

SAPPENDIX (A)

A MEMORANDUM

Demanding a Separate State Comprising
The Mikir Hills, North Cachar Hills and the
Contiguous Tribal Areas in Assam

To
The Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi

Submitted on behalf of
The Mikir and North Cachar Hills Leaders' Conference,
Haflong, Assam
June 1973

To:

The Prime Minister of India, New Delhi.

Subject : Memorandum demanding the creation of a separate state comprising the Mikir Hills and the North Cachar Hills Districts and the contiguous tribal areas in Assam.

Respected Madam,

In pursuance of the resolution adopted at the meetings of the Mikir Hills and North Cachar Hills Leaders Conference at Diphu on 18th February, 1973 and the resolution adopted by the Action Committee of the said Conference on 7th March, 1973 & 5th May 1973 at Diphu and Haflong respectively to submit a memorandum demanding creation of a separate state comprising the aforesaid two autonomous hill districts and the contiguous tribal areas in Assam and with the approval of this memorandum received in the meeting of the Action Committee held on 1st June, 1973 at Haflong, the Mikir and North Cachar Hills Leaders Conference, most humbly and respectfully submits this memorandum for your kind consideration and implementation.

Sd/-
(P.K. Gorlosa)
Secretary,
Action Committee

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
(S.R. Thaosen),
President,
Action Committee

Mikir and North Cachar Hills Leaders' Conference, Haflong.

Copy to: Shri.

for favour of information and necessary action.

Secretary Action Committee

Mikir and North Cachar Hills Leaders' Conference

Haflong. Assam, June 9, 1973.

A Memorandum
To
The Prime Minister of India, New Delhi
Submitted by
The Mikir & North Cachar Hills Leaders, Conference
Haflong: Assam.

1. Introduction

The Mikir Hills and the North Cachar Hills are the only two autonomous hill districts remaining in Assam. After the Independence, the then hill districts of Assam namely, the Naga Hills, K & J Hills, Garo Hills and Mizoram separated one after another from Assam. The former Naga Hills district became a full-fledged state of Nagaland in 1962 and in the recent years the K. & J. Hills and Garo Hills districts formed the Meghalaya State and the Mizoram Districts has been elevated to the status of Union Territory.

At the time of last reorganization of Assam creating a sub-state of Meghalaya, these two districts were given an option to join the proposed sub-state, but they did not exercise their right of option. Firstly because economically, politically, educationally and in many respects these two districts were not at the same level of development as the other hill districts, particularly K. & J. Hills. Secondly, they were strongly persuaded by the Assamese leaders not to join the new state in which case they would be given equal facilities as the Meghalaya sub-state especially in developmental matters. Relying on the assurances the people of these two districts did not opt for the new state and decided to remain in Assam. But the promises were soon forgotten and nothing new was done to develop their areas. While a feeling of being let down and deceived was mounting on this score, came the medium issue imposing Assamese in all levels of education throughout the state and the lawless atrocities to enforce the issue upon the linguistic minorities.

This was the proverbial “last straw on the Camels back”. The Assamese people made no secret of their determination to ‘ASSAMISE’ the linguistic minorities by wiping out their district language, culture, traditions and ways of life.

A wave of indignance swept over the mind of every hillman of the area and they saw the solution only in their going out of Assam. The leaders of the two hill districts, therefore met, discussed and formally organized themselves into the “Mikir and North Cachar Hills Leaders’ Conference” and decided to demand creation of a separate state with the two hill districts and the contiguous tribal areas of Assam.

2. Geographical and Historical Background

Bounded by the plains districts of Nowgong and Sibsagar on the North and Meghalaya on the West, Nagaland and Manipur on the East and the district of Cachar on the South, these two districts cover an area of 8,000 sq. mile with a population of 5,53, 805 souls. The area and population of the contiguous areas mentioned in para No. 9 will roughly be 500 sq. mile and 70,000 respectively.

Before the advent of the British this area was a part of the Kachari Kingdom which the British annexed in the year 1854 after the death of Tularam Senapati. During the days of British rule, North Cachar hills was a sub-division under the plains district of Cachar and the Mikir hills of the present was parts of the Nowgong, Jowai and Sibsagar districts. Both the areas were administered as the so called ‘Excluded and Partially Excluded Areas’.

On the eve of the country’s Independence the Constituent Assembly of India had appointed a sub-committee for the “Excluded and Partially Excluded Areas” of Assam hills which was known as “Bordoloi Sub-Committee” to enquire into the will and aspiration of the tribal people of this area under the new National Government. The tribal people of this area had represented for separate autonomy to safeguard their language, culture, customs and ways of life. The outcome of “The Bordoloi Sub-Committee’s” report was the provision of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution and creation of Autonomous District Councils for all the hill districts of Assam. Thus only in 1951, the Mikir Hills came into being out of those portions of Sibsagar and Nowgong districts which were predominantly inhabited by the Mikir tribes and formed a new civil district with North Cachar Hills sub-division. The latter was raised into the status of a district in 1970 just after the reorganization of Assam.

The Mikir and Dimasa Kachari are the main tribes living in the Mikir Hills District while North Cachar Hills district is inhabited by mainly the Dimasa Kachari, Jeme Naga, Hmar, Kuki and Mikir tribes. These tribes have their own languages, cultures and traditions, distinct from one another. The only one thing they have in common is their backwardness, educationally, economically and politically.

3. Backwardness of the People

Aware of their own misfortune of being more backward than other hill tribes like the Khasis, and Mizos in particular, the tribal people of these two hill districts had always been hesitant in giving their full support in the past movements demanding creation of a separate hill state with the hill Districts then existing in Assam. But the demand of these two hill districts was for a separate autonomy with equal status to other hill areas. The tribal people of these two hill districts are more akin to one another and their problems are common. This is the reason they stand unitedly in the question of demanding a separate state.

4. Reorganization of Assam (1969)

At the time of the last reorganization of Assam, the Mikir Hills and the North Cachar Hills District Councils were given a right of option to join the proposed Meghalaya Sub-State to be constituted with the K.& J. Hills and Garo Hills districts. For reasons stated above, the people of these two hill districts did not see the solution of their problems in joining the proposed sub-state. The four M.L.A.s of these two districts therefore submitted a representation demanding a separate political unit for their districts with equal status with other hill areas. But the Central Government did not take the representation into consideration and thought the provision of option enough for them. This right of option given, the people were faced with great dilemma whether to remain in Assam or to join with Meghalaya. At this juncture, they received certain significant assurances from the highest authorities of the Government of Assam and the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee, which decided for them in favour of remaining in Assam.

5. Assurances of the Assamese Leaders

On 2nd February, 1970 the new District of north Cachar Hills was inaugurated by Shri Chattra Sing Teron, then as also now, Minister of Tribal Areas, Department of Assam. On this occasion, Sarvashree M.M. Choudhury, then Acting

Chief Minister and later Chief minister of Assam B.C. Bhagawati, then President, Assam Pradesh Congress Committee and all the M.L.A.s and leaders of Mikir Hills District visited Haflong. At the instance of the Acting Chief Minister and President, APCC an informal meeting with the above mentioned gentlemen and the local leaders was held at the Haflong Circuit House in the afternoon of that day. At that meeting, the Acting Chief Minister, the President APCC and the T.A.D. Minister persuaded that that Mikir and North Cachar Hills should not join the proposed sub-state and declared in bold terms that if it would remain in Assam, it would be given equal facilities for developing their own areas as would be enjoyed by the outgoing districts. On the following morning, a formal meeting was held in the local Congress Bhavan and the same assurance was reiterated. Relying on the promise made by the highest authorities of the State Government and the Ruling Party, the two District Councils refrained from exercising their right of option to join the proposed Meghalaya Sub-state. For, all that they wanted was scope for developing themselves while preserving their own separate entities as tribes. But too soon they were disillusioned. The promised were forgotten and no serious attempt was made towards the development of their areas. Rather, the central grants under Art. 275 have always been misused apart from uniform mismanagement and negligence in all the levels of administration. The per capita expenditure of these two hill districts is much less than other hill areas of this eastern region.

6. Transferred Subjects

In the name of fulfillment of the promise, the State Government transferred functions in relation to certain developmental schemes to the administrative control of the District Councils under the provisions of paragraph 6 (2) of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution with effect from 16th September, 1970. The schemes so transferred came to be called as the Transferred. Subjects in the District Council and the arrangement was sought to be equated with the conferment of larger powers to the District Councils. But these schemes continued to be administered by the officers from the government as before and because of too many denying terms and conditions and cumbrous procedures that were laid down, neither the powers of the District Council nor the scope for the development of the area were least enlarged. Rather much of the council's autonomy was robbed as a result of the amendments in the Sixth Schedule and now it was the District Council solely to blame if the schemes failed for the fault of the executing officers who are practically not under its

control. The District Council was dubious of the success of the scheme at the very beginning, but here again, the Government assured them that they would go on making suitable changes and improvement of the terms and procedures in the course of actual implementation of the scheme. So they decided to give it a fair trial. As apprehended, the shortcomings of the plan soon showed themselves but till today nothing has been done by the Government to improve the position. It must be stated here that even with the best working conditions the "Transfer of subjects" as envisaged under the provisions of para 6 (2) of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution falls far short of meeting the need of economic development of the people of these hill districts.

