



Jumma Peoples Network UK

জম্মা জনগণের নেটওয়ার্ক ইউকে

Begum Sheikh Hasina Wajed
Honourable Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Tejgaon, Dhaka
Bangladesh

February 24th, 2010

Dear Prime Minister,

Jumma Peoples Network UK and Survival International are extremely alarmed by the recent incidents of violence in Baghaichari, northern Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Reliable sources have indicated that on Saturday 20th February, the army opened fire during clashes between Jumma residents and Bengali settlers killing at least six indigenous people. Many others have been injured including a soldier.

It has been reported that the violence erupted over a dispute about land after which settlers set fire to more than 200 houses belonging to indigenous people in Sajek. Three Buddhist temples and a church were also burnt down.

The Bangladesh army, despite its positive reputation in UN peacekeeping missions overseas, is still committing gross human rights violations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The killing, rape and torture of Jumma tribal people remains commonplace, as does the burning of their houses and theft of their land.

We therefore urge your government to conduct an urgent enquiry into the Baghaichari incident and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice. We also request that your government makes every effort to fully implement the CHT Peace Accord, without further delay. We believe that honouring the commitments made to the people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts by your Government will bring lasting peace and prosperity to the region.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lal Amlai".

Mr. Lal Amlai
Spokesperson
Jumma Peoples Network UK

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Corry".

Stephen Corry
Director
Survival International