

Tuesday 13 June 2017 Canberra Protest demonstration against communal attack and mass arson in Longudu, Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), Bangladesh

Dear Friends,

A protest demonstration against communal attack and mass arson on Jumma indigenous villages in Longudu, CHT, Bangladesh will be held in front of the Australian Parliament House, Canberra organised by CHT Indigenous Jumma Association Australia (CHTIJAA) in association with Australian Jumma community. Later a memorandum to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh will be handed to the High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Canberra.

On 02 June 2017, about 250 Jumma indigenous houses and shops burnt to ashes in 3/4 villages in Longudu by local settlers with the support from local administration, police and security forces. Villagers had to flee to the nearby forest for shelter while their houses were looted and burnt by the settlers. One 70 year old woman was burnt alive as she couldn't flee. Hundreds, including children and old, are without shelter and food in this time of rainy season.

This is not the first time. In May 1989, after a number of years of Bangladesh government transmigrated settlers in Longudu, there was an arson and mass killing of Jummas by settlers, with direct help from military and police. Even after the signing of the 1997 CHT Accord, which ended over two decades of CHT's armed struggle for self-determination, there has been many mass arson attacks on Jumma villages. None of the perpetrators, neither of the 1989 Longudu mass killings and other mass killings, nor any of the mass arsons, have been brought to justice.

20 years on, most important provisions of the 1997 CHT Accord remain unimplemented, including demilitarisation of the CHT.

Friends, please hold peace in your hearts and come along to express your solidarity to stop these kind of repeated atrocities on Jumma indigenous people in the CHT, Bangladesh.

Primary Venue: Assembly Area
Parliament House, Canberra, Australia
Time: 11:00 AM

Secondary Venue: Bangladesh High Commission
57 Culgoa Circuit, O'Malley ACT 2606
Time: 12:30 PM