7. Medium Issue

While the discontent of the people was mounting for all these step-motherly treatments of the State Government, there came the medium issue imposing Assamese in the University and Secondary stages of education. The hill people of these districts in which the regional language is English would not even be allowed to go under the Central university which is going to be established in Shillong. To enforce the issue upon the linguistic minorities, lawlessness was let loose in large scale in the Brahmaputra Valley. This was the second language riot in Assam in the course of barely a decade. The tribal people of the hill districts along with other sections of linguistic minorities are left with no doubt that the Assamese junta are determined to 'Assamise' them by forcing Assamese language and culture which they too cherish to develop. Such naked imposition, the hill people are not going to tolerate. Nor are they prepared to lose their distinct identity as a tribe. Since the Assamese people also have gone too far to withdraw, there is no meeting point of the two. The only solution for the hill people is separation from Assam to have their own state and this they will have at whatever price.

8. Political Aspiration

The desire to have their own state has been enhanced by the fact that all their erstwhile sister districts have, after going out of Assam, not only had their political aspirations fulfilled but also enjoying much larger shares of national resources. They are now in a position to shape their own destiny whereas the people of these two hill districts are lagging far behind.

9. Contiguous Tribal Areas

There are number of areas in the districts of Cachar, Nowgong and Sibsagar, contiguous to the two hill districts which are predominantly inhabited by the people of the same tribes living in these districts. The tribal people of these contiguous areas have been facing great hardships on account of the fact that their customs, manners, practices and beliefs are different from those of the majority in the district in which they are and because in the very nature of things, the plain district administration cannot pay that special attention to their problems which again differ from those of the majority. As a matter of fact, there have been numerous complaints that their interests and sentiments have not only been ignored but at times measures and policies which are repugnant to them have also been imposed on them. Moreover, they are not regarded as members of the scheduled tribes to which they ethnically and linguistically belong because they are geographically outside the autonomous areas and this deprives them of the safeguards and advantages which are extended to the scheduled tribes of the autonomous districts.

They have, therefore, on various occasions petitioned both the State and the Central Governments to be brought under the purview of the Sixth Schedule by inclusion of the areas inhabited by them in the contiguous autonomous districts, but so far their cases have gone unheard. It will be to the advantage of all concerned to include the contiguous tribal areas in the proposed new state.

10. Natural resources

Comparing with the cases of Nagaland and other new states that have come into being in the eastern region, the area, population and the natural resources of these two hill districts more than justify the formation of a state comprising the two districts, with or without the contiguous tribal areas.

A metre gauge track of the railways in the N.E.F. zone already runs from one end of the area to the other. If serious attention given, there is great scope for improving its existing road communications. The abundance of hilly rivers provide great scope for generating power. The proposed Kopili Hydro-electric project, should it ever be implemented, would go a long way towards the development of the area, but unfortunately, the fate of the Project remains to be anybody's guess ever since it was first proposed some 25 years ago. There is an ample reserve of coal

and cement, also the extensive forest and agriculture lands provide great scope for industries based on forest, agriculture and horticulture. Properly developed, these two districts have all the potentialities to make the proposed state self sufficient in all respects.

11. Conclusion

Considering all these points, there is an indisputable case for constitution of a separate state for Mikir and North Cachar Hills together with the contiguous tribal areas. Only by this means they will be able to exist unhampered, preserve and develop their entities, their languages, cultures and ways of life, to run their own affairs and at the same time to be in tune with the main stream of national life, to sail in the wide ocean that is India and not to be restricted to the backwaters of the Brahmaputra Valley. They are convinced that their remaining in Assam would defeat all these purposes. The only solution is to have separation. It is far better to live separately in peace than to live together in a mixed set-up with the possibility of incessant discords, hence this demand of the separate state within the North Eastern Council.

In the final analysis, this solution will be the best for the hill areas, for Assam and for India.

JAI HIND.

APPENDIX (B)

A

MEMORANDUM

TO

SRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO,
HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

THROUGH

THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
NORTH CACHAR HILLS, HAFLONG, ASSAM

SUBMITTED

BY

THE DIMARAJI REVIVAL DEMAND COMMITTEE,
HEAD OFFICE: DIPHU, KARBI ANGLONG, ASSAM

AND

ALL DIMASA STUDENTS' UNION (ADSU)

H.O. HAFLONG

NORTH CACHAR HILLS

(ASSAM)

1996

To,

SRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO.
HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA,
NEW DELHI.

THROUGH
THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,
NORTH CACHAR HILLS, AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT.

Dated.....1996.

HAFLONG, ASSAM.

Our Most Respected Sir,

With most respect and due submission, we, the undersigned, for and on behalf of the Dimaraji Revival Demand Committee and All Dimasa Students' Union, at the very outset, beg to tender our deep love and hearty congratulation for according us opportunity to submit a memorandum urging upon your kindness for revival of a full-fledged 'DIMARAJI STATE' by incorporating all the divided territories of our ancient Dimasa Kachari Kingdom- The Heramba Kingdom so as to enable us to enjoy all constitutional rights and privileges to bring all-round developments- political, economic and social etc. and thereby secure protection, preservation, and peace etc. of our all aborigine Dimasa tribal people through unified self-rule under the same provisions of the Constitution as enjoyed by our immediate neighbour brothers of the North-East Region.

We are hopeful that the Government must pay due attention to the facts and figures furnished herein in support of our grievances and demands and to step up necessary measures giving due justification and sympathetic consideration for the fulfillment of our inevitable and legitimate claims without losing much time and energy.

With best regards and hopes we remained.

Sir,

Dated.....1996.

Yours Faithfully,

For and on behalf of the

For and on behalf of the

ADSU (C.C.)

DRDC

1. Sd/- (Sunmoni Kempraisa,)

1. Sd/- (Dilip Kumar

Diphusa), President,

President,

2. Sd/- (Sanjay Langhasa,)

2. Sd/- (Suthil Phonglosa,)

Vice-President,

General Secretary,

3. Sd/- (Lojo Daulaguphu,)

3. Sd/- (Genga

Lapthaisa,)

General Secretary,

Joint-Secretary,

Copy for favour of kind information and necessary action is sent to :-

General Secretary

All Dimasa Students' Union (CC),

H.Q. Haflong, N.C. Hills.

1. THE BRIEF HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS OF THE DIMASA TRIBE.

The kacahris (Dimasa) are the aboriginals or the earliest known inhabitants of Assam. They are known by different names as –Boros, Meches, Rabhas, etc. They are even closely allied to the Koches, Chutias, Morans, Lalungs, Garos and Tipperahs. As Sir Edward Gait observed—“In the thirteenth century it would seem that the Kachari Kingdom extended along the south bank of the Brahmaputra, from the Dikhu to the Kalang or beyond and included also the valley of the Dhansiri and the tract which now formed the North Cachar Sub-Division.” (A History of Assam Sir-E. Gait)

Since the advent of the Ahoms through the south eastern corner of the Brahmaputra valley into the great Kachari Kingdom in 1228 AD, they started several wars with the Kacharis, the predominant, aboriginal ruling tribes. Mrs. L. Devi says- “The Ahoms appeared on the political scene of Assam in the beginning of the 13 th century. But they did not try their strength with the Kacharis their western neighbour, till the end of 15th century. The Kacharis were the most important and organized tribe of Assam at that time ruling over an extensive territory covering from the Dikhow in the east to the Kalang on the west. The Kacharis were the most important and organized tribe of Assam at that time ruling over an extensive territory covering from the Dikhow in the east to the Kalang on the west. The Kachari Kingdom in the 13 th century thus included the major part of the Sibsagar district, about half of the Nawgong district and also the district of Cachar. The Ahoms therefore, dared not attack such a strong power till they gathered sufficient strength.” (The Ahom Tribal Relations- L. Devi) As a result of unceasing collisions with Ahoms, the Kachari had to abandon their big territories to them. In course of time, the Kacharis had to shift their capital from Dimapur to Maibong in 1536 Ad. The Kachari Kingdom which was ruled from Dimapur capital was known as HERAMBIA KINGDOM and the royal dynasty was called- THE DIMASA TRIBE by themselves.

The Maibang capital was again sacked by the Ahoms in 1706 A.D. during the reign of Kachari King Tamradhvaj Narayan. Ater the defeat he shifted his capital from Maibang to Khaspur in the present Cachar district. Since then there occurred no such big collisions between Ahom and Kachari monarchs. The last kachari king Govinda Chandra Narayan had ruled the Heramba Kingdom till his

assassination in 1832 by his own brother –in –law Gambhir Singh. After his tragic death the Heramba Kingdom was annexed by the British Government to their dominion for there was no legal heir to inherit the throne.

On the other hand, another Kachari Chief- TULARAM SENAPATI by name, had also been in possession of certain territories of Govinda Chandra Narayan's Heramba Kindom since 1830, Tularam Senapati had ruled it till his death in 1850. After his death his Province was also annexed by the British in 1854 on the ground of non-availability of efficient heir. Thus, by 1854, the vast and glorious kingdom of the Dimasa Kachari Tribe came to an end. However, it would be worthwhile to mention here that the AHOM KINGDOM in 1853 through British annexation.

