An Appeal for
Proper Implementation of the CHT Accord 1997

Mr. Abul Hasnat Abdullah, MP and Convenor of National Committee, on behalf of the Government of Bangladesh and Mr. Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, President of PCJSS, on behalf of the permanent residents of CHT are being seen signing the CHT Accord on 2 December 1997. Extreme left seated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) is located in the south-eastern part of Bangladesh and covered one-tenth of the total land area of the country. More than 11 indigenous communities, collectively known as “Jumma” (High Landers), have been living since its immemorial times with their distinct culture and identity. However, because of the government discriminatory policy and rules towards the CHT Jumma people, they have been struggling for decades for recognition and affirmation of their identity as distinct peoples with unique social, cultural and political traditions. Jumma indigenous people have suffered from marginalization and discrimination and non-recognition of their rights.

After waging decades long movement for the rights to self-determination by Jumma peoples, an accord popularly known as CHT Accord was signed in 1997 between the government of Bangladesh and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS), only political party of indigenous Jumma peoples in CHT, to resolve the CHT problem through political and peaceful means. Though soon after signing of the Accord, some provisions of the Accord have been implemented, but most of main issues of the Accord remain unimplemented or partially implemented. Despite local, national and international lobbying, the 15th Amendment of the Bangladesh Constitution made in 2011, failed to recognise the entity of indigenous peoples in Bangladesh. Further this amendment had