on behalf CHT leaders, such as, finalisation of rules of business of CHTRC and HDCs, setting up judge court in CHT, providing logistic support to the offices of the circle chiefs and mouza headmen, transferring the subjects to the HDCs.

November 2006

(65) 10 November 2006: 23rd Death Anniversary of M N Larma Observed

On 10 November 2006 the 23rd death anniversary of late Manabendra Narayan Larma, forerunner of the renaissance of the Jumma people and the member of the Gono Parishad (Constituent Assembly) was observed with due honour and solemnity throughout the Chittagong Hill Tracts (three hill districts). Apart from the region, the day was marked in Dhaka, capital city of the country.

To commemorate the significant contribution by M N Larma to the CHT indigenous people, PCJSS organised the day-long programmes including mourning rally, offering flower-wreath to the martyrs, discussion meeting, illumination of candles and hosting of paper-balloons in three hill districts. Hundreds of people attended the programme to pay tribute to the great leader M N Larma and other martyrs. The speakers of the meeting in three hill districts demanded full implementation of the CHT Accord signed between the government and PCJSS.

At the National Press Club in Dhaka a discussion meeting/seminar was organised jointly by Bangladesh Adivasi Forum and Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolan on the occasion of the 23rd death anniversary of MN Larma. Among others, Manjurul Ahsan Khan, President of Communist

Party of Bangladesh, Rashed Khan Menon, President of Worker's Part of Bangladesh, Hasanul Haq Inu, President of National Socialist Party, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Presidium Member of Gono Forum, Professor Ajoy Roy, Sanjib Drong, General Secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples' Forum, Rabindranath Soren, General Secretary of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, Golam Mortaza, Executive Editor of the weekly magazine "Weekly 2000" and Nirmal Chakrabarty also spoke.

Speakers at a discussion paid tribute to M N Larma. They demanded constitutional recognition of CHT indigenous people and said that it was high time to have the recognition. They opined that the fate of CHT indigenous Jumma people would not change unless their exploitations ended. They criticised both Awami League and BNP governments for not implementing the peace agreement.

Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma said that M N Larma was the pioneer in case of introducing Jumma Nationalism in the CHT. The CHT Accord was nothing but his brainchild. He also said that M N Larma dreamt a unique and new lifestyle for Jumma people based on changed situation of the society and if M N Larma were alive, things would have been different in the hills.

(66) 13 November 2006: PCJSS activities at Baghahat stopped by Army

On 13 November 2006 Lt. Colonel Helal, Commander, Baghahat Army Zone of Baghaichari upazila under Rangamati hill district along with Major Imtiaz and Major Mahabub ordered the activists of PCJSS, Sajek Union branch to pull out the signboard of the organisation at Baghahat area. At first Major Mahabub called in Anunoy Chakma, PCJSS member to Zone Headquarters and ordered him to remove the signboard of PCJSS Sajek union branch on 13 November. Again, the next day (14 November) Shantimoy Chakma, President of Sajek union branch of PCJSS was also called in and was ordered to stop PCJSS activities in the area by Major Imtiaz and Major Mahabub of Baghahat Army Zone. Shantimoy Chakma refused to carry out the Army officers' order arguing that like other political parties of the country, PCJSS was a democratic political party having every right to conduct organisational activities anywhere in the country. But the military authority did not care for any argument whatsoever. The Army personnel even threatened them to take drastic actions against the PCJSS members if their activities were not stopped. Ultimately, the local leaders of the PCJSS had no option other than postponing all the programmes of the party and removing the signboard.

(67) 15 November 2006: Jumma woman in Barkal attempted to rape by Bengali settler

On 15 November 2006 one Bengali settler named Jahangir Alam of village Barunachari, Suvalong Union of Barkal Upazila under Rangamati hill district made an attempt to rape one Jumma woman named Ms Boby Chakma (23) w/o Robiya Chakma living at Rupban area of Barunachari mouza under Suvalong Union. It is reported that on that day Boby Chakma was coming back home with one jar of drinking water from adjacent bank of Kaptai Lake. On the way, finding her alone, the said Bengali settler jumped over her and attempted to rape. At a stage the miscreant cut off the finger of the victim with a sharp dao.

The police are yet to take steps to arrest the miscreant. On the other hand, putting tremendous pressure on local prominent persons, Lt. Reza, Commander of local Army camp has been making allout efforts to conceal the incident.

(68) 18 November 2006: Passengers of bridegroom harassed by Army in Rajasthali upazila

On 18 November 2006 the army personnel of Golachipa camp under Kaptai brigade in Rajasthali upazila of Rangamati district harassed passengers of a wedding party (carrying the bridegroom) who were traveling from Bandarban to Kaptai upazila by bus. The army personnel halted the bus when they reached Golachipa camp and ordered passengers to get down from the bus for so-called checking. But the wedding party led by a Member of CHT Regional Council Mr. K S Mong Marma refused to get down from the bus and objected to the checking. After a prolonged argument and counter-argument between the army personnel and Mr. K S Mong Marma for half an hour, the wedding party was released to move for their destination.