The Heramba Kindom—Cachar, was bounded on the north by the North Cachar the tract ceded to Tularam Senapati and the Jayantia Hills, on the east by the Manipur, on the south by the Mizoram (Lushai Hills) and, on the west by the Tripura state and the Shylet district of the present Bangladesh.

The country of Tularam Senapati was bounded on the north by Jamuna and the Doyand (Diyung), on the South by Mahur river and the Naga Hills, on the east by the Dhansiri and on the west by the Doyang. After the annexation, the British Government had divided the vast Heramba Kingdom into several segment for their administrative conveniences. The Cachar was divided into four sub-division --- North Cachar, Silchar, Hailakandi and Karimganj. Major portions of Tularam's country were divided and distributed to the newly created neighbouring districts of Nagaon, Naga Hills and Sibsagar. The North Cachar was first constituted into a sub-division in 1853 with it's headquarter at Asalu. It was bounded on the north by the Jamuna river, Mikir and Rengma Naga Hills. In 1854, the rest of Tularam's territory was added to this sub-division. When the Naga Hills district was constituted in 1866, this sub-division was closed and the territory included in it was distributed amongst the surrounding districts. It was re-established in 1880. Large numbers of outsiders from neighbouring countries were given settlements into all these lands by the British Government. The aborigin Dimasa and other tribes were thus outnumbered by the no-tribal settlers. The very name and identity of Heramba kingdom was lost and it came to be known as Surama valley, Barak valley and the Brahmaputra valley etc.

The term “ASSAM” came into use since 1874. Mr. Gait states- By resolutions of the Government of India dated 12th May and 18th December, 1874, the new Administration was provided with a separate staff of Deputy and Assistant Commissioners and other officers required to carry on the revenue and the judicial business of the country. Since then the term ‘ASSAM’ which had originally been applied to the tract of the country ruled by the Ahoms, and was subsequently used with reference to the area under the control of the Commissioner of Assam, is the six districts of the Brahmaputra valley, has been given a wider signification, and is now used as the designation of the whole territory which included in the Chief Commissionership, including the Surma valley, the Hill districts and Manipur.

VEER SAMBHUDHAN PHONGLOSA, one of the Dimasa Youth of North Cachar Hills was not at all happy at the divide and rule policy of the British. He went rebellions against the British, and formed under-ground organization to drive out the British from the country to liberate the Heramba Kingdom. Mr. Major Boyd, the then Deputy Commissioner, Cachar and Mr. C. A. Sopit, Sub-Divisional officer of N.C. Hills came to Maibang with their 25 Frontier Police contingents in January 1882 to subdue the rebellion. In this encounter Mr. Boyd was killed by Sambhudhan Phonglosa. But a year’s later on 12th February 1883, Sambhudhan Phonglosa was killed by the British forces near Khaspur in Cachar when he was busy in forming organization there.

After independence, the state of Assam was re-organized by the Government. A new Karbi Anglong (Mikir Hills) Sub-division was created by carving out a few territories from Nagaon and Sibsagar districts as per recommendation of the Commission which was headed by Mr. Gopinath Bordoloi, the then Chief Minister of Assam. The land carved out for the formation of Karbi Anglong Sub-division was mostly belonged to the Tularam Senapati’s Province which were earlier tagged to these two districts after annexation in 1854, and there was no clear mention of the boundaries of the so called – Karbi (Mikir) Hills Tract. By tagging the North Cachar Hills Sub-division (which was already in existence) with the Karbi Anglong, a new district as “United North Cachar and Karbi Anglong District” was formed in 1951.

The North Cachar Hills Sub division was up-graded to a full-fledged district and separated from Karbi Anglong district in 1970.

The Naga Hills district which was created in 1866 and had been remaining with Assam under one state-administration left Assam in 1963 and formed into a separate state –“NAGALAND”. So also, the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Garo Hills districts and, erstwhile NEFA went out of Assam and formed into separate states as- “MEGHALAYA” and “ARUNACHAL” respectively.

Of late, the Karbi Anglong and the North Cachar Hills districts of Assam have been jointly demanding for creation Meghalaya State jointly the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and the Garo Hills districts of Assam in 1971. One day, it may go away from Assam even after attaining Autonomous Statehood under the said Article 244 (A) and become a separate full-fledged state for independent self-rule without Assam’s interference. Moreover, the politically conscious sections of the societies feel that these two Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills districts though fight for an Autonomous State jointly may go separate from each other and form a separate state by each.

2. OUR PROBLEMS AND GRIEVANCES

As a consequence of series of numerous divisions and isolations of the land which was originally belonged to the Heramba kingdom, it had divided its aborigin ruling Dimasa Kachari tribe and made them the least minority in every district and state where its parts were transferred. Thus, the very back-bone of the glorious Dimasa nation and its nationalities have since been broken down, displaced and ruined. The rich land properties, ancient heritages, customs and traditions, culture, language, integrity, political and economic rights and benefits etc. were all deprived and lost. Not only that, the very security of our Dimasa people being minority everywhere have always been threatened.

Our Dimasa people have since been living in minority in the districts of Cachar, Karimganj, Nagaon, Karbi Anglong of Assam, and Dhansiripar- Dimapur areas of Kohima district of Nagaland. All their inhabited and occupied lands of the above-mentioned districts and states are situated surrounding the North Cachar hills district of Assam and contiguous to it’s border. The Joipur ITDP of Cachar and the Lanka Bheta Tribal Belt, Bordolong of Nagaon district are fully populated by our Dimasa (Barman / Hojai Kacharis) people. Though the Tribal Belt and Blocks were constituted to provide protection and better facilities to its tribals by the Government it has completely failed to do so throughout Assam.

There are ample evidences of such administrative failures, huge infiltration and encroachment by outsiders, foreigners, non-tribals into the lands of the Belts and Blocks. The Belts and Blocks can never be protected to give securities to its tribals unless it is otherwise reorganised.

The lone Dimasa tribal people of the same language and culture etc. were divided and recognised by the deferent names in different districts and states as per Scheduled list to the Constitution of India. They are-1) Dimasa, Scheduled Tribe (Hills) in the two hills districts of Assam, i.e. N.C. Hills and Karbi Anglong, 2) Hojai Kachari S.T. (Plains) in the plain district of Nagaon, 3) Barmans, S.T. (Plains) in Cachar, and 4)Tangmi or Rukhini Barmans, S.T. (Plains) in Karimganj districts of Assam, and 5) Kachari, S.T. (Hills) in Nagaland state. Such discriminations made to a single community without justification have further created troubles, mis-understandings, and dis-integrations among our Dimasa society.

Since the British dominion to till date our Dimasa people have never been provided opportunity to send member-representative from our community either to the House of State Assembly or to the Parliament from any constituency of a district of any state soas to ventilate our problems and grievances for remedies. But, on the other hand, the outsider non-tribals who migrated to our ancestral homeland recently and over-populated us have been freely enjoying such benefits and all other economic rights and facilities ever since the British rule. The North Cachar district has now been spared with only one seat in the State Assembly of Assam. No Dimasa people of other districts either of Nagaland or of Assam has been provided with such opportunities till this date. The question of employments and other economic grants and benefits of any value can never be expected.

It has become clear and confirmed from all observations that the Dimasa people have since been only divided, isolated, ill-treated, deprived and at last displaced from their own ancestral homeland by robbing their all rights and properties by others. Nothing of the identity, integrity, language, culture and other ancient heritages etc. of the Dimasa people are in existence now.

The Autonomous state which is demanded jointly by North Cachar and Karbi Anglong districts under the Article 244 (A) does never solve the problems of

the Dimasa of Cachar, Karimganj, and Nagaon districts of Assam by territorial division as done by the Nagaland state after separation.

3. OUR DEMANDS AND SUGGESTIONS.

In these circumstances, THE DIMARAJI REVIVAL DEMAND COMMITTEE (DRDC) and THE ALL DIMASA STUDENTS UNION (ADSU) have, therefore, laid down below their genuine demands and suggestions as the only way out for peaceful, justified and concrete solution to the problems of the entire Dimasa tribal people in the North-East.

1. Create or revive a full-fledged “DIMARAJI STATE” as per rules provided in the constitution of India by carving out the territories inhabited by the Dimasa people from the district of Cachar, Nagaon, Karbi Anglong of Assam, a few Dhansiripar-Dimapur areas of Kohima district of Nagaland state and whole district of North-Cachar Hills Assam, as per size and territories drawn in a map attached herewith for determination of our fate through self-rule according to our own genius.
2. Create an “AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL” in favour of ‘TANGMI’ or ‘RUKHINI BARMANS’ people in Karimganj district of Assam by carving out the entire areas populated by them (Rukhini Barmans) for their protection and development through self-rule.
3. Create one member of Parliament Seat (Lok Sabha) (Reserved for the Scheduled Tribe (Hills) Community in the House of parliament for the districts of North Cachar Hills, Assam, with effect from the next Parliament term.
4. Recognise (1) The Barmans, Scheduled Tribe (Pains) community of Cachar, (2) The Tangmi or Rukhini Barmans, S.T. (Plains) community of Karimganj, and (3) the Hojai Kacharis, S.T. (Plains) community of Nagaon districts of Assam and (4) the Kacharis S.T. (Hills) community of Nagaland, as The Dimasa” (Kachari) (with Hills or Plains where necessary) alone through constitutional amendment for the proper identification the community of same language and culture as already recognised in the two hills Districts of Assam –Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills.

