



## Le Centre communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques

### SOLIDARITÉ AVEC GAZA

Nous affirmons que les causes fondamentales de la situation actuelle résident dans les violations systématiques par Israël du droit international et des résolutions de l'ONU:

- Droit de retour des réfugiés palestiniens (résolution 194) • occupation qui dure depuis 1967 (résolution 242)
- Colonisation continue des terres palestiniennes (art 49 IVe Convention de Genève)
- Blocus illégal et inhumain de Gaza depuis 7 ans (Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme, Conventions de Genève, Pactes internationaux relatifs aux droits civils et politiques, économiques, sociaux et culturels)



- Politiques d'apartheid (Convention internationale sur l'élimination et la répression du crime d'apartheid 1973)

Nous appuyons le droit du peuple palestinien à la résistance selon les moyens qu'il choisit lui-même et dans le respect des conventions internationales qui régissent les conflits armés dont entre autres la protection des civils.

- HALTE A L'AGRESSION CONTRE GAZA
- HALTE AU BLOCUS DE GAZA
- FIN DE L'OCCUPATION, DE LA COLONISATION
- FIN DES POLITIQUES D'APARTHEID
- LIBERTÉ POUR LES PRISONNIERS ET PRISONNIÈRES POLITIQUES

Nous soulignons le 10e d'apartheid qui est un outil d'annexion de terres palestiniennes, de pillage de ressources naturelles et de déplacement de populations. CE MUR DOIT ÊTRE DÉTRUIT!

Nous appelons la population québécoise :

- À SOUTENIR ACTIVEMENT LA CAMPAGNE DE BOYCOTT, DE DÉSINVESTISSEMENT ET DE SANCTIONS (BDS) CONTRE ISRAËL
- À DÉNONCER LES POSITIONS HONTEUSES DU GOUVERNEMENT HARPER ET DES PARTIS D'OPPOSITION
- À EXIGER LE RESPECT INTÉGRAL PAR ISRAËL DU DROIT INTERNATIONAL

(Tadamon [www.tadamon.ca](http://www.tadamon.ca))

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Qu',en pensez-vous?

What do you think?

- We encourage you to send in your stories and articles for upcoming newsletters in any language by the 25th of every month to:
- [adisun3@gmail.com](mailto:adisun3@gmail.com)

## CENTRE UPDATE



### Summer Hours

During the months July and August

**Monday to Friday 9am—5pm**

*1st September (Labour day) is a holiday*

*From 2nd September, the center will be open until 9pm on Mondays and Thursdays*

The Centre is wheelchair accessible

Le centre est accessible aux fauteuils roulants.

### Volunteers

If you are interested in helping out at the Centre, please contact Homa (Ext. 102 or [homa@bellnet.ca](mailto:homa@bellnet.ca)) to coordinate a meeting!

## Annual Picnic 2014

Join us with your family and friends for a day full of fun and sun !

We would appreciate if you bring your favorite dish to share and add more taste to our picnic.

**When: Saturday, August 9th, 2014**

**