

Report on Communal and Arson Attack in Bogachari of Naniachar Upazila



Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti



PCJSS stages demonstration and rally in protest of Communal Attack

Report on Communal and Arson Attack upon Jumma Villages in Bogachari under Naniachar upazila by Bengali Settlers

The Bengali settlers from Islampur, Bogachari and other settler villages perpetrated communal attack upon three Jumma villages in Bogachari area under No.3 Burighat Union of Naniachar Upazila of Rangamati Hill District in presence and with support of an army contingent around in between 7:00 a.m to 9:a.m. on 16 December 2014. In this heinous attack, the Bengali settlers put to torch 50 houses (39 in Suridas Para, 7 in Bogachari village and 4 in Nabin Talukdar Para) and 7 Jumma-owned shops at Choddomile roadside. Bengali settlers also vandalised 5 Jumma-owned shops at Choddomile, severely beat one Buddhist monk, broke Buddha images and looted 5 bronze-made Buddha statues including the donation box of Suridas Para Buddhist temple. On the other side, 2 Jumma civilians including one public representative were beaten by the army during attack and the army personnel rampaged two motor cycles owned by Jummas.

As a result of this attack followed by arson and rampage, some 300 Jumma villagers including women and children of 50 houses and 12 shops that were burnt to the ground, became homeless instantly and many compelled to stay in bush-made tents under open sky in simmering cold while many compelled to take shelter in nearby villages. Books, education materials and uniform of students studying at various levels were burnt to ashes. The list of affected students received as primary information reads primary level students 30, secondary level students 19, Higher Secondary level students 2 and 2 are tertiary level students.

During the attack, besides houses, possessions such as, clothes, cooker, furniture, huge amount of rice and paddy, paddy machine, solar installations, articles of regular usage, valuables including hard cash and goods in the shops were completely destroyed by fire. In the attack, the amount of loss and damage of 50 houses costs approximately 16.1 million Taka while the amount of loss and damage in 12 shops stand approximately 5.0 million Taka.



Spot of occurrence and background of the incident

The three Jumma villages of No.3 Burighat Union under Naniachar Upazila in Rangamati Hill district namely, Suridas Para, Bogachari Para and Nabin Talukdar Para of Naniachar Sadar Union are located at Rangamati-Khagrachari roadside, 20 kilometers north of Rangamati town and approximately 10 kilometers away of Naniachar on the west. Islampur and Bogachari settler villages are located at mid-point of the three Jumma villages and by Rangamati-Khagrachari roadside. The area that came under attack is 8 km away from Dak Bunglow-Islampur army camp near Naniachar Upazila Sadar and only 2 km away from Ghilachari army camp stationed by Rangamati-Khagrachari roadside. Besides, there is an adjacent APBN (Armed Police Battalion) camp, which is located within a half or 1 km away of the spot of occurrence and Bogachari settler village.

There was no existence of today's Bengali settler village in Naniachar and Bogachari area before 1980. From 1980 and onward, the then military government, likewise in other parts of CHT, illegally settled hundreds of outsider Bengali settler families also in Jumma-predominated Bogachari area as similar to other parts of Naniachar Upazila to achieve its mean political objective and from among the settlers, 80 settler families have been receiving government ration as of this day. The local people are to say

that later days, at least hundred settler-families from plain lands infiltrated with the initiative and help of the said settlers in that area. At present, at least 1500 settler families are living in Bogachari, Boradam, Burighat and Nanaprum mouzas under Naniachar Upazila. From Dakbunglow of Naniachar Sadar to Bogachari along Rangamati-Khagrachari roadsides, within the range of 8 km at least 1000 acres of lands measuring 500 acres each of Bogachari Mouza and Boradam Mouza is lying under illegal occupation of the settlers. The then government relocated the Bengali settlers there without obtaining prior opinion of the concerned Mouza Headmen. Ever since their relocation, the Bengali settlers began occupying the lands already recorded and possessed by the Jumma people individually and collectively, with the active support of administration for the ages together. Sudhir Bihari Khisa, the Headman of Bogachari mouza has said that the Headman concerned is to be pre-consulted for report when any family is given settlement of the hilly lands. This is mandatory. But he did not submit report to settle any Bengali family.

