# The 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of Working Group on Indigenous Populations United Nations High Commission on Human Rights, Geneva 18<sup>th</sup> to 22 July 2005.

A first hand report on political misrules and crimes against humanity in order to perpetrate pre-meditated evil designs of the government supported Muslim fundamentalists for annihilating the tribal Indigenous peoples of Bangladesh.

### Honorable Mr. Chairman

First of all please accept our greetings. This is for the third time, I have the opportunity to attend a un conference and the second time to present this report on the deplorable conditions of the ethnic/indigenous minorities of Bangladesh to you, the distinguished personalities fighting for justice and world peace.

I'm grateful to the organizers of this conference who kindly gave me opportunity to express our views and opinions on the plight of the Indigenous and minority communities of Bangladesh

I represent SRG Welfare Society of Bangladesh. We fight for democracy, freedom of press and speech, establishment of rule of law and justice for the people of Bangladesh in general and for the indigenous minorities in particular.

The question arises why we fight for all these issues. The following statistics will give you a part of the answer.

In Bangladesh everyday 15 to 20 persons are killed by the miscreants, 5000 to 7500 deaths per year. Each year this figure is increasing. There are innumerable killing squads widespread in the country. They are free and at large. Hundreds of thousands cases law suits remained untouched by the departments concerned. Bomb and lethal attacks on the cultural & political activists.

Everyday there are cases of torturing women, rape of women, acid attacks on women, death threats and hiding of women. This is the outcome of directly perpetrated misrules and indirectly by the lawlessness and big power politicians, the Muslim Fundamentalists.

# Dear Mr. Chairman

I'm sure I've taken much of your time in telling some facts of Bangladesh much away from the main issue. Then I intend to tell you on the conditions of the Indigenous and Minority communities of Bangladesh.

# Pt. Nr.1

The Indigenous people live in a reign of terror. They have been starving en masse. No jobs, no education, no lands for them. If in an urban area you are going to give them free food, clothing and medicine, they might not come to receive them in want of moving fares (bus fares, boat fares) or walking strength. The conditions are worsening day after day.

### Pt. Nr. 2

The Indigenous communities of Bangladesh are on the verge of extinction. The policy of the present fundamentalists Muslims' alliance—government is working everyday to destroy or annihilate the indigenous and minority communities of Bangladesh.

# Pt. Nr. 3

The indigenous peoples living in Chittagong hill tracts, the coastal areas (on the bay of Bengal), the remote rural areas in Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, PotuaKhali, Mymensingh, Sylhet and Bogra districts are worst hit by Muslim renegades under the umbrella of the present government.

#### Pt. Nr. 4

The indigenous peoples and the minority communities are treated as the second class citizens of Bangladesh by the present Islamic alliance government.

The cultural, religious and linguistic existences of the indigenous peoples are being systematically uprooted.

## Pt. Nr. 5

Currently the government established a military regime in Chittagong hill tracts. Dubbed as "operation uttaran". The aims and objectives of this operation is to ignore 'the shanti chukti' (the peace treaty) and to thwart all peace efforts by torturing the innocent tribesmen, raping their women and looting their agro-products and cattleheads. This is their routine activity. The indigenous peoples hide themselves in daytime, run away from their huts. Their huts are set on fire more often than not. Operation uttaran is suppressing the hopes of survival of the indigenous people with iron hand. Bangladesh governments one after another cheated the indigenous peoples outright. They will never fulfill the 'shanti chukti' the peace treaty. They deceived the ethnic minorities all along.

#### Pt. Nr. 6

If nothing is done by world's peace loving people to save the indigenous peoples of Bangladesh, their conditions will be further deteriorated.

# Respectable Mr. Chairman

It is now time to raise hands against all oppressions on the minorities and indigenous peoples of Bangladesh.

The rule of law must have to be established in Bangladesh. Committees may be formed to investigate the plights of the oppressed peoples of Bangladesh to the protection of the indigenous peoples of Bangladesh. To undertake projects of housing, water supply, sanitation supply, education and professional training for the indigenous peoples of Bangladesh.

We must draw attention of the various un organizations to place our problems and for the high level as well as grass root level investigations.

In our end favours we need and pray for your moral and financial support.

God bless you.

Thanks and best regards for all of you

Mr. Suman Barua Secretary General SRG Welfare Society 121 Momin Road Chittagong, Bangladesh. Phone: 0088-031-612281

Mobile: 0088-0178151399 Fax: 0088-031-635971

E-mail: suman\_srg@yahoo.com