

# 2022 proved how far we still are from peace in the CHT



Mangal Kumar Chakma is information and publicity secretary at the Parbaya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS).

MANGAL KUMAR CHAKMA

The human rights situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) is deteriorating day by day, and reaching an alarming stage. In a statement on December 2, 2022, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Francisco Cali Tayz, said that he has been continuously receiving news and information from different sources about the gross and systematic human rights violations against Indigenous peoples, including the Parbaya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) members who signed the CHT Accord, Indigenous human rights defenders, and Indigenous women and girls. The repeated efforts to grab Indigenous land in the name of development, tourism, and eco-forests for national and international

etc. It can undoubtedly be said that such an alarming situation can never be taken lightly.

It goes without saying that the implementation of the CHT Accord of 1997 is crucial in establishing peace in the CHT, improving the human rights situation, and leading to self-determined development, resolution of land disputes, demilitarisation, rehabilitation of affected people, and above all, introducing a system of self-governance. Several studies by independent researchers and academics have revealed that most of the provisions of the Accord still remain unimplemented. Even some basic aspects of the agreement have not been realised.

The CHT Accord Implementation and Monitoring Committee is the

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companies, and other vested interests, also disrespects the accord.

The same picture emerged in PCJSS' annual human rights report released on January 1. It counted 235 incidents of human rights violation perpetrated by state and non-state actors in 2022, where 1,935 people were victims of rights violations. This included searching of houses, arbitrary arrest, extrajudicial killing in the name of crossfire, fabricated cases, forcible land occupation, communal attacks, arson upon houses, violence against women, infiltration, anti-Accord propaganda, etc.

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key body in the implementation process of the CHT Accord, as well as in monitoring the process. But it is regrettable that office space, manpower, funds and logistical support have not been provided to this committee in the last 25 years. Not only that, the government has not taken any effective steps to implement the decisions taken by the committee. If the committee that is responsible for implementation and monitoring of the Accord is kept at a standstill, then how will the Accord be implemented?

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several meetings, including the fifth one of the Accord Implementation and Monitoring Committee held on December 7, 2021, it was decided that the subjects of law and order, and the police, will be handed over to Hill District Councils through executive order, and a district police force will be formed according to the laws of the Council. However, instead of implementing this decision, an Armed Police Battalion (APBN) camp was set up on the site of an withdrawn army camp in April 2022, which is a direct breach of the Accord.

Similarly, although a decision was taken to formulate the Rules of the CHT Land Commission with immediate effect in the interests of resolving land disputes in the CHT, in the meetings of both the CHT Accord Implementation and Monitoring Committee and the Land Commission, the government has kept the process of formulating the Rules hanging for six years. And as the Rules have not been framed, the Land Commission has not yet been able to begin the judicial work of settling land disputes.

According to the PCJSS annual report, 40 violent incidents took place involving illegal occupation of lands, communal and arson attacks, filing

of false cases related to land, and violence against women by settlers and land grabbers in 2022, in which at least 448 people were victims.

The most recent incident is an attack on over a dozen homes in a Mro village in Bandarban's Lama upazila on January 2, where the attackers were allegedly involved with Lama Rubber Industries Limited, a rubber plantation in the area, and their goal was to drive the Indigenous community out of their land.

On April 26 last year, there was another incident of land grabbing, where 350 acres of Jum farming land, plantations and village forests of three Jumma villages in Soroi Union of Lama were burned, allegedly by the same rubber company. As a result, the livelihoods of 200 villagers in 39 families were endangered, forcing them to face a crisis of food and drinking water. The natural environment was also severely damaged, which included the death of wild animals.

The arson, assault and harassment of this company did not stop here. After the April 26 attack, at least 11 more attacks occurred, including the one this week, and two fabricated cases were filed against the villagers who were involved in the land

protection movement in 2022. We must remember that no development can be sustainable if the human rights of the people are violated in this way.

In its report, PCJSS also mentioned that the present government has escalated security measures as its solution to the CHT crisis, even in the year 2022, instead of through political and peaceful means via the proper and full implementation of the CHT Accord. Instead, the government is continuing to establish camps one after another while conducting operations upon the Jumma people in the CHT region.

Moreover, there are concerns that a vested quarter has been providing support and shelter to armed terrorist groups, while meting out suppressive measures and imposing the responsibility for terrorist activities upon the Jumma people engaged in the movement demanding implementation of the CHT Accord.

One such terrorist group is the Kuki-Chin National Front (KNF), which is reportedly providing shelter and military training to an Islamic militant group named Jamatul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqia in their hideout in the remote area of Ruma. This is not only dangerous for the

existence of the Jumma people of CHT as a national entity, but is a threat to the national security of Bangladesh as well.

At least 294 people of the Bawm community have reportedly been displaced due to threats and harassment from the KNF. They are living an inhumane life there. But despite this, there is no initiative from the administration or any authority of the government to bring them back with full security and rehabilitation.

Where the CHT Accord has already created the scope for a political and peaceful solution to the CHT problem, what is the point of subverting the implementation process of the Accord in this way?

Peace reigns today in our neighbouring Indian state of Mizoram, whereas once Mizoram was an insurgency-prone state. This was possible only because the Mizo issue was resolved politically and peacefully through the Mizoram Peace Accord of 1986, which was duly implemented by the government without any dilly-dallying, and through which the self rule of the Mizo people was established. No outsider can buy land in Mizoram, and non-residents have to take an Inner Line Pass to enter Mizoram. But as a result of granting these rights, is the sovereignty and integrity of India under threat? The answer is definitely not. Whereas the situation of another neighbour, Myanmar, is the polar opposite, because instead of political and peaceful solutions, it has been following repressive and military policies to solve ethnic problems.