The design of forcible land occupation in Naniachar area is still an on-going process. It has been learnt that one and a half years back, the Bengali settlers, namely, Abchar Master, Azad, Abul Kalam et al occupied quarter to 5 acres of land from one local Nishi Kumar Chakma by cheating and planted pine apple and teak plants this year. It is learnt that alongside this incident, it was in the last year; one Muhammad Afsar Ali of Bogachari Bengali settler village forcibly occupied more than 2 acres of land from Prafulla Chakma, s/o Padma Ranjan Chakma of Suridas Para and planted pineapple and teak plants in it this year. It is mention-worthy that there are allegations to the effect that apart from these Bengali settlers, lands from many Jumma people have been already and have been being occupied under government projects such as, cluster village projects and Ashrayan Prokalpa (Shelter projects).

Beginning of Attack

It was learnt from reliable source that the anti-accord UPDF terrorist group cut down the pineapple and teak plants planted by the Bengali settlers in the said disputed lands at night of 15 December 2014. Tension brewed up among the Bengali settlers when the incident came to knowledge in the early morning of the following day, the 16 December 2014. It was learnt that a group of army led by Zone Commander Lt. Col.Ahmmmed Sohel and 2IC Major Rakib of 65 Bengal Regiment went there. Immediately afterward, the tempered Bengali settlers in batches, without going for investigation as to

who had cut the plants and without taking an effort for legal action, being equipped with sticks, spears and lethal weapons swooped upon nearby Jumma villages of Suridas para, Bogachari and Nabin Talukdar Para at around 7:00 am. The Jumma villagers got puzzled due to surprise attack while some tried to resist the attack to protect their houses. At certain stage, the army opened blank fire all of a sudden. At this, the Jumma villagers, being panic-stricken, obliged to step back. Soon the Bengali settlers entered into Suridas Para, Bogachari and Nabin Talukdar Para and burnt down 50 houses one after another. Prior to setting on fire, Bengali settlers looted the valuables of the houses. The eye witness alleged that the army personnel also went to the villages with the settlers. The army guarded the settlers while they set fire on the Jumma houses. On the other side, the Bengali settlers tried to set fire on 7 shops owned by Jumma people at Choddomile area. But as the shops were of half-concrete buildings, their first attempt of setting fire failed. The eye witness confirmed that petrol fuel was taken out from army pick-up vans and poured on to the shops and afterward the shops were set to fire. Besides, the Bengali settlers looted and rampaged another 5 Jumma-owned shops.

Role of Security Forces and beating

The army contingent went there when tension brewed up among the Bengali settlers following the incident of cutting down their pineapple and teak plants. But the army did not take an effort to pacify or control them. The army, instead of telling the settler Bengalis to go for legal action against the persons responsible for the misdeed, rather they shown their irresponsibility by instigating the Bengali settlers to take the law in their hands and opt for communal attack upon the innocent Jumma villagers. It is needless to say that had the army, having the incident judged impartially, exerted effort to prevent the attack and arson upon the Jummas by Bengali settlers, there would have been no such incident or such a huge damage would have not been possible.

On the other side, while raising objection and protest, Ananda Chakma (35) s/o Manik Chandra Chakma, member of No. 3 Ward of Burighat Union and Alomoy Chakma (28) s/o late Shanti Kumar Chakma of Ramhari Para became victims of beating by army personnel, in turn. It was further known that the army personnel stood as silent spectators nearby when the Bengali settlers attacked Bogachari Koruna Buddhist Temple; assaulted Ven. Ubaso Thero, the monk of the temple; broke two Buddha images and looted 5

bronze-made Buddha statues including the donation box. But the army personnel prevented the attackers from setting the temple on fire. Besides, another allegation was to hand that immediately after burning down the Jumma houses, a group of army led by one Major rampaged two motorcycles owned by Apel Chakma (24) s/o Subimal Chakma and Sudatta Chakma s/o Deba Datta Chakma, residents of Naniachar Union, at Betchari Bazaar of No.1 Sabekhyong Union near Bogachari.