5. Drive out all foreign nationals from the proposed territory of DIMARAJI state to give protection to the Dimasa people from further exploitation.

4. THE CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we the members of the DRDC and the ADSU, are of the opinion that the long deprivation and exploitation which have brought serious set-backs against the mere existence and identity of the Dimasa people have badly hurt our sentiments and prestige beyond toleration. We are therefore, determined to move the Government at the cost of everything for the revival of our lost homeland-the DIMARAJI STATE which is inevitable for our survival.

JAI DIMARAJI STATE

APPENDIX (C)

A

MEMORANDUM

TO

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH

HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

NORTH BLOCK, NEW DELHI, INDIA.

SUBMITTED BY

ALL DIMASA STUDENTS' UNION (ADSU)

H.O. HAFLONG

NORTH CACHAR HILLS

(ASSAM)

DATE: 28TH DECEMBER, 2004

VENUE: NORTH BLOCK,

NEW DELHI, INDIA.

MEMORANDUM

To

Dr.
Honourable Prime Minister of India,
North Block, New Delhi.

Subject: Memorandum for immediate solution of D.H.D. cease fire agreement and creation of a separate Dimaraji state under the constitution of India for the Dimasa ethnic people comprising the contiguous Dimasa populated areas of North East India.

Reference:

Our memorandums:

1. To Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, then Honourable Prime Minister of India in 1996.
2. To Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, then Honourable Prime Minister of India in 1998.
3. To Shri Lal Krishna Advani, then Honourable Home Minister of India in 2001.
4. Our memorandum to Honourable Prime Minister of India on 7.10.2004 for immediate solution of D.H.D. under cease fire to hold talks avoiding undue delay.
5. Our continuous demonstration, strikes etc. proving the public demand and interest.

Our most Honourable Sir,

DIMASA'S history is the history of entire North East which was ruled by the Dimasa kings for over thousand years. The Ahoms came from Thailand seven hundred years back only and captured the territory leaving the last Dimasa king to seek asylum in North Cachar Hills. Later on the Dimasa king established kingdom in Cachar district of Assam and Sylhet of now Bangladesh which was

annexed by the Britishers in 1832 from Raja Gobinda Chandra. The Dimasa after that isolated with different names in different areas of Assam, crying for their identity and survival. A militant fraction DHD, which carried their fight for justice, very recently entered into an agreement with the center as well as State government in vain. Not a single demand has so far been met by the Government. DIMASA-very faithful to our nation never sought assistance from any foreign Countries to achieve their home land. (For your honours kind details information and kind perusal copies of our union's earlier memorandums are attached herewith).

With utmost humbleness and cordially we the undersigned for and on behalf of the ALL DIMASA STUDENTS' UNION, central committee, H.Q. Haflong N.C. Hills, Assam beg to tender our deep respect and love at your honour's kind according us permission to meet amid your busy engagement on both official and personal affairs of top most priority. Availing this golden hour of opportunity we be lay down the following problems and demand of our Dimasa tribal people of the north east region for favour of your Honour's kind perusal and early solution through peaceful negotiation.

Problems and Demands:

1. Solve immediately the problem and demands of DHD (Dima Dalam Daogah) under cease fire for permanent establishment of peace, development progress of education, economic, political, social harmony and status of the Dimasa people in the region and also to avoid thereby the danger of loss of innocent life in the region because there is likely on the part of the aggrieved DHD cadres to adopt the ways like that of ULFA, NDFB, NSCN and other revolutionary arms groups being instigated by the bordering terrorist nations to the passive, delaying and dilly dally attitude of the government.
2. Create immediately a separate Dimaraji state in the North East under the provision of the article 2&3 of Indian Constitution to empower politically and constitutionally the Dimasa people to rule, development and function themselves for the progress and establishment of political economic, social cultural educational religious and identity of their people in parallel with the other neighbouring communities are enjoying.

3. There can be no other solution without a state of autonomy for the Dimasa people of the North East, all attempts without the creation of it will be only castle in the air.
4. The prayer for sanction of one seat of Member of Parliament (reserved for S.T. Hills) for Lok Sabha of North Cachar Hills Autonomous district (Assam) in consideration of its backwardness of the district and deprivation of representation of member to the parliament since independence which we have submitted to the Government time to time has also been kept pending without any consideration. It is also a great setback to our progress and sentiments.
5. The too simple and peace loving Dimasas of North Cachar Hills & Karbi Anglong district of Assam are afraid of the center's final settlement of the on going Naga's greater Nagalim issue for their being border district with the states of Nagaland. The Government of India should be careful of its decision that no harm be caused to the two border districts.
6. Sir, therefore, our union once again have submitted our genuine, legitimate and rightful demand and reminder hereby to protect, safeguard develop our deprived neglected, downtrodden Dimasa citizen of India under the preamble, aim and objects of Indian constitution because the then dominant liberal and king dynasty who ruled the entire North East of India remaining in there own Hindu religion cent percent without a least conversion into other religion of Muslim, Christian etc. are becoming now no where of their identity and existence.
7. We, our union hereby earnestly draw your kind sympathetic attention to our grievances of the original sons of the soil of India un ultimatum to implement it for the survival of the Dimasa ethnic people and to step for early solution to the demands and problem under the list of constitutional norms and privilege as done to the other organization viz. Jharkhand, Chatisgarh etc. and thereby grant us the growth of a peaceful existence through self rule, representation by our own tribal or localities etc. in the interest of the entire region and without which our union and our all people will be bound to mass agitation and reactionary democratic movement countrywide for our survival and for which act of your favourable consideration we remain ever grateful to you.

With best regards and wishes of your life-long energetic and dynamic political leadership and longevity of life.

Ours faithfully,

Dated.

28/12/2004.

Secretary,

Advisor,

For and on behalf of the Union

1. Sd/- (PRAFULLA HAFILA), President,

ALL DIMASA STUDENTS' UNION

H.Q. Haflong

N.C. Hills, Assam

2. Sd/- (ASHIMATTA JAHARI),

ALL DIMASA STUDENTS' UNION

H.Q. Haflong

N.C. Hills, Assam.

3. Sd/- (SANTALAL BADERBAIGA),

ALL DIMASA STUDENTS' UNION

H.Q. Haflong

N.C. Hills, Assam.

APPENDIX (D)

A

MEMORANDUM

ADDRESSED

TO

SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL

HON'BLE HOME MINISTER OF INDIA

NEW DELHI-INDIA

SUBMITTED BY

'PEOPLES' SUPRME COUNCIL OF DIMARAJI

DIMA HALAM DAOGAH (DHD)

SENGYA BOJHOM

HQ:- DIMABONG HALALI

'PEOPLES' SUPRME COUNCIL OF DIMARAJI

DIMA HALAM DAOGAH (DHD)

SENGYA BOJHOM

HQ:- DIMABONG HALALI

Memo-No-01/DPSC/DBH/DHD/2004

Dated-23/09/2004

To,

SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL

Hon'ble Home Minister of India

New Delhi-India.

Subject:- Memorandum for the Creation of Separate "Dimaraji State".

Hon'ble Sir,

With most sincerity and respect, we, the undersigned, for and on behalf of the Dima Halam Daogah (DHD) beg to tender your honour our hearty love and gratefulness for allowing us a Golden opportunity by your kindness to meet you amidst busy engagements, and to allow us to express our endless burning issues and grievances and to submit the memorandum urging upon your kind self for the purpose of creation of a full-fledged state in the name of 'Dimaraji State' by carving out the lands inhabited by our Dimasa Tribal People in the North-East Region as expressed here in the Memorandum as per norms available under the Constitution of India so as to give us the constitutional Rights and privileges of Self rule. Availing of others rights and benefits, and there by develop the backward and illiterate Dimasa tribe in time to come and to bring peace, unity, and integrity in the Region.

We are hopeful that the Government will pay due attention to our prayer understand our grievances and to take up necessary measures to solve the issues sympathetically in consideration of its due genuineness, legitimacy and inevitability in due time.

With best regards we ever remained

Juthai----

Yours truly,

Sd/-

(SHRI PRNOB DIMASA)
Commander-in-Chief (C-in-C)
Dimasa National Army (DNA)
Dima Halam Daogah (DHD)
Sengya Bojhom
HQ. Dimabong Halali

sd/-

(SHRI DILIP DIMASA)
Chairman,
Dima Halam Daogah (DHD)
Sengya Bojhom
HQ. Dimabong Halali

AN INTRODUCTION

(A) A BRIEF HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE DIMASAS:-

“The Kacharis may perhaps be described as the aborigine or earliest known inhabitants of the Brahmaputra valley. They are identical with the people by outsiders in the Brahmaputra valley the Kacharis call the themselves ‘Bodo or Bodo-fisa’ (Son of the Bodo). In the North Cachar Hills they call themselves ‘Dimasa’ a corruption of Dima fisa or son of the great river. They were known to Ahoms as Timasa, clearly a corruption of “Dimasa so that this name must have been in use when they were still in Dhansiri Valley”.

