

HR Council Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Seventh session, 7 – 11 July 2014
United Nations Office, Geneva, Switzerland

Agenda Item 7: United Nations Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples
Delivered by Santosh Bikash Chakma, La Voix des Jummas (LVJ), France

Thank you Mr. Chair,

La Voix des Jummas, a French based organization is concerned about the rights of indigenous peoples in Bangladesh would like to draw EMRIP's attention to the human rights situation of indigenous peoples in Bangladesh.

In 2013, 11 indigenous people were killed. and 42 indigenous persons were arrested by security forces in connection with fabricated cases. 8 communal attacks were conducted by the Bengali settlers, while houses and properties of 346 families were destroyed and looted. At least 47 houses were set on fire and burnt to ashes and around 2000 people of 400 families in CHT fled away to 'no man's land' adjacent to neighboring Indian state due to communal attacks conducted by Bengali settlers.

Concerning indigenous women and children, 67 indigenous women and children across the country, were subjected to violence. Of them, 15 indigenous women and children were raped

(Yet it is really a matter of grave concern that) violence against indigenous women has been increased alarmingly in Bangladesh in 2014. In the first four months of the year of 2014, 19 cases of sexual violence against indigenous women in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and plain land have been reported so far. Of them, two were killed after rape, nine were raped, seven were attempted to rape and

one was abducted. It has been revealed from the cases that most perpetrators are Bengalis and two cases have been committed by members of the law enforcing forces. The recent cases of violence against indigenous women are comparatively higher than any other time in the past.

Recently, The CHT commission, on an appraisal visit to CHT was attacked by Bengali settler organization injuring two of its member. The commission was allowed to travel back to capital on condition that they would stop visiting CHT. In another incident, the border guard Bangladesh (BGB) beat up and injured several villagers including women, while they were resisting the land grabbing attempt by the BGB who wanted to set up an battalion HQ in Babuchara.

Therefore, to improve current grave human rights situation of indigenous peoples in Bangladesh, LVJ forward the following recommendations to the concern authority -

1. To implement the UPR recommendations – elimination of violence against women and culture of impunity that was promised by the government of Bangladesh during the 2nd circle of UPR in 2013.
2. To fully implement the CHT Accord and for this purpose-
 - (a) To declare a time bound ‘road map’ for proper and effective implementation.
 - (b) To form a separate land commission for the indigenous peoples of the plains to recover the dispossessed ancestral lands of the indigenous peoples.
3. To amend the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission Act based on the 13 point amendment proposals finalized by the CHT Regional Council and the CHT Affairs Ministry.

Thank You Mr. Chair for giving me floor