Stepping up of government Authorities

Though a group of army commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Ahmmed Sohel and 2IC Major Rakib of 65 Bengal Regiment stationed at Naniachar Army Zone went there in the morning when tension among the Bengali settlers brewed up centering the pineapple and teak plants slashing, they did not act upon properly to refrain the Bengali settlers from attacking upon the Jumma villages. On the other side, despite the attack lasted for two hours, no government authority went there during the attack instantly. The first to rush to the spot of occurrence was the Rangamati Deputy Commissioner Mostafa Kamal, Police Super Amena Begum and public representatives and officers of Naniachar Upazila several hours after getting everything burnt to ashes. During this time, the Deputy Commissioner Mostafa Kamal gave 100,000 Taka to the affected Jumma villagers and declared that each of the families would be given 2 bundles of CIT sheets and 2 blankets. Additional police force and army have been deployed after the incident.

An eye-wash committee consisting of 11 members with Chairman of Naniachar Upazila Council as Convenor and Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) as Member-Secretary to maintain law & order in the area and determine loss and damage during the incident. But this committee could act upon nothing and it was learnt that even it failed in holding a meeting. Besides, on behalf of the district administration, another three-member committee was organized with Saif Uddin, an Additional District Megistrate as head of the Committee. The Committee was supposed to produce a report on the reasons of the situation arisen, determination of loss and damage and identification of the offenders and deposit the report with recommendations on different issues within 7 days. Nothing was known about whether or not the Committee deposited the report or about the type of report if it had at all deposited to the authority concerned.

Attack upon female member

On 28 December 2014, during the visit paid by Professor Mizanur Rahman, Chairman of National Human Rights Commission, the UP member of Burighat Union Kajoli Tripura objected in face to the briefing being stated by Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Mizanur Rahman to the affect that the Jumma villagers set fire on their houses by themselves. Following departure of Mizanur Rahman, the woman members of affected families surrounded the UNO. During this time, the ASI Belal of Naniachar police station assaulted Kajoli Tripura and while getting into own Jeep leaving the spot, the UNO Muhammad Nuruzzaman threatened of burning the Jumma houses again.

Attack on Upazila Vice-Chairman

A group of Bengali settlers equipped with lethal weapons attacked Naniachar Upazila Vice-Chairman Rono Bikash Chakma in presence of Naniachar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Officer-In-Charge (OC) of Naniachar police station, Upazila Chairman and a group of army at BogachariTri-junction roadside around 3:00 pm on 29 December 2014. Rono Bikash Chakma sustained serious wounds in head and hands and later on, he was admitted to Rangamati Sadar Hospital. It is mention-worthy that Rono Bikash Chakma was on the way to participate in a view-exchange meeting along with Naniachar UNO, OC and Upazila Chairman aboard in the car. By the time of their going, the vehicle was made stop and the attack was carried out. There were two pick-up vans carrying army personnel and plying just behind their vehicle. But none of the attackers was arrested on the spot. Centering the attack, a case was filed against 26 persons by Sub-Inspector of Naniachar police station Abdul Awal on 30 December 2014. The police arrested two persons named Mohammad Habib s/o Jonab of Bogachari and Mahammad Munna s/o Mohammad Abdul Khalek early in that morning. But however, the police have not yet arrested the prime accused Mohammad Zahir, Burighat UP member and Mizanur Rahman, the candidate of UP Chairman in the previous election.