(A History of Assam....E. Gait)

The Dimasa also known as Kacharis believe that they descended from Ghatatkacha, son of the second Pandava-Bhima and Hidimba the demon princess mentioned in the ‘Agyatbas Parva’ of the Mahabhatrat. Thus being the descendents of Hidimba the Dimasa called themselves as ‘Hidimbasa’- their kingdom as Hidimba or Heramba kingdom or Heramba Emperor or Lord of Hidimba or Heramba. The use of this terms are abundantly found in the Coins, Rock-cut Inscriptions, Endowment Deeds and Seals etc.

Prior to the advent of the Ahoms in the 13th Century it was the kacharis who dominated the whole of the territories covered by undivided Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and North Bengal. The proof of this statement is well established from the fact that there are many principal rivers in Assam and adjoining territories like D-puta, Di-karai, Di-hing, Di-Bru, Dikhow or Dikhu, Digarau, Dipu, Di-karang etc. bear the syllable ‘Di’ before them which is invariably a Kacahri or Dimasa word, meaning-water. The Dimasa called the mighty river Brahmaputra as ‘Di-lao-meaning Long River.

An old-age Dimasa tradition has it that sixty thousand moon (Lunar months) ago when their ancestral land went dry after a severe draught they move

away from it, and after wandering about along way halted at 'Di-laobra Sangibra' meaning the confluence of the Brahmaputra and Sangi or Di-sang (The river Tsangpho) rechristend in Dimasa and there they held a great assembly. The place is near the present Sadhiya of upper Assam, where the Kacharis established their first Seat By the Passage of time, they spread their Kingdom over large territories.

“In the Thirteenth Century, it would seem that the Kachari Kingdom extended along the South bank of the Brahmaputra, from the Dikhu to the Kolang or beyond and included also the valley of the Dhansiri, and the tract which now formed the North Cachar Sub-Division. At the time, the Country further west, though largely inhabited by the Kacharis appears to have formed parts of the Hindu Kingdom of Kamata. Towards the end of this century, it is narrated that in the outlying Kacharis settlement east of the Dikhu River Withdrew before the advance of the Ahoms. For a hundred years, this river appears to have formed the boundary between the two nations and no hostility recorded until 1497, when a battle was fought on its banks. Ahoms were defeated and were forced to sue for peace. But their power was rapidly growing and during the next thirty years, in spite of this defeat they gradually thrust the Kachari boundary back to the Dhansiri River.”

(A History of Assam---E.Gait).

“The Ahoms appeared on the political scene of Assam in the beginning of the 13th Century. But they did not try their strength with Kacharis, their western neighbors, till the end of the 15th Century. The Kacharis were the most important and organized tribe of Assam at that time ruling over an extensive territory covering from the Dikhow in the east to the Lolong on the west. The Kachari Kingdom in the 13th Century thus included the major part of the Sibsagar district, about half of the Nowgong district and also the district of Cachar.”

(Ahom Tribal Relations---L.Devi).

It is a matter of history that after the fall of Dimapur in 1536, the Kachari King shifted his Capital to Maibong in the preset North Cachar Hills in 1540. the

last migration, i.e. shifting of Capital of Maibang to Khaspur in the plains of Cachar took place around 1761. A large majority of the Kacharis, however, remain in the hilly country where to this day they retain their language, religion, customs etc. to great extent.

It is seen that after shifting royal seat of Khaspur, the conversion to Hinduism followed. Coming under the Brahminical influence, the last Heramba Kings become worshipers of Ranachandi, the Hindu Goddess of war. However, there is evidence of some of the Royal families having come under Hindu influence even in the earlier days as seen from a silver coin issued by the King Jaso Narayan Deb, a worshiper of Hara-Gauri, i.e., Siva and Durga which bears a date equivalent to 1628 AD. Generally speaking, the Dimasas consider themselves to be Hindu though they have their traditional Gods and Goddesses and even to this day are given to liberal practices of Animism. The Dimasa Society is known for its conservatism and loyalty to its own religion and in their unique way it has so far stubbornly resisted the attempts for conversion to Christianity ever since the days of the British Raj. God-fearing, peace loving, tolerant and amiable by nature, they have been living in perfect harmony with the neighbouring tribes and communities for centuries whether in the North Cachar Hills or other areas inhabited by them.

“In 1832 the British annexed South Cachar, i.e. the plains valley of Barak, which was a part of the princely state of Cachar. The hills, Division comprising the North Cachar Hills, Parts of the Diyung Valley, the Kopily Valley and the Dhanshri Valley including the ancient capital of Dimapur, the Brick City of the Dimasa Kachari Kings of Cachar. The hills Division was finally annexed by the British in 1854 on the death of Senapati Tularam the Dimasa Chieftain who holds sway over that area. But the British acted very treacherously after the annexation of the territory. They did not tag the Northern (Hills Division) with South Cachar but unscrupulously annexed the territory to the Assam district of Nowgong. The territory was then placed under the charge of junior political officer away and distributed among the neighbouring districts of Nowgong and present Naga Hills. Thus, while the parts of the Diyung valley and the Kapili Valley had been given to

the district of Naga Hills. The rest formed the territory of the North Cachar Hills comprising exclusively the hilly region.”

(Shahid Vir Sombhudhan Phonglo- U.C. Barman)

“But the act was drawing to a close, and Raja Govinda Chandra soon fell a victim to the assailants. The murder, which was an outcome of a deliberate plan, occurred on a night of the 24th April, 1830, when a band of Manipuris in league with the Manipuri members of the Raja’s bodyguards entered the Haritika Palace, and hacked Raja into pieces and set to the capital complex.”

“According, by a proclamation, issued on the 14th Aug. 1832, the plain of South Cachar was annexed to the British dominion. Tularm, the rebel chief, was confirmed in the possession of the hill tract that has been assigned to him by Raja Govinda Chandra through the mediation of David Scott in 1829. A suitable provision was made for the widows of the deceased Raja with rent-free grants and monthly cash allowance of the total value of Rs.3,875 (Rs. Three thousand eight-hundred seventy-five only) per annum out of the revenue of Cachar”.

“Nevertheless, the death of Tularm Senapati in October, 1851, offered Captain Butler a fresh opportunity to reiterate his recommendation for the resumption of the territory on the ground that the arrangement entered into with Tularam, was a life tenure and therefore, it lapsed to the British Government with the death of the Senapati”.

“Accordingly, in early 1854, the status of sub-division, under territory of Tularam Senapati was formally annexed to the British Dominion under a proclamation issue by the Government of India and was merged with the Nowgong district of Assam with a status of Sub-Division. Under the direction of the Government of Bengal, lieutenant H.S. Biver immediately resumed the administration of the tract and granted pensions to several members of Senapati’s family aggregation to Rs. 1002 (Rs. One thousand two) annually, beside rent-free

grants in the village of mohungdijua on the understanding that these would be resumed upon the death of the respective holders. Thus the whole of the Heramba Kingdom came under the Government of East India Company and the British paramountcy in Cachar became the fait accompli”.

(Cachar Under British Rule in North East India-J.B. Bhattacharjee)

“The policy that the Ahoms followed in dealing with the Kacharis was quite clear they tried to occupy the fertile plains territory in the Brahmaputra Valley that belongs to the Kacharis. They succeeded in achieving their objects and wrested almost the whole plains territories in the Sibsagar and Nowgong district over which the kacharis retained their hold.”

(Ahom-Tribal Relations A Political Study-Lakshmi Devi)

(B) THE POST OF ANNEXATION PERIOD:-

Since the annexation of the Heramba Kingdom by the British administration, there gradually followed several changes in the administration. The British Government of India started dividing the great Heramba Kingdom into divisions, divisions into districts, districts into sub-divisions, thanas etc. for their administrative conveniences. The province of Assam was divided into divisions Surma Valley, Brahmaputra Valley etc. The Cachar and Sylhet district were under the Surma Valley. The Cachar district was divided into three sub-divisions- Silchar, Hailakandi and Haflong. The North Cachar Hills sub-division, Haflong was at first created in 1866, the North Cachar Hills sub-division, Haflong was at first created in 1853 with headquarter at Asalu. But when the Naga Hills district was created in 1866, the North Cachar Hills sub-division was closed. The territories of Tularam's country when annexed were cut into several pieces and distributed to the neighbouring districts of Nowgong, Sibsagar, and Naga Hills, The North Cachar Hills sub-division was again created in 1880 with its headquarter at Gunjung and it was later shifted to Haflong in 1898. The Karimganj sub-division of Sylhet with the present Bangladesh. Thus, the great Heramba Kingdom of Govinda Chandra and Tularam were divided into several districts and sub-divisions. With the

distributions of the land the aboriginal ruling Dimasa People were also divided as the least minority everywhere.

