



PARBATYA CHATTAGRAM JANA SAMHATI SAMITI

(UNITED PEOPLES PARTY)
CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS
BANGLADESH

Bangladesh Government Denies Mr. J. B. Larma's Participation in the 3rd Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Date of release: May 6, 2004, Dhaka, Bangladesh

This is very unfortunate that the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) denied yesterday, May 5, 2004 to issue Government Order (G.O.) in favour of Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, President of the PCJSS (Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti) and Chairman of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council to visit the USA for attending the 3rd Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, scheduled to be held at the UN Headquarters in New York from 10th to 21st May, 2004. Mr. Larma has been invited by the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, New York to attend the international meet to discuss the global indigenous peoples' issues.

Mr. Larma who is a signatory of the CHT Accord of 1997 which is also known as the Peace Accord for establishing peace in the conflict-torned CHT region has shouldered the Chairmanship of the interim CHT Regional Council, the apex body over the local councils and GoB agencies with the supervisory and coordinating authority over law & order, civil administration, development and etc. in the CHT region. Mr. Larma, holder of State Minister status as the Chairman of the CHT Regional Council requires Government Order for going to abroad whether in government or private visits.

The GoB has violated the basic fundamental principle of the Bangladesh Constitution and also has denied the access of a national leader with ethnic background to the UN. The GoB decision can be termed as absolute denial of a citizen to go to abroad and also to oppose the indigenous peoples' contribution at global level to help build peace and development. It is also an exposure of the hidden policy of the GoB to isolate the indigenous peoples from the world community, which cannot be accepted by any quarter at national or global level.

The PCJSS calls upon the friendly organisations, CHT support groups, indigenous organisations, human rights organisations, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, civil society organisations and individuals of the world to condemn this denial of the GoB so that she, in future, abstains from such acts.

Competent GoB authorities

Begum Khaleda Zia

Honorable Prime Minister

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Mr. Mani Swapan Dewan,

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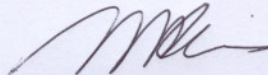
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