Filing suits

Ananda Chakma, Chairperson of Koruna Bana Vihara committee (affected Buddhist temple) filed the first case with Chief Judicial Magistrate Court of Rangamati Hill District as the plain-tiff on allegation of attacking the Koruna Buddhist temple by the settlers on 24 December 2014 following almost one week after the massive communal attack, beating the Buddhist monk,

rampaging Buddha images, looting donation box and bronze-made Buddha statues all loss and damage costing 100,000Taka and looting of hard cash 1.2 million Taka, the amount accumulated for construction of the Buddhist temple. As per the case filed under Sections-143/ 295/ 323/ 380/ 427/ 448/ 34 of Bangladesh Penal code, the accused are as follows:-

- (1) Mohammad Jamal Hossain (35), s/o Mohammad Akhtar, address: Bogachari;
- (2) Mohammad Humayun Kabir (27), s/o Mofizul Islam, address: Bogachari;
- (3) Mohammad Abdul Malek (47), s/o: late Mahasin Mir, address: Bogachari;
- (4) Mohammad Nur Islam (48), s/o Unknown, address: Islampur;
- (5) Mohammad Nizam (47), s/o Unknown, address: Islampur.

Following this, on 28 December 2014, the 2nd case was filed by Ms Priti Bala Chakma of Suridas para on alleging loss and damage of 1 million Taka as the result of setting fire on her house by the attackers. The identified accused are:-

- (1) Mohammad Nuruzzaman (44) s/o late Hamed Uddin, Bogachari;
- (2) Jahirul Islam, UP Member (47) s/o late Illigible, Bogachari;
- (3) Mohammad Oli Ullah Sheikh (45) s/o late Hedayet Ullah Sheikh, Bogachari;
- (4) Mohammad Nizam Uddin (47) s/o Mostafa Mian, Bogachari;
- (5) Mohammad Mozaffar Ali (67) s/o late Gafur Sheikh, Bogachari;
- (6) Majbur Rahaman (44) s/o late Mofajjal Hosen, Bogachari;
- (7) Mohammad Rabiul Islam (24) s/o late Tarjon Ali, Bogachari.

Ms. Shanti Rani Chakma of Suridas Para filed the 3rd Case with the same court on allegation of loss & damage of approximately 0.4 million Taka resulting out of setting fire on her house during the attack. The identified accused of the case under Sections-143/427/436/34 Penal Code, are -

- (1) Mohammad Afsar Uddin (49), s/o Hasem Molla, Bogachari;
- (2) Mohammad Riaz (32) s/o Sorap Hosen, Bogachari
- (3) Mohammad Badsah Mian (32) s/o Ful Mian, Bogachari;
- (4) Mohammad Ebadul (27) s/o Mofizul Haque, Bogachari;
- (5) Mohammad Ahammad (47) s/o Abdul Khalek, Bogachari;
- (6) Mohammad Ful Mian (55) s/o Hakim Shah, Bogachari.

The 4th Case was filed with the same court on 30 December 2014 by Manju Chakma of Suridas Para on allegation of loss and damage amounting to 1.5 million Taka resulting out of setting fire on his house during the communal attack. The identified accused of the case shown under Sections- 143/427/436/506 of Penal Code are:-

- (1) Md. Amir Hosen (36), s/o Mannan Shah of Bogachari;
- (2) Md. Delwar Hosen (36), s/o Ishaque Mir of Bogachari;
- (3) Md. Tota Mian (46), s/o late Hakim Shah of Bogachari;
- (4) Md. Asad (31), s/o Akkas Ali of Bogachari;
- (5) Md. Babu (35) s/o Md. Shafi of Bogachari;
- (6) Md. Alamgir Hosen (26) s/o late Mosharaf Hosen of Bogachari.

Another case was filed by Toshan Moni Chakma of Suridas Para on 31 December 2014 alleging loss and damage resulting out of setting fire during attack on his house amounting to 0.5 million Taka. The identified accused of the case under Penal Code Sections-143/ 427/ 436/ 34, are:-

- (1) Md. Sultan (45), s/o Ismail;
- (2) Md. Mijan (25) s/o A. Khalek;
- (3) Md. Selim (20) s/o late Kamej Uddin;
- (4) Md. Malek (26) s/o late Siraj Mian;
- (5) Md. Kamrul Islam (28) s/o late Enamul Haque;
- (6) Md. Sarwar (45) s/o late Raihan Sheikh;
- (7) Md. Hakim (21) s/o Shah Jahan;
- (8) Md. Sabuj (27) s/o Unknown.