The land settlement procedure of the British Government was very liberal and encouraging for the new comer settlers in Cachar. The Government allotted lands as much as one could occupy at different rates for different terms at a time 10 years, 15 years, and 30 years etc. Even the practice of offering of waste lands at progressive rates with rent-free terms had also been in vogue in Cachar. The land of Cachar being very fertile and suitable for agriculture also attracted the people. Thus, the fertile soil and the liberal land allotment procedure of the government immediately attracted the landless outsiders of the neighbouring areas in large numbers and settled. The opening of Tea and Rubber plantation industries in Cachar was another cause of heavy influx of outsiders there. The Government also imported thousands and thousands of tea labourers from outside the district and state for plantation purposes. It had overpopulated the aboriginal Dimasa Kacharis losing their every rights and benefits, autonomy, political, economic, language, culture and heritage, etc. The illiterate and minority Kacharis being unable to adjust themselves with the latest administration and developments which brought fast growth of population, towns, and civic life styles left their earlier homes and hearths and started settlement in the remote and dense forest areas. The Indian Independence movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi the world war etc. also brought several changes and in turn affected the Dimasas in Politically, Socially, Territorially and Economically etc.

(C) THE POST OF INDEPENDENCE PERIOD:-

After India's independence too there developed several changes in Assam. A new district was created in the name of 'United Mikir' and 'North Cachar Hills' in 1952. The Mikir Hills district was formed by carving out some territories of land from the districts of Nowgong and Sibsagar- the land which belonged to the Heramba Kingdom or Tularam Senapati' Province. The North Cachar Hills sub-

division was separated from Cachar and tagging it with Mikir Hills formed into a district. The Naga Hills district of Assam was separated from Assam and formed into a separate state of Nagaland in 1963. The North Cachar Hills sub-division was separated from Cachar and tagging it with Mikir Hills formed into a district. The Naga District of Assam was separated from Assam the capital of ancient Heramba Kingdom was also leased out to Nagaland. The North Cachar Hills sub-division was again separated from Mikir Hills district and formed into a full-fledged district in 1970. The Mikir Hills district later renamed 'Karbi Anglong district'.

Barring the district of North Cachar Hills, the population of Dimasa people turned out as the least minority in all the remaining districts of Cachar, Nowgong, Karimganj, Hailakandi and Karbi Anglong of Assam and Dimapur district of Nagaland.

What is the most saddening is that the Dimasa people have been in that the Dimasa people of same language, culture, and religion are classified by different names and scheduled by different castes in the constitution of India. The Dimasas of the North Cachar Hills and Karbi Anglong districts were recognized as 'Dimasas of the North Cachar Hills and Karbi Anglong districts were recognized as 'Dimasas scheduled as scheduled Tribe (Hills). In the plains district of Nagaon, they are classified as 'Hojai Kacharis', recognized as -Scheduled Tribe (Plains). The Dimasas in Nagaland are recognized as 'kacharis' only and belonged to Scheduled Tribe (Hills). Moreover, the Dimasas of Hailakandi and Karimganj district are recognized as 'Rukni Barman'. Thus the Dimasas has completely lost the identity and oneness of the community though they belonged to the same language and culture, etc. It has harmed our society in many ways.

So, the administrative procedures so reformed and enforced for the protection, growth and peace of the tribal do hardly work at all. The Tribal Belts and Blocks, their Rules and Regulations framed for the protection of tribal interest could never work perfectly. Even the two autonomous districts of Assam with more autonomy powers are seemed to be wanting something more. Because, it could not

fully serve the interest of the tribals and their districts. The demand for Autonomous State under the Article 244(A) & (B) of the Indian Constitution, therefore soon followed. But, how long would this Autonomous State would last even if the centre granted it? Could it fully provide the hopes and the aspirations of the people of the State?

OUR SUGGESATION:-

The only way out to the Dimasa people for their existence, growth and peace is to grant a full-fledged State to be created by carving out all the Dimasa inhabited areas from the districts of Cachar, Nagaon, Karbi Anglong, and the entire district of North Cachar Hills of Assam; and, a few portion of Dimasa inhabited areas of Dimapur district of Nagaland there after to be tagged with North Cachar Hills district as shown in the enclosed maps. It would be the only fair and absolute means to meet the entire burning issues and problems of the Dimasa people which have been facing since they lost their territories to the Bristish administration. The grant of statehood would surely provide the constitutional rights and facilities to self-governance for growth and peace.

OUR DEMAND: -

1. TO CREATE A FULL-FLEDGED STATE IN THE NAME OF “DIMARAJI STATE” BY CARVING OUT THE ALL DIMASA INHABITED TERRITORIES AS MENTIONED ABOVE AND MEET THE DIAMSA PROBLEMS.

THE CONCLUSION:-

In conclusion, we, the following signatories, for and on behalf of all the Dimasa people living in the demand area are very much hopeful that the Governments would definitely understand the caused of our burning issues and grievances, hurts and sentiments, and the exploitations etc. and to pay due and

sympathetic considerations to meet the Demand without much delay in the greater interest of the Nation and its people as a whole.

DESCRIPTION OF DETAILED BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPOSED
'DIMARAJI STATE'

1. AREAS TO BE CARVED OUT FROM NAGAON DISTRICT, ASSAM.

- i) Lumding Reserve Forest.
- ii) Lumding Town.
- iii) Bordolong-Lanka Bheta Tribal Belt.
- iv) Hojai Tribal Sub-Plain (TSP)
- v) Jamunakukh.

2. AREAS TO BE CARVED OUT FROM CACHAR DISTRICT, OF ASSAM.

- i) Kalain Block.
- ii) Katigorah Block.
- iii) Borkhola.
- iv) Dolu.
- v) Udharbond.
- vi) Lakhipur Sub-Division.
- vii) Barak Reserve Forest.
- viii) Sonai Thana.
- ix) Dholai.

3. AREAS TO BE CARVED OUT FROM KARBI ANGLONG DISTRICT.

- i) Lumbajong (Lamayung) Development Block.
- ii) Dimasa inhabited areas of Howraghat and Langsomepi Development Blocks.
- iii) Dimasa inhabited areas of Rongkhang Development Block of Hamren Sub-Division.

4. AREAS TO BE CARVED OUT FROM NORTH CACHAR HILLS DISTRICT.

- i) The entire district is to be carved out.

5. AREAS TO BE CARVED OUT FROM DIMAPUR DISTRICT OF NAGALAND.

- i) Dimapur Town and Dimasa inhabited areas of Dimpur District.

PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE DIMARAJI

1. Name :- The Name of the proposed State shall be “The Dimaraji State”

2. Territory of the proposed state:- The territorial boundary of the proposed State shall comprise of the following areas:-

- (a) The existing territorial boundaries of North Cachar Hills District (N.C. Hills)
- (b) All the Dimasa villages and areas predominantly inhabited by Dimasas in the Dimapur district and the districts of Assam.

3. Legislature:- As provided under article 168(i) (b) of the constitution shall be a legislature of the state which shall consist of Governor and one House which shall be called “Legislative Assembly.”

4. Composition of the Legislative Assembly:-

- (a) The Legislative Assembly shall consist of not less than 40 members to be chosen by election from the territorial constituencies.
- (b) In order to enable the minority communities to have a representation in the Legislative Assembly, the Governor may nominate such number of members as he considers appropriate.

5. Representation in the parliament:-

- (a) Notwithstanding anything contained in Article 330(2) of the constitution, the state shall be entitled to have 2(two) representatives.

6. District Administration:-

- (a) Subject to the provisions of the sixth schedule of the Indian Constitution, the administration of the district council shall continue to exist.

7. Constitutional safeguards:-

- (a) Various constitutional safeguards as laid down in the constitution of India be followed.

8. Council of Ministers:-

- (a) As provided under Article 163 of the Indian constitution, the state shall have a Council of Ministers to be headed by the Chief Minister.

9. High Court:-

- (a) Notwithstanding anything contained in Article 214 of the Indian Constitution, the High Court of Assam shall be the High Court of this proposed state.

10. Accountant General:-

- (a) The state shall have its own Accountant General whose head Quarters shall be located at its headquarters.

11. Capital of the state:-

- (a) The headquarters of the state shall be located at a place to be decided later on.

12. University:-

- (a) The state shall have its own University to be known as the Dimaraji University, which shall be located at its headquarters.

13. Financial Assistance from the Union:-

- (a) In addition of the financial assistance from the Union government under Article 275 of the constitution, there shall be further paid out of the consolidated fund of India in each year as grant in aid such capital and recurring sums as may be necessary to enable the state to meet the cost of:-
 - (i) Normal administration of the state.
 - (ii) Such schemes under normal as well as the schemes under plan development as may be undertaken by the State with the approval of the government of India,
 - (iii) The capital expenditure in establishing the institutions:-
 - (a) University (b) Engineering College (c) Agriculture College (d) Veterinary College and other technical and non technical institutions.

14. Official Language:-

- (a) English shall be the official language of the newly created state.

15. Public Service Commission:-

- (a) There shall be public service commission in the state as per the provision of the constitution under article 315.