(69) 24-26 November 2006: Members' Conference of PCJSS held in Rangamati

On 24-26 November 2006, the three-day Members' Conference of PCJSS was held through urging to strengthen self-determination movement of Jumma people. Overall situation of the CHT, current situation of the country and forthcoming general election of 2007 etc. were discussed in the convention. More than 550 members of PCJSS from central, district, sub-district and union level and its front organisations, such as, CHT Women Association, CHT Youth Association, Hill Students' Council, Hill Women's Federation and Girisur Shilpigosthi attended the conference.

The convention was also addressed by PCJSS vice-president Laxmi Prasad Chakma, General Secretary Satyabir Dewan, central committee member Goutam Kumar Chakma and Sudhsindu Khisa, Chandra Shekhar Chakma, Organising Secretary Shaktipada Tripura, Information and Publicity Secretary Mangal Kumar Chakma, Student and Political Affairs Secretary Ushatan Talukder and Assistant General Secretary K S Mong Marma.

The conference was concluded adopting the following programmes:

1. In order to strengthen self-determination movement of Jumma people-
 - (a) to launch a strong movement for implementation of the CHT Accord;
 - (b) to take necessary initiatives for preparation of a voter list with permanent residents of CHT as per the CHT Accord;
 - (c) to strengthen programme for prevention of infiltration, settlement and land grabbing by the outsiders in CHT.
2. Regarding forthcoming general election of 2007-
 - (a) to participate actively in the movement of establishing a democratic, non-communal and progressive government in the country;
 - (b) to participate in the general election of 2007 forming alliance with the democratic, non-communal and progressive political parties;
 - (c) to take necessary initiatives to update the existing voter list immediately.

December 2006

(70) 1 December 2006: Discussion on land issue, problem of IDPs and implementation of Accord held in Dhaka

On 1 December 2006 half-day discussion on land issue, problem of internally displaced person and implementation of CHT Accord was organised by Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolan (BAOA) at national press club in Dhaka. President of BAOA Professor H K S Arefin presided over the meeting where Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma and Major General (Retd.) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury spoke as chief guest and special guest respectively. General Secretary of BAOA Prof. Mesbah Kamal and President of Khagrachari Headmen Association Mr. Shaktipada Tripura presented the keynote paper in the discussion. Among others, General Secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh Mr. Mujahidul Islam Selim, President of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Mr. Hasanul Haq Inu, Politburo Member of Workers' Party of Bangladesh Mr. Haider Akbar Khan Rano, ex-MP of Awami League Colonel (Retd.) Faruk Khan, General Secretary of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad Mr. Robindra Nath Soren, General Secretary of Indigenous People's Forum of Bangladesh Mr. Sanjeeb Drong, Information and Publicity Secretary of PCJSS Mr. Mangal Kumar Chakma, teacher of Dhaka University Mr. Rubayet Ferdous, leader of BAOA Numan Ahmad Khan and Ms Jannat-e-Ferdousi etc spoke in the discussion. Member of BAOA Ms Makfi Farah facilitated the meeting.

The speakers said that the main problem of CHT was the land. Although, the CHT Land Commission (LC) was formed to solve chronic land disputes, it still remained dysfunctional. And the problem was turning into a more complicated one day by day. Misunderstandings and tension between the indigenous and Bengali people are mounting by the day. A vested quarter in the government is setting up additional military camps and settling Bengali outsiders from the plain land in CHT as part of a conspiracy to outnumbering the ethnic communities in their homeland.

The speakers also said that Awami League government signed the accord but could not implement it fully. The last coalition government worked against the Accord. These are intrusion of Bangali settlers in the CHT region, encroachment of Jumma people's lands, and encroachment of lands for setting up of military camps.

(71) 2 December 2006: 9th Anniversary of CHT Accord Observed

On 2 December 2006 the 9th anniversary of the CHT Accord was observed in three hill districts of the CHT, Dhaka and Chittagong. PCJSS held protest meetings and brought out processions in the headquarters of three hill districts and sub-districts (upazilas) demanding full implementation of the Accord.

