

10 December 2011

Mr Dipankar Talukdar,
Minister of CHT Affairs,
Government of Bangladesh

Camp: Kamala Nagar, CADC, Mizoram

Subject: Protest of Indian Chakmas against your support to the unacceptable reference of the Chakmas and other indigenous peoples as “Bengalees” in the recently amended Constitution of Bangladesh

Dear Minister,

We, the undersigned on behalf of our respective organizations representing the Chakma civil society, are writing to express the angst of the Indian Chakmas against the destruction of identity of the Chakmas in Bangladesh as a consequent to the 15th Amendment to the Constitution of Bangladesh passed on 30th June 2011 which has identified the Chakmas and other indigenous peoples as “Bengalees”.

2. We are deeply pained to know that you as Member of Parliament representing the indigenous communities of CHT have supported the terming of the Chakmas and other indigenous peoples as “Bengalees” which is totally unacceptable to any self respecting society/community.

Therefore, we demand a written assurance from you that upon your return to Bangladesh you will take all the necessary measures to impress upon the Shiekh Hasina government to recognize the Chakmas and other ethnic communities as “indigenous peoples” in the Constitution of Bangladesh.

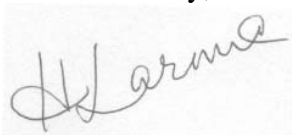
3. We are deeply saddened to learn that the present government of Bangladesh led by Awami League is not committed to fully implement the 1997 CHT Peace Accord, to bring peace and development to the region which is presently the most neglected.

Therefore, we demand your personal intervention in the capacity as MP and Minister of CHT Affairs for speedy and full implementation of the CHT Peace Accord.

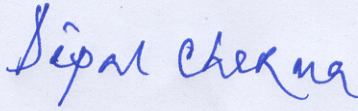
Looking forward to your kind response.

With warm regards,

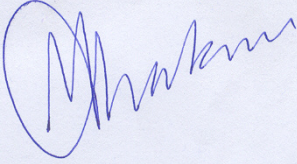
Yours sincerely,



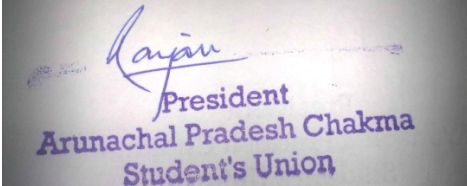
1. Hemanta Larma
President, Mizoram Chakma Development Forum (MCDF)



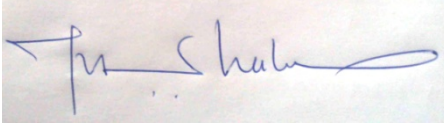
2. President, Tripura Chakma Students Association, Agartala, Tripura



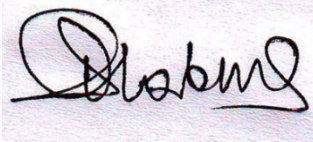
3. Motilal Chakma, Co-editor, MAADI, Tripura



4. Ranjan Chakma, President,
Arunachal Pradesh Chakma Students Union



5. Suman Chakma, President,
Meghalaya Chakma Students Union, Shillong



6. Swarup Chakma, General Secretary,
Guwahati Chakma Students Union, Guwahati, Assam



7. Jagat Shanta Chakma
General Secretary
Barak Valley Chakma Students Association, Silchar, Assam



8. Paritosh Chakma
Editor-in-Chief, The Chakma Voice, New Delhi

9. F. Rupam Chakma
President, Mumbai Chakma Association, Mumbai, Maharashtra

10. Pronit Bikash Chakma
General Secretary, Young Chakma Association
Gen. Hqrs: Kamalanagar, Mizoram

11. Indralal Chakma,
President, Mizoram Chakma Social Forum
Hqrs: Marpara 'S', Dist: Lunglei, Mizoram

12. Bipin Bihari Chakma
President, Mizoram Buddhist Association
Hqrs: Kamalanagar, Mizoram

13. Jaya Chakma
President, Chakma Mahila Samiti
Hqrs: Kamalanagar, Mizoram

14. Ramesh Kanti Tongchongya
Adviser, Mizoram Chakma Social Forum
Hqrs: Marpara 'S', Dist: Lunglei, Mizoram

Sd/-

15. Dr Ashim Chakma
President,
Dibrugarh Chakma Students Union, Dibrugarh, Assam

16. B.H.Sadhan Bikash Chakma
President, Mizoram Chakma Students' Union
Zonal Hqrs: Aizawl, Mizoram