

## **Communal attack made upon Jummas in Baghaichari and Dighinala**

On 14 December 2011 following the death of a Bengali settler named Md. Sattar, the Bengali settlers made communal attack on Jumma people in Baghaichari bazaar under Baghaichari upazila in Rangamati district and Kabakhali bazaar under Dighinala upazila in Khagrachari district. A Jumma woman was killed in Dighinala and at least 10 Jummas were injured in this attack.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) from Marishya zone opened blank fire to disperse Bengali settlers while they were moving toward Babu Para under Baghaichari upazila to attack Jumma villagers. Local administration imposed section 144 at Marishya area under Baghaichari upazila to bring situation under control.

It is learnt that deceased Md. Sattar (30) of Kabakhali settler village under Dighinala upazila has been ferrying passengers by motorbike from Dighinala to Baghaichari road. He went missing yesterday (13 December) after ferrying a passenger from Kabakhali of Dighinala to Baghaichari. His dead body was recovered today (14 December) from nearby settlers' locality at 4 Miles area (near Marishyachara area) under Baghaichari upazila in Rangamati district.

Soon after dead body of Md. Sattar was recovered, the Bengali settlers became agitated and started to attack on Jumma people at Marishya bazaar under Baghaichari upazila and at Babuchara bazaar under Dighinala upazila. Today is market day at Marishya bazaar and Babuchara bazaar.

It is reported that the Bengali settlers made attack indiscriminately on Jumma people at Marishya bazaar. At least 8 Jummas including a college student were allegedly injured. Chairman of Baghaichari upazila Mr. Sudarshan Chakma and local reporter of daily Prothom Alo Mr. Sadhan Bikash were driven away by Bengali settlers while they went to Chowmuhani area of Marishya Bazaar for looking into the incident. Among others, the following injured Jummas at Marishya bazaar attack were identified as-

- (1) Mr. Shanti Moy Chakma (36), s/o Rasik Chandra Chakma, Project Organizer, ICDB-CHTDB , Vill: Harikkyang, Banduk Bhanga, Rangamati
- (2) Mr. Mukut Kanti Tripura (50), manager of CHT Development Board (address- Takurchara villager under Khagrachari). He sustained injured on his head and hands.
- (3) Mr. Roni Chakma (35), rubber businessman of CHT Development Board (address- Perachar, Khagrachari) (he sustained injuries on his back)
- (4) Mr. Kalachokko Chakma (28) from Tulaban under Baghachari.
- (5) Mr. Sujan Chakma (38) s/o Jatindra Lal Chakma, Baradam, Rupakari, Baghaichari
- (6) Mr. Prabhu Jiban Chakma (62) s/o (late) Birendra Chakma, Baradam, Rupakari, Baghaichari
- (7) Mr. Shashanka Priya Chakma (41) Manager, Sonali Bank, Baghaichari Branch
- (8) Mr. Bijoy Chakma (12) (Student of class six, Kachalong High School) s/o Naya Ram Chakma, Vill: Bujai para, Sajek, Baghaichari.

It is also learnt that BGB opened blank fire to disperse Bengali settlers while they were moving toward Babu Para in Banghaichari to attack Jumma villagers. At that time, Jumma villagers also gathered there to resist Bengali settlers. Local administration imposed section 144 to bring situation under control.

On the other, the Bengali settlers also attacked on Jumma villagers at Kabakhali bazaar. Sources said that Bengali settlers made attack upon a jeep carrying Jumma passengers at Kabakhali bazaar. Almost all Jumma passengers except one Chikon Mila Chakma could narrowly escape. However, Ms. Chikon Mila Chakma (40) w/o Jiten Chakma of village Kaurimachara of Kabakhali union who being released from the Dighinala hospital after treatment of her ailment could not able to escape. She was brutally chopped to kill. Her dead body was taken to Khagarchari district hospital for autopsy. Jiten Chakma (45), husband of Chikon Mila Chakma was also reportedly injured. He is now under treatment at Dighinala health complex. Sources reported that many permanent Bengali residents helped to Jummas to escape.

It is also reported that hundreds of Bengali settlers gathered at Jamtali area (along the Khagrachari-Dighinala road) under Dighinala upazila with the intention to attack Jumma passengers. Sensing this, local army authority rapidly took action to disperse the Bengali settlers.

The Bengali settlers are still trying to spread communal tension in Rangamati and Khagrachari districts. Panic prevails among Jumma villagers fearing further attack. Source said that army patrolling is going on in Baghaichari area to protect any further communal attack.

Sajib DA/Mangal Uncle,

Forwarding to you affected Chakma name by Bengali in baghaichari namely bellow:

1. Sujan Chakma (38) S/O: Jatindra Lal Chakma Vill: BaradamRupakariBaghaichariRangamati.
2. Prabhu Jiban Chakma(62)S/o (late) Birendra ChakmaAdd: Do.
3. Chokkye Chakma (32) S/OBudh Dhan Chakma Vill:Bhuiachara. Marishya UpBaghaichariRangamati.
4. Mukut kanti Tripura (52)ManagerRuber PlantationCHTDB.
5. Chikan Mila Chakma (38) H/O: Jiten Chakma Vill:KangarimacharaDighinalaKhagrachari.
6. Shashanka Priya Chakma (41) ManegerSonali BankBaghaichari Branch

Uttam,  
Baghaichari.

### **Update: Communal attack made upon Jummas in Baghaichari and Dighinala**

It is learnt that the injured Mr. Mukut Kanti Tripura who sustained serious injured on his head and hands and Shanti Moy Chakma who was hit in the head were transferred to Khagrachari district hospital with serious condition.

It is reported that the motorbike of Abdus Sattar, whose dead body was recovered yesterday and intensified communal attack on Jumma people, was found in the morning today (15 December) at College Gate of Kassalong College, a Bengali populated area at Marishya.

Locals claimed that by recovering motor bike from a Bengali populated area, it is proved that Bengalis might involve with the killing of Abdus Sattar. On the contrary, since Jumma villagers are staying with insecurity fearing further attack by Bengali settlers, no Jumma can put the motorbike where it has been found.

Today (15 December) Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Rangamati district Mr. Sourendranath Chokrabarty and Superintendent of Police (SP) Masood Ul-Hasan visited Baghaichari. He also went to Babu Para to hold meeting with Jumma villagers. Jumma villagers demanded security of their lives and properties and punishment to those who were responsible for communal attack. DC and SP assured Jumma villagers to conduct proper investigation and bring responsible persons under justice.

On the other, Sama Odhikar Andolon, a fanatic organisation of Bengali settlers and Bangali Chhatra Parishad (Bengali Students Council) brought out procession at Banarupa in Rangamati town with tied security of military forces.

In a press statement issued today, 6 rights organisations, namely, Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST), Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF),

Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha (BNKS), Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) and Kapaeeng Foundation condemned communal attack on Jumma villagers by Bengali settlers and killing of Abdus Sattar. They also demanded to punish those who were responsible for the incident and to provide adequate treatment and compensation to the victims. They urged government to take action against those who were involved with such unwanted communal atrocities for the sake of sustainable peace, development and law of rules in the Chitagong Hill Tracts (CHT).