In Dhaka: At the Women's Voluntary Association auditorium, at 10.00 a.m. the PCJSS and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum jointly organized discussion meeting marking the 9th anniversary of the CHT Accord. The discussion meeting was presided over by PCJSS and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum President Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma. Other speakers of the meeting included Presidium Member of Gono Forum Mr Pankaj Bhattacharya, President of Workers' Party of Bangladesh Mr. Rashed Khan Menon, President of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Mr. Hasanul Haq Inu, Editor of the Prothom Alo Mr. Matiur Rahman, Politburo Member of Workers' Party of Bangladesh Mr. Haider Akbar Khan Rano, eminent playwright Mr. Mamunur Rashid, professor of Dhaka University Dr. Sadeka Halim, associate professor Mesbah Kamal and Mr. Obaidul Khan, General Secretary of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad Mr. Robindra Nath Soren, General Secretary of Indigenous People's Forum of Bangladesh Mr. Sanjeeb Drong. At the beginning, Information and Publicity Secretary of PCJSS Mr. Mangal Kumar Chakma presented the keynote paper in the meeting. The meeting was facilitated by Organising Secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum and PCJSS.

Mr. Larma, in his speech said that the CHT Accord had not yet been implemented because of non-cooperation of the bureaucrats who were not interested in implementing it. He added that Bangladeshi people fought the Pakistani rulers as they did not meet demands of Bengalis. The people of the CHT would do the same if the Bengali rulers do not come forward to meet their demands on time. If the government did not implement the Accord and the majority Bengali people kept on exploiting the hill people, they would have no option other than starting a guerrilla war again.

He also said that Sheikh Hasina, the Awami League president, had the intention to do something good for the indigenous people but the immediate past government did not have any urge to implement the Accord. Many people of the CHT could not enroll themselves in the recently updated voter list and the authorities did not care about it even after receiving complaints.

Mr. Larma reiterated that the CHT situation will become more volatile in the coming days if the Accord is not implemented properly. He added that the Accord will not be executed fully until a non-communal, democratic and progressive political party comes to power. Mr. Larma expressing his disappointment about non-execution of the Accord in the last nine years said other political parties and organisations, which support the Accord should come forward in support of the Jumma people to realize the people's demand for implementing the Accord. He also said the unity of the indigenous population should be strengthened and they should launch a strong movement to materialise 'the dream of the CHT people'.

Pankaj Bhattacharge said that the CHT should be treated as a national problem. He said that the people of the CHT should be involved in the larger political alliances of the country. Matiur Rahman urged the CHT leaders to increase their political power and make the Bangla speaking people to understand the CHT issues. He assured the audience of focusing on the CHT issues in his newspaper and inform the people of the matter.

Mangal Kumar Chakma, in his keynote paper, alleged that the immediate past government was not sincere enough to implement the Accord during its five-year tenure. No step was taken to implement the Accord by the Four-party Alliance government during its regime. Rather, it violated the Accord in various ways including by appointing Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, an erstwhile member of parliament, to the post of the Chairman of CHT Development Board, who is well known for his communal and anti-indigenous disposition.

He also alleged that Wadud Bhuiyan always used to provoke Sama Odhikar Andolan (SOA), a political platform of Bengali settlers in CHT, to wage movements against PCJSS and to hinder implementation of the Accord and accordingly SOA repeatedly in the last five years announced programmes countering previously announced PCJSS programmes.

The vital Clauses of the Accord include functioning Land Commission, rehabilitation of Jumma refugees and internally Jumma displaced families, withdrawal of all temporary camps of the army, APBn (Armed Police Battalion), Ansar and VDP (Village Defence Party) from the CHT, and formation of a CHT based indigenous police force, all of which are yet to be implemented.

As per the CHT Accord, the government has to hand over the control of the three Hill District Councils (HDCs) to the CHT Regional Council (CHTRC). But the government was yet to do that. Till today none of the HDCs consulted the CHTRC in taking any decision, so those councils turned into a hub of corruption and lost the people's confidence.

In Chittagong: At Muslim Institute Hall, at 3.00 p.m. a discussion meeting was organised by 9th Anniversary Observation Committee in association with Pahari Shramik Kalyan Forum. Covenor of the 9th Anniversary Observation Committee Mr. Dipayan Chakma presided over the meeting and Mayor of Chittagong Municipality Mr. Mahiuddin Chowdhury was present as chief guest. Among others, Member of CHT Regional Council Mr. Sneha Kumar Chakma, eminent writer and Bureau Chief of Chittagong office of daily Prothom Alo Mr. Abul Momen, Coordinator of Chittagong region of Socialist Party of Bangladesh Mr. Rajekujjaman Ratan, professor of Chittagong University Dr. Hamida Banu, central member of PCJSS Mr. Palash Khisa, Advocate Rana Dasgupta, Organising Secretary of PCP Mr. Udayan Tripura and General Secretary of Chittagong City branch of PCP Mr. Joysen Tanchangya spoke in the meeting. Leader of the PCP Mr. Sharat Jyoti Chakma facilitated the meeting.