Another case was filed by Moni Chakma of Nabin Talukdar Para alleging loss and damage resulting out of setting fire during attack on his house on 9 January 2015.

Till writing of this report, nothing was known as to whether the administration arrested any of the accused or issued arrest warrant against the accused.

On the contrary, Kamrul Islam s/o Enamul Haque of Bogachari, filed a Petition Case No. 81/2014 under sections-144/145 of Penal Code with Additional Megistrate of Rangamati Court against six persons of Bogachari village, namely, Ram Karbari s/o Nalbarna Karbari, Shanti Kumar Chakma s/o Sadhan Kristo Chakma, Basanta Kumar Chakma s/o Sadhan Kristo Chakma, Prasanna Kumar Chakma s/o Sadhan Kristo Chakma, Jatan Bikash Chakma s/o Surjya Barna Chakma and Surjyo Barna Chakma s/o Priyo Barna Chakma. Based on the said Petition Case of Memo No.516/Court (AGM) dated 29-12-2014, a notice prohibiting carrying out of construction work or any program in the controversial land measuring 4.8 acres was served by Sub-Inspector Md. Abdul Awal of Naniachar police station, to both complainant and respondent. Besides, both the parties were ordered to make themselves physically available with their respective documents of the land at 10:00 am on 01 January 2015.

From reliable sources, it has been learnt further that the Bengali settlers filed another case with the Naniachar police station centering the incident of slashing down pineapple and teak plants, of which the local people guess that the police kept the matter unexposed for some mysterious objective.

Protest of Jana Samhati Samiti and its wing organizations

Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti organized procession and protest meeting in Rangamati Sadar at 10:00 am on 17 December 2014 protesting against the communal and arson attack upon Bogachari Jumma villages carried out by the Bengali settlers. The procession, starting from the PCJSS district office and taking a round about at Banarupa ended at the southern gate of office of the Deputy Commissioner where a protest meeting was held there. In the protest, terming the incident to have been a barbarous attack, the speakers vehemently condemned it and demanded for immediate arrest of the culprits and alongside demanded due compensation from the government for the victim families who had suffered loss and damage. The speakers expressed grave concern over the alleged support of army present during the attack upon innocent Jummas, their houses and setting fire instead of taking no step against those who had slashed down the plants belonging to the Bengali settlers.

Apart from this, the speakers also demanded to the government to implement the CHT Accord to its fullest duly, to amend the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission Act 2001 to solve out the land disputes and to undertake effective measures against terror of UPDF. On the same day, procession and protest meeting were organized by Jana Samhati Samiti in Bandarban district sadar in protest against communal attack and in demand of punishment to the culprits and to disburse due compensation to the affected Jumma families. Besides, Pahari Chhatra Parishad (Hill Students Council) and Hill Women's Federation, in protest against communal attack upon Jumma people, organized agitation rallies and assemblies in Dhaka, Chittagong, Kaptai Upazila Sadar under Rangamati Hill District, Kaptai Swedish Polytechnic Institute and in Rowangchari of Bandarban Hill District. The speakers demanded immediate arrest of the offenders and award of illustrated punishment and proper compensation for the affected families.

Memorandum of the affected villagers

A Memorandum addressed to the Home Minister was submitted through the UNO of Naniachar Upazila on behalf of the 'Land Protection Committee' and victims of the incident. The memorandum reads: "After the attack, the affected Jumma families are compelled to pass a sub-human life under the open sky in the terrible cold. The Upazila and District Administration have undertaken no measures to fulfill our rational demands. On the other hand, the Bengali settlers are threatening us of further attack and have already tried to attack but they could not succeed." The memorandum signed by Chairman of Sabekkhyang Union and Convener of Land Protection Committee, Supan Chakma and member of Ward No.4 of Naniachar Union Parishad and Member-Secretary of the Committee Santo Chakma demanded to arrest the Bengali settlers and army personnel involved in the attack without delay and award illustrious punishment, to resettle the affected Jumma families in their respective lands with due compensation, to return the lands of Jummas already occupied forcibly and to remove the settlers from that area and relocate them in the plains.