16. Power of the Legislature:-

- (a) The subject given in the State List under the constitution: Seventh Schedule of the India.

17. Taxes and Revenue:-

- (a) As per the provisions given under Article and 275 and 276
- (b) AH taxes as specified in List II and 111 of the Seventh Schedule And other taxes which may be provided by law.

- (c) 90% share of all the central Govt. revenue levied from within the jurisdiction of the state.

18. Service Cadre:-

The State shall have its own Department of personal and administration with its own cadres.

19. Membership in N.E.C.:-

The proposed State shall be the member of North Eastern Council (N.E.C.)

LIST OF PROSPECTIVE INDUSTRIES IN DIMARAJI

A: AGRO BASED:-

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Rice Mill, | 10. Spices processing. |
| 2. Scented Supari. | 11. Sago/Starch from Tapioca. |
| 3. Production of Papaya and pectin from papaya. | 12. Khandsari Sugar Mill. |
| 4. Fruit processing. | 13. Jute bailing. |
| Seed/citronella | 14. Oil extraction from mustard |
| 6. Ginger drying / ginger oil. | 15. Cotton ginning. |
| 7. Aberration from chilly. | 16. Cotton blanket making. |
| 8. Maize processing. | 17. Cashew |
| 9. Silk production(Rearing) | |

B: ANIMAL HUSBANDARY:-

1. Dairy. 2. Feed mixing plant. 3. Piggery. 4. Tannery. 5. Bone Mill 6. Food wear
7. Slaughter House 8. Poultry.

C: FISHERY BASED:-

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Fish processing. | 2. Fish breeding. |
|---------------------|-------------------|

D: FOREST BASED:-

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Saw mill. | 7. Black Pepper. |
| 2. Mechanized Carpentry. | 8. Rope making. |
| 3. Broom Stick. | 9. Bamboo Crusher. |
| 4. Cane and Bamboo products. | 10. Match factory/ Veneer. |
| 5. Tezpata oil extraction. | 11. Paper Moll. |
| 6. Cinnamon oil extraction. | |

E: MINERAL RESOURCES BASED:-

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. lime Manufacturing from Stone | 4. Stone Crushing. |
| 2. Cement Factory. | 5. Coal. |
| 3. Hydel project | 6. Iron & Ore. |

APPENDIX (E)

A

MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED

TO

SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL
Hon'ble Home Minister of India
New Delhi, India

Submitted

By

ALL DIMASA STUDENTS' UNION
Central Committee, Haflong
North Cachar Hills, Assam
Pin-788831
Date: 17.07.2006.

To,
Shri Shivraj Patil ji,
Hon'ble Union Minister
Home Affairs, New Delhi, India.

Sub. : Memorandum for immediate solution to Dimaraji issue and other Dimasa Problems.

Ref. : 1. All Dimasa Students' Union (ADSU) memorandum dated the 3rd Aug. 05 submitted to Shri Shivraj Patil, Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

2. Dima Halam Daogah (DHDs) memoranda and 4(Four) round talks,
Dated 13th Feb, 2006.

Most Respected Sir,

Most humbly and respectfully, we and for and on behalf of the ADSU, have the honour to tender our deep respect and devotion with gratitude for according us permission to meet your honour amidst of your having innumerable other important official and private engagements.

That Hon'ble Sir, availing rare golden opportunities we would co-ordially beg to urge upon your kindself to look into our following tong-pending issues and grievances and to take up all positive and decisive measures for its effective solution with due justice at the earliest possibilities.

1. That hon'ble Sir, till this date 4(four) round of Tripartite talks between the Central Govt., the State Govt, and the DHD member representatives and already been held since DHD (Dima Halam Daogah)'s Coming under "Ceased-Fire" agreement in Jan.03. But nothing of the least of their issues and grievances has

been at all solved despite holding 4(four) round Talks. On the other hand, extension of annual “Ceased-Fire” terms have been made to 3 (three) times since its inception, but our Dimasa tribes sole need is solution to our long-pending burning causes and not the extension of “Ceased-Fire” any more. The so long un-necessary delays or apathetic attitude or conspiracies taken on the part of the Government toward sentiment to our Dimasa tribe’s legitimate Constitutional basic rights and claims, in the meanwhile, have badly hurt the sentiments and lost the patience of our common people.

2. In addition to the above, our ALL DIMASA STUDENTS’ UNION (ADSU) and Dimaraji Revival Demand Committee (DRDC), Dimaraji Khunang Hoshom (DKH) and Dimaraji Mohila Somaj (DMS) had also submitted several memoranda and other representations to both the Union Government and the State government regarding our grievances and demands on several occasions. But it has also solved nothing. Our ADSU temporarily suspended pursuance with the Govt. in the matter in order that the Government may follow up talk process with the DHD.

3. In the earlier talks between the Government of India and the DHD the state Government representatives gave a patient hearing of the demands of the DHD but firmly clarified its stand that there would be no further division of Assam by creating another State within it. On the other hand the DHD would not like to compromise on their demands. So we the All Dimasa Students’ Union would like to urge first to settle the boundary, i.e. including all the aforesaid Dimasa inhabited areas with the district of N.C. Hills is a must so that all the Dimasas scattered in different districts of Assam and Nagaland may have all the means to meet the Political, Economic and Social benefits and lead a dignified life.

4. That, under the above circumstances, we would earnestly beg to request you kindly to look into our all grievances and claims and to extend full co-operation, active interference and deserving considerations for its absolute and effective solution at earliest possibilities in consideration of our Constitutional legitimacy of claims.

We would further cordially beg to urge the Governments to immediately hold tripartite talks between the Government and the DHD representative authorities for final solution to the demands by meeting up differences, if any, through amicable negotiations in the greater interest of common people of the North-East Region, for which act of your honour kind consideration with justice, we shall remain ever grateful to you and oblige.

Thanking You.

Yours Faithfully,
For And on behalf of ADSU

Sd/-
(SHRI. PRAFULA HAPILA)
President
ADSU, Central Committee.
Haflong

Sd/-
(SHRI. RAKESH HASNU)
General Secretary
ADSU, Central Committee,
Haflong.

APPENDIX- F

A Memorandum

To

SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL

**Hon'ble Home Minister of India
Govt. of India, North Block, New Delhi**

On

Centre –DHD Talk

Submitted by

AUTONOMOUS STATE DEMAND COMMITTEE (ASDC)

N.C. HILLS, HAFLONG

DATE: 17.07.2006.

To,

Shri Shivraj Patil ji,
Hon'ble Home Minister
Govt. of India
North Block, New Delhi

Sub: Memorandum in view of the Centre –DHD talk.

Hon'ble Sir.

At the very outset we, for and on behalf of the people of NC Hills convey our warm greetings and thanks to your honour for your bold initiative in finding a lasting solution to the grievances of our people and would like to place the following few lines before your honour for your perusal and necessary action. We request your honour that the ongoing peace talk with the Dima Halam Daogah (DHD) be expedited and a lasting and amicable solution should be worked out under your able statesmanship, for which, the people of NC Hills shall remain grateful to your honour forever.

Historical Background :

North Cachar Hills District, as it is known today, was a sub-division of Cachar District and was administered by the British India Govt. as “Excluded Area” as per recommendation of India Statutory Commission, 1930 (popularly known as Simon Commission). On the other hand, the Mikir Hills district (present Karbi Anglong), Garo Hills District and Khasi & Jaintia Hills District (present Meghalaya state) were administered as “Partially Excluded Areas”. It meant that North Cachar hills along with other such “excluded areas” and “Partially Excluded Areas” were excluded or partially excluded from the purview of the Government of India Act. 1935. Thus the element of Autonomy to the people of N.C. Hills was inherent in the very beginning of modern India.

After independence, a Committee named Bordoloi Committee was appointed for determination of the future of these excluded and partially excluded areas. The Committee submitted its Report to the Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas for the consideration of the Constituent Assembly. The Committee, inter alia, recommended creation of Autonomous District Councils and Regional Councils for the Excluded and Partially Excluded Areas. The Recommendations of the Bordoloi Committee were incorporated in to the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. Thus the N.C. Hills Autonomous District Council came in to existence in 1952.

The British Govt. created administrative units like sub-divisions and Districts only to meet there colonial interests and in doing so, they divided the tribal people and their ancestral territory and thus played with the geography and future of the tribal people. The N.C. Hills and the Dimasas and other tribals are clear victims of such divisive colonial policies. At the time of creation of Cachar district and hereafter N.C. Hills sub-division, the British Govt. divided the historic territory of Dimasa people. The majority were placed in N.C. Hills while other Dimasa areas, although compact and contiguous, were included in to other districts like Nagaon, Mikir Hills (now Karbi Anglong) and Cachar district (now Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi district). The independent Govt. of India did never try to rectify this colonial policy and reunite historical territories of the Dimasas, rather further complicated the problem by placing Dimapur, the capital of ancient Dimasa kingdom within Nagaland State.

It is in this back drop that the Dimasas and other tribal people have been struggling for decades to reunite under a single administrative unit and live as one people.