In Rangamati: At Gymnasium premises, at 11.00 a.m. a public meeting was organised by Rangamati district branch of PCJSS. Vice President of PCJSS Mr. Laxmi Prasad Chakma attended the meeting as chief guest where President of Rangamati district branch of PCJSS Mr. Gunendu Bikash Chakma presided over. Among others, General Secretary of Adivasi Samajik Forum Mr. Sukumar Chakma, eminent social worker Mr. Nirmalendu Tripura, President of Rangamati press club Mr. Sunil Kanti Dey, social worker Bijoy Keton Chakma, Vice President of Permanent Bengali Residents' Welfare Council Mr. Jakir Hossain, General Secretary of PCP (Hill Student Council) Mr. Priyadarshi Chakma spoke in the meeting. The public meeting was followed by a procession from the venue to Banarupa patrol pump.

The Bengali settlers' organisation Sama Odhikar Andolan (SOA) which was formed by former BNP lawmaker from Khagrachhari, Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, organised a protest rally on the premises of the municipality office in Rangamati terming the Accord as a 'black and discriminatory agreement'. The member of SOA tried to attack Jumma people at College Gate area in Rangamati who were coming to attend the PCJSS meeting.

In Khagrachari: At Larma Square, at 1.30 p.m. a public meeting was organised by Khagrachari district branch of PCJSS where its president Mr. Rasamoy Chakma presided over. Student and Political Affairs Secretary of PCJSS Mr. Ushatan Talukdar was present as chief guest in the meeting. Women Affairs Secretary Ms. Jarita Chakma, eminent teacher Mr. Nabin Kumar Tripura, social worker Mr. Nirmal Kanti Das, General Secretary of Permanent Bengali Residents' Welfare Council Mr. Kamal Uddin, President of Khagrachari district branch of PCP Mr. Milan Bikash Tripura etc. spoke in the meeting. Organising Secretary of Khagrachari district branch of PCJSS Mr. Braja Kishore Tripura delivered welcome address and Students and Youth Secretary Mr. Ujjal Chakma facilitated the meeting. Mr. Ushatan Talukder said a solution to the ongoing crisis should be found immediately for the interest of the people of CHT, and every body irrespective of nation, caste and creed should come forward to solve the problem.

In Bandarban: At Purabu Super Market premises, at 2.30 p.m. public meeting was held by Bandarban sub-district branch of PCJSS. President of Bandarban sub-district branch of PCJSS Mr. Aungsoi Ching Marma presided over and K S Mong Marma attended the meeting as chief guest.

President of Bandarban district branch of PCJSS Mr. Sadhram Tripura Milton, Education and Cultural Affairs Secretary Mr. Jali Mong Marma, Assistant Ornagising Secretary of PCJSS Mr. Chinghla Mong Chak, General Secretary of Bandarban district branch of PCJSS Mr. Uchho Mong Marma, leader of the Permanent Bengali Residents' Welfare Council Mr. Abbas Uddin Chowdhury, General Secretary of Bandarban sub-district branch of PCJSS Mr. Nishi Mohan Chakma etc. spoke in the meeting. Mr. Puisoi Thowai Marma delivered welcome speech and Mr. Uchoching Marma facilitated the meeting.

(72) 8 December 2006: New army camp setup in Panchari

On 8 December 2006 a new army camp was setup at Fatema Nagar area of Bara Panchari mouza under Panchari upazila in Khagrachari district. It is noted that CHT Accord provides that all temporary camps except 6 permanent installtaions (cantonments) would be withdrawn. However, only 31 camps, out of more than 500 temporary camps, have been withdrawn so far. Moreover, after the signing of the Accord, the gogovernment imposed de facto military rule 'Opeartion Uttaron' and is setting up more and more new camps.

(73) 9 December 2006: PCJSS fields its candidates in the general election of 2007

On 9 December 2006 the PCJSS decided to field its candidates in the forthcoming general election. Mr. Laxmi Prasad Chakma, Vice President of PCJSS and Mr. K S Mong Marma, Assistant General Secretary of PCJSS have been nominated to contest from Rangamati and Bandarban constituencies respectively.

It is mentionable that in its central committee meeting and its members' conference 2006, PCJSS took decision to participate actively in the movement of establishing a democratic, non-communal and progressive government in the country; to participate in the general election of 2007 forming alliance with the democratic, non-communal and progressive political parties and to take necessary initiatives to update the existing voter list immediately. On the other, during the meetings held on 16 and 18 November 2006 in Dhaka between Ms. Shiekh Hasina, President of Awami League and leader of 14 party combine and Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma, President of PCJSS, it was agreed that PCJSS would field its candidates in two constituencies, namely Rangamati-299 and Bandarban-298 and Awami League as well as 14 party combine would support them; and Awami League as well as 14 party combine would field candidate in Khagrachari-300 constituency and PCJSS would support him. Accordingly, PCJSS took above decision.