Visiting the spot of occurrence by civil society members and Press Conference

On 24 December 2014, a group of 25-member civil society representatives comprising of teachers, political personalities, journalists and lawyers headed by eminent educationist Dr. Ajoy Roy and Anisur Rahaman Mollik, Politburo member of Workers Party of Bangladesh visited the affected area. After paying the visit, the civil society members organized a Press Conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity on 28 December 2014. Razib Mir, member of the civil society representatives and also Associate Professor, Mass Communication & Journalism Department of Jagannath University read out a written statement in the conference. Among the others, civil society representatives attending the conference were Syed Abul Maksud, renowned researcher and columnist; Dr. Ajoy Roy of Sampriti Mancha; Pangkaj Bhattacharya of Oikya Nap; Anisur Rahaman Mollik, Politburo member of Workers Party; Khushi Kabir, member of CHT Commission; Numan Ahmed Khan, the Executive Director of IED; Mamtaj Latif, specialist of education program and Columnist; Associate Professor Robayet Ferdaus of Mass Communication and Journalist Department; Film Maker Rashed Ryme and Dipayan Khisa, Editor of Mawrum.

The leaders of civil society representative groups attending the conference alleged the attack upon Jumma people in Bogachari to have been a pre-planned action and they held the failure of state and administration to have been responsible for the attack. They placed 5-point recommendations that include proper investigation of the attack and speedy trial of the convicted persons and aid to the affected families. The leaders alleged that this attack was carried out in order to outnumber the Jumma people and this kind of attack is being taking place due to not drawing solution to the land disputes in CHT as per the Accord.

NHRC Chairman visits spot of occurrence

Professor Mizanur Rahman, Chairman of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) visited the spot of occurrence on 28 December 2014. He was accompanied by Ms Nirupa Dewan, one of the members of National Human Rights Commission. After visit, he said that it was due to failure of the administration at various levels, three villages of indigenous people had been under arson and the administration cannot be set free from accountability for the incident. He mentioned saying that had the administration taken speedy measures instantly, the incident of setting fire on Jumma people's houses could be prevented. Concluding that the main reason of setting fire on indigenous people's houses and destruction of pineapple and teak plants lay in the land disputes, Mizanur Rahman said that resolution to the land disputes is possible through fullest implementation of the CHT Accord signed in 1997. Demanding for bringing the accused involved in such heinous crimes under the law and award punishment, Dr. Mizanur said that otherwise the incident of this kind would further happen and unrest in the society would get enhanced.

Concern and demand of national and international communities

In protest against this incident, the Parbatya Bhikkhu Sangha organized procession in Dighinala upazila under Khagrachari district while Human Rights Defender Forum, Institute of Environment and Development (IED) and Bangladesh Marma Students Council (BMSC) organized Human Chain in Dhaka.

On 18 December 2014, in a press release signed by Co-Chairs of International CHT Commission, Eric Avebury, Sultana Kamal and Elsa Stamatopoulou, expressed their deepened anguish and concern over

attack upon Jumma houses, shops and religious institutions at Bogachari of Naniachar and called upon the government to bring the culprits under trial and to ensure accountability of members of the security forces. The Commission called upon the government to ensure security for the indigenous peoples of Naniachar and other areas of CHT and advised to constitute an independent and high-level investigation committee on emergency-basis in this regard.

On the other hand, the Global Human Rights Defence, in a press release on 19 December 2014, also expressed its concern over presence and active participation of the army personnel during the attack. In the press release, it demanded for immediate investigation of the incident and to bring the persons involved in the action under trial. Besides, it also demanded security for Naniachar inhabitants and indigenous peoples of CHT and to provide shelter and rehabilitation to the affected people.

In protest against the attack a procession was staged in Washington dc and New York by American Jumma Council. In Paris, another protest was held by Survival International and European Jumma Association. Also in Tokyo, a protest was organized by Japan World Jumma Voice, Jumma Peoples Network and Jumma Net. A memorandum signed by Ms Nairanjana Chakma of Jumma Peoples Network and Dipti Shankar Chakma of World Jumma Voice was submitted to the Minister of External Affairs of Government of Japan.