Experience of Sixth Schedule:

Straightway speaking, Sixth Schedule has failed to meet its objective of giving Autonomy to the hill people of N.C. Hills. The N.C. Hills Autonomous Council runs always at the mercy of the Government of Assam. There are many instances of undue intervention by the state Government in to the Council affairs,

toppling of elected Councils, deprivation from fund and delay in holding democratic elections.

In the development front, the entire N.C. Hills district is still a most backward district of the Country. This is only due to lack of complete legislative and Financial power at the hands of the Council. The Council Budget is prepared by the state Government and therefore, never reflects the genuine needs of the hills people.

The District administration and Law & Order are in the hands of the State Government which hinders functioning of the Council due to conflict of interest between the state Government and the Council. Due to lack of power to take action, the Council remains a silent spectator to unabated influx of outsiders in to N.C. Hills which is reducing the indigenous population in to minority.

The Dimasas and other indigenous tribes of N.C. Hills are very marginal people of Assam. In respect of geographical area, N.C. Hills is the second largest district of Assam and the lone assembly constituency is the largest in Assam. Going by numbers, there is only one MLA constituency in N.C. Hills and for Lo Sabha constituency, N.C. Hills is clubbed together with Karbi Anglong. Therefore, people's representative from N.C. Hills can never play role in policy matters in Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly. Till date no body from N.C. Hills has ever represented in the Lok Sabha.

Under the above circumstances, the people of N.C. Hills joined the historic Autonomous State movement, which is still the most popular peaceful and democratic mass movement of the district.

The Autonomous State Movement:

After Independence, every Indian citizen felt that there will be end of injustice, inequality, exploitation and discrimination. But gradually, the hill people of Assam experienced otherwise. When the majority plains people, by their

overwhelming majority started dominating the smaller hill people and even tried to impose alien language and culture upon them, the hill people were left with no option but to demand separation from Assam. Cutting across party lines, the hills leaders were left with no option but to demand separation from Assam. Cutting across party lines, the hills leaders formed All Party Hill Leaders Conference (APHLC) and demanded a separate state, which ultimately culminated in reorganization of Assam and creation of Meghalaya state in 1971. At that time, when Central government asked the people of Karbi Anglong and N.C. Hills to opt either for Meghalaya or Assam, the people of Karbi Anglong and N.C. Hills opted for Assam on receipt of assurance from the leaders of Assam of equal treatment and insertion of Article 244 (A) in the constitution providing for creation of an Autonomous State, wholly or in part, within the state of Assam in future.

The promise made by the leaders of Assam and the Central Government in the form of a constitutional amendment have been soon forgotten leaving the hills people deceived for their simplicity and innocence. Hundreds of Memoranda were submitted to the Central and State Government and ultimately, when there was no response, the popular Autonomous State Demand Committee (ASDC) was formed. The historic, peaceful and democratic Autonomous State Government and ultimately, when there was no response, the popular Autonomous State movement championed by ASDC entered in to a tripartite MoU in 1995 with the Centre and the State for more Autonomy to both the hills Councils. But the MoU miserably failed to solve the problem of the hills people, which in later period, as we have seen, triggered rise of militancy.

Our proposal in view of the Centre-DHD talks:

We, as well as the people of N.C. Hills are very happy with the Ceasefire Agreement between the Centre and the DHD signed in 2003, and the on going talks since then for a peaceful and amicable solution. We all are deeply concerned that the DHD has been carrying on armed struggle on ‘Dimaraji State’ demand and in the process of this conflict, hundreds of Dimasa youths have been killed. The security forces too lost many lives and the innocent villagers faced the brunt of

repressive measures. On the other hand, the armed conflict has hampered all types of development activities. It is therefore, imperative to find a lasting peace solution through political talks.

It is also a matter of grave concern for us and the people of N.C. Hills and adjoining Dimasa and other tribal areas that the talks between Centre and DHD are being delayed. We are also observing that while the DHD is demanding 'Dimaraji State'. The Centre is maintaining that there will be no further division of Assam. If the Central Government is not agreeable to the demand for Dimaraji State, we would like to strongly propose that the constitutionally justified provision for creation of Autonomous State under Article 244-(A) be implemented by carving out entire N.C. Hills and other historic and contiguous Dimasa and other tribal areas of adjoining Nagaon, Karbi Anglong, Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj district of Assam as a dignified settlement to the Centre-DHD talk.

Besides creation of Autonomous state, following urgent demands of the hills people should be fulfilled and included in a Agreement:

1. The Dimasa recognized as S.T. with different nomenclature at different places such as Barmans in Cachar, Hojai Kachari in Assam Plains and Kacharis in Nagaland be recognized as a single cognate ethnic group and named as Dimasa.
2. Hills tribe candidate appearing UPSC examinations should be exempted from appearing MIL test.
3. A special package of Economic Development for the proposed Autonomous State should be declared by the Centre. Emphasis should be given particularly to Tourism, Horticulture, Bamboo and Forest Resources.
4. One M.P. (Lok Sabha) seat and one MP (Rajya Sabha) seat should be reserved for people of N.C. Hills.
5. Veer Sambodhan Phonglo who sacrificed his life bravely fighting the invading British force should be honoured as a national hero.

6. A Central University, a Medical College and an Engineering College should be established at Haflong.
7. The palatial monuments of Dimapur the capital of ancient Dimasa Kingdom which is now a part of Nagaland State be immediately declared as world heritage site.

Conclusion:

Recent history of North East has witnessed signing of many accords and MoUs to solve burning ethnic issues and their unfortunate failure in implementation. The small nationalities of North East India are very much an integral part of India. But they are being neglected and suppressed just because they are incapable of playing any role in the number game of Indian democracy. We therefore, fervently appeal to your honour to consider our problem as a national problem and solve it at the earliest with top most priority.

Thanking you

(Prakanta Warisa)
Ex-MP (Rajya Sabha)
Advisor ASDC N.C. Hills, Haflong

(Mohet Hojai)
Propaganda Secretary
ASDC N.C. Hills, Haflong.

APPENDIX (G)

A

MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED

TO

SHRI AJAY SINGH, LIEUT. GENERAL (RETD)

HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR OF ASSAM,

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS MAJESTY AUGUST VISIT TO
NORTH CACHAR HILLS, HAFLONG.
ON THE 2nd JULY. 2007.

BY

ALL DIMASA STUDENTS' UNION

H.Q. HAFLONG, N.C. HILLS.

DATED: 3rd JULY. 2007.

To,

Shri Ajay Singh, lieut. General (Retd.)

His Excellency Governor of Assam.

Raj Bhawan, Guwahati.

Camp at Haflong, Dated the 3rd July. 2007.

Sub:- Restoration of permanent peace and Solutions of the problems of the present situation.

His Excellency,

We, the undersigned signatories representing the whole community of the Dimasa and all the citizens of N.C. Hills District feel to lay down before your being consideration of our grievances and problems for immediate solution and lasting peace in the region.

1. Brief History of the Dimasas: The Dimasas are inhabiting in 6 (six) Districts of Assam namely-1. N.C. Hills, 2. Cachar, 3. Nowgaon, 4. Karbi Anglong, 5. Karimganj, 6. Hailakandi and Dimapur District of Nagaland contiguously. Historically the Dimasa had an Independent state prior to the arrival of the British east India Company in India. But after India's Independence in 1947, this particular state of the Dimasa has been scattered to remain in those Districts as mentioned above. The Dimasa (Kachari) still dream to restore the state in the name of Dima-Raji like the of Nagaland, the Mizos of Mizoram and the Khas's of Megalaya. The Dimasa belief in the democracy of India not like the demand of the Nagas and the demand of ULFA who demands Independent from India. In the meantime the Dimasas are demanding for time and again in a democratic process since more than 3 decades back. But the Govt. of Assam and the Govt. of India had turned a deaf ear to our grievances. Since then, without any alternative the Dimasa youths state to form the ultras namely (DHD) Dima Halam Daogah to pressurizes the demand for a separate Dima-Raji the demand which is not beyond the Constitution of India.

Therefore, the Union demands an immediate solution of the Dimasa solving the charter of demand made by the DHD holding a fruitful talk so that permanent peace can be restored in the region.

2. Present situations: The present situation among the Dimasa brothers creating strong enemies among themselves, resulting killings of countless innocent people can be solved with the intervention of the Governments only by reconciliation the two groups of DHD, cease-fire group and anti talk group is a must to bring a permanent peace in the District.

The District Administration should have a keen interest to solve this problem. They should not be silent spectators of the situation. The Union feels to draw the attention of state Government for permanent amicable solutions by fulfilling the genuine demand of the DHD and by inviting both the groups to a negotiating table, holding an immediate talk in presence of Government authority. The method of delaying tactics to the same may only be worsen the situation in the future.

We therefore, most fervently pray before your majesty to look into the matter seriously and sympathetically and take immediately necessary action to solve the above burning problems of the Dimasa for a permanent restoration of peace among the Dimasas of this region.

With regards and thanks.

Juthai.

Yours sincerely

Sd/
(PRAFULLA HAFILA)
President
ADSU, Central Committee
Haflong.

Sd/
(RAKESH HASNU)
General Secretary
ADSU, Central Committee
Haflong.