The policymakers of our country go on exposure visits to other countries to explore best practices, so that they can use those practices in their own country. But it is our misfortune that the leaders of Bangladesh keep looking for bad practices instead in terms of non-implementation of peace accords around the globe, with the intention to justify the government's dilly-dallying tactics in implementing the CHT Accord.

At the end of the day, we must realise that in the greater interests of the country, we need to improve the human rights situation in the CHT and aim to ensure peace and development in the region. In this case, there is no alternative to a genuine political and peaceful solution to the CHT problem through the proper and full implementation of the CHT Accord.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Survey of Bangladesh  
NSDI Project  
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208

**Invitation for Tenders**

1	Ministry	Ministry of Defense.			
2	Agency	Survey of Bangladesh.			
3	Purchaser name	Project Director "Establishment of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) for Bangladesh (1st Revised)".			
4	Purchaser district	Dhaka.			
5	Invitation for	Procurement of GIS software & Services.			
6	Invitation Ref No. and date	23.08.0000.019.26.005.22.312 Date: 05-01-2023			
7	Procurement method, project code	Open Tender Method, 223041800			
8	Budget and source of funds	Government of Bangladesh (GOB).			
9	Project name	"Establishment of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) for Bangladesh" (1st Revised).			
10	Tender Package No.	GD 01			
11	Tender package name, date	Procurement of GIS software and services, 05-01-2023.			
12	Tender publication date	05-01-2023			
13	Tender last selling date	23-01-2023 at 1.00pm			
14	Tender closing & opening	23-01-2023 at 11.00am			
15	Selling tender document	1. Office of the Project Manager NSDI Project , Tejgaon 2. Security Desk (Office hour).			
16	Receiving tender document	Security Section, Survey of Bangladesh, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208.			
17	Eligibility of tenderer	The tenderer must have a minimum of 03 (three) years of overall experience in the supply of GIS software and related services as a supplier in government and non-government organizations.			
18	Deliverable	GIS Software (03 packages) and related services.			
19	GIS software (latest) & services	Provide GIS Software and related service: a) Installation b) Integration with NSDI portal c) Geospatial service development such as: i. Software Installation to the NSDI Lab computers, ii. Service Integration with NSDI web Portal (wwwnsdi.gob.bd) such as Base map creation, Data visualization, Vector tiles management, Analytical tools integration, 3D Map development, Map tiling, Data flow, 3D spatial analysis, 3D plotting, Dynamic thematic map etc. d) Maintenance of web mapping server and portal. e) Import training on aforesaid software & services.			
20	Price of tender document:	Tk 2000.00 (two thousand) only			
21	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time
1	Procurement of GIS Software & Services	SOB	BDT 150,000/- (one lac and fifty thousand)	35 (thirty-five days) days from the date of contract signature	
22	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Abdul Kalam, PD, NSDI, Atten: Md. Saidus Jaman, PM, NSDI.			
23	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 88-02-8170396, 01520100431, nsdi.sob@gmail.com			
24	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.				

02.01.2023  
Project Director  
NSDI Project, Survey of Bangladesh

GD-18

**Bangladesh Development Bank Limited**  
Head Office, Bdbl Bhaban  
8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000.  
Real Estate Department

**INVITATION FOR TENDER**

Tender is invited from the reputed manufacturers/suppliers for Sweeping & Cleaning Work of Office Building & Equipment with Maintenance of Sanitary & Plumbing System for 03 (Three) Years of BDBL Bhaban-2 at 12, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215 in monthly payment basis. Necessary information are given below :

01. Procuring Entity	Real Estate Department, Bangladesh Development Bank Limited (BDBL), Head Office, 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000.
02. Procurement Method	Through Open Tendering Method (OTM) of Public Procurement Rules, 2008 and The Public Procurement Act, 2006.
03. Invitation for Tender No.	BDBL/RED/OTM/2023/01
04. Source of Funds	BDBL own Fund.
05. Brief Description of the Goods and Services	Sweeping & Cleaning Work of Office Building & Equipment with Maintenance of Sanitary & Plumbing System for 03 (Three) Years of BDBL Bhaban-2 at 12, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
06. Name & Address of Receiving Tender Document	Real Estate Department, Bangladesh Development Bank Limited (BDBL), Head Office, BDBL Bhaban (Level-09), 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000.
07. Last Date and Time for Selling Tender Schedule	25-01-2023 up to Office Hour.
08. Last Date and Time for Submission	26-01-2023 up to 03:00 PM
09. Date, Time and Place for Tender Opening	All Tenders will be opened at Real Estate Department, Head Office, Dhaka on 26-01-2023 at 3:30 PM (Intending Tenderers or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend at the time of opening of Tender).
10. Eligibility of Tenderer	1. The Tenderer must have 05 (Five) years of general experience in Supply of similar goods and related services in Bangladesh. 2. The Tenderer must have a minimum 05 (Five) years of specific experience in Supply of similar goods & works and related services of at least Tk. 10.00 Lac yearly. 3. Minimum amount of required liquid asset of tenderer is 10.00 Lac Only. 4. The Tenderer must submit attested photocopies of up to date Trade License, TIN, Tax Return Certificate, VAT Registration, documentary evidence of their experience, failing which the Tender would be treated as Non-Responsive.
11. Tender Security	Tender Security of an amount of Tk. 2,00,000.00 (Taka Two Lac) only will be required in the form of Pay Order in favor of "Bangladesh Development Bank Limited".
12. Price of Tender Schedule	Tk. 1,500 (Taka One Thousand Five Hundred) Only. (Non Refundable).

BDBL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender either in part or full without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**Engr. Md. Asaduzzaman**  
Department Head  
Real Estate Department  
BDBL, Head Office  
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