Road Blockade and counter Road Blockade programs: Conspiracy of Settlers for Attack again

A road-blockade program on Rangamati-Khagrachari road was enforced in response to the call given by 'Land Protection Committee' for an indefinite period since 17 December protesting against the communal attack and setting fire on Jumma houses. Later on, the program was given relaxation on occasion of X'mas Day. On the other hand, road blockade was observed for 72 hours from 30 December 2014 to 1 January 2015 at the call of Bengali settlers in the name of a fresh upstart organization named 'Bangalee Bhumi Uddhar Andolan Porishad' (Bangalee Land Recovery Council). It may be noted that though the Bengali settlers forcibly occupied lands owned by Jummas and taking the law in their own hands, set fire on Jummas' houses, now, in reverse, they call for road blockade program in the name of rescuing lands. On the other side, the Bengali settlers tried to obstruct the convoys of Dhaka civil society team on the way to visiting the spot of occurrence on 24 December 2014.

At 7:00 pm of 30 December 2014, one Mohammad Sultan, a villager of Bogachari settler Village, having set fire on his already abandoned farm house, went on propagating to the effect that the Jumma people came down to attack the Bengalis and that they set fire on his farm house. The villagers of Naniachar soon informed the police station about it and when the police from the local APBN camp undertook measures, Sultan's planning got exposed and thus his mean plan got foiled.

Government Relief and Assistance

On behalf of the District Administration, an amount of 135,000 Taka including 100 blankets and 45 bundles of CIT sheets were brought to Bogachari to distribute away among the affected families. The affected families returned the government relief for not getting assurance from the administration to the effect that there would be no more attack and on fulfillment of some demands. On that day, the relief materials of rice, blankets and grocery items brought by Feroza Begum Chinu, MP from reserved woman seat, Awami League leader Dipankar Talukder and Rangamati Hill District Council Chairman Nikhil Kumar Chakma, were not also received by the affected families.

Later on, when having been assured of security, the affected families received 45 bundles of CIT Sheets given by the district administration. Besides, an amount of 20 kg rice per family was distributed. At the first phase, the initial work for building houses for 20 families has been begun. However, it has been learnt that while paying a visit, the Rangamati Army Region Commander ordered to stop building of houses at the objection raised by the Bengali settlers.

Besides relief materials on part of the government, wearing clothes, quilts, utensils, crockeries, dry fish, fish malt, and cash money are being distributed away by various non-government organizations, human rights organizations, volunteering individuals and well wishers.

Conclusion

Under Section-1 of CHT Accord, having considered the Chittagong Hill Tracts region as a tribe- predominated region, the need of preserving the characteristics of this region and attaining the overall development of this region has been acceded. But as per the provision, no proper measure has been taken up by the government to uphold national entities of Jumma peoples and preservation of tribal-predominated feature in the region.

On the contrary, in order to lower the 'Tribal-predominated region' feature of CHT, rehabilitation of Bengali settlers, expansion of settlers' cluster villages, communal attack upon Jummas, inclusion of outsiders in the electoral rolls in CHT, issuance of permanent resident certificate by Deputy Commissioners, employment and other opportunities to settlers, forcible land occupation, lands being given to outsiders in lease and settlement, fresh infiltration of outsiders to outnumber the Jummas, creation of communal environment in CHT by organizing the Bengali settlers through so called 'Sama Odhikar Andolan' etc. programs are underway.

Incident of communal attack and arson as it happened in Bogachari is not a new offence in CHT. The main objective of this design is to convert the tribal-predominated CHT into a Muslim-predominated region by way of evicting the Jumma peoples, to occupy their lands and homesteads and to establish Muslim Bengali settlements and expand them. As the attacks of this kind were carried out before the CHT Accord and such attacks are being continued after signing of the CHT Accord. But however, the post-accord communal attacks have been modified to a different degree. In one hand, the implementation of CHT Accord, the charter of rights of indigenous Jumma and permanent Bengali residents of CHT, is being hindered while on the other, keeping the CHT situation emmersed in unrest, the avenue for developing fundamentalism in the country has been widened thereby. It is for this phenomenon, even during this day of post-accord era, the Bengali settlers have carried out 18 brutal and barbaric communal attacks upon the Jumma peoples, including that of Bogachari under Naniachar, with active support of Anti-Accord elements and fundamentalist forces.

The following is an account of communal attacks upon Jumma dwellings after signing of CHT Accord:

Communal Attacks	Date	No. of Houses		Killed	Wounded	Raping/ Sexual harassment
		Gutted down	Looted/ Rampaged			
Baghaihat	4 April 1999	--	--	--	51	1
Baghaichari	16 October 1999	-	74	3	140*	1
Boalkhali-Merung	18 May 2001	42	191	--	5	--
Ramgarh	25 June 2001	126	118	--	numerous	--
Rajvilla	10 October 2002	11	100	--	3	--
Bhuachara	19 April 2003	9	--	--	12	--
Mahalchari	26 August 2003	359	137	2	50	10
Maichchari	3 April 2006	-	100	-	50	4
Sajek	20 April 2008	78	78	-	-	-
Baghaihat	19-20 Feb 2010	437	-	2	25	-
Khagrachari	23 Feb 2010	61	-	-	-	-
Longadu	17 Feb 2011	21	6	-	-	-
Ramgarh-Manikchari	17 April 2011	111	-	2	25	-
Baghaichari-Dighinala	14 Dec 2011	-	-	1	10	-
Rangamati	22-23 Sept 2012	-	11	-	117	-
Taindong-Matiranga	3 August 2013	36	261	1	12	-
Kamalchari-Betchari	25-26 Feb 2014	-	6	-	5	-
Bogachari	16 Dec 2014	59	5	-	3	-

Recommendations

Recommendations presented herein under are meant for prevention of repetition of barbaric attack as it has happened in Bogachari:

- (a) To identify the culprits and collaborators involved in the communal attack in Bogachari Jumma villages and award illustrious punishment through judicial investigation;
- (b) To pay proper compensation to the Jumma villagers affected in arson;
- (c) To enhance the surveillance on communal collaborators and undertake special measures;
- (d) To relocate the Bengali settlers outside CHT with due dignity;
- (e) To undertake effective measures to stop infiltration in CHT as to preserve the tribal-predominated feature of the region as per the CHT Accord;
- (f) To undertake effective steps for proper and speedy implementation of the CHT Accord;
- (g) To constitute the Hill Police Force with the permanent residents on priority basis to Jumma people by transferring the Police (Local) subject to the Hill District Councils;
- (h) To amend the contravening sections of the 'CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission Act, 2001' as per the 13-point amendent proposals finalised by CHT Affairs Ministry and CHT Regional Council in 2012 as to start the land dispute resolution work without delay;
- (i) To withdraw all temporay camps including the 'Operation Uttoran';
- (j) To undertake hardened measure against the terror of UPDF.

Please visit for list of loss & damage: www.pcjss-cht.org



An affected indigenous woman strives to collect paddy from the blazed sheaves



An affected villager tries to collect paddy from the half-burnt hay of sheaves



A helpless dispossessed villager standing amidst fire-razed homestead and heaves of debris



Remnants of a gutted shop owned by an indigenous Jumma at Chouddomile



Physically assaulted Abbot of Koruna BanaVihar
and laid on ground Buddha image



Upazila Vice-Chairman, Rano Bikash Chakma wounded in an attack by
Bengali settlers in front of Upazila Chairman, UNO, OC and Police &
Army personnel on 29 December 2014



A homeless child in a temporary makeshift



A lost-all mother and child under the open sky



An affected woman bursts into weeping while talking to Chairman of National Human Rights Commission Dr. Mizanur Rahaman during his visit to spot



Mob of Bengali settlers in an attempt to prevent journalists and civil society members from Dhaka at Manikchari on their way to visit the spot



A child: An innocent victim of communalism

Published and circulated on 31 December 2014 by Information and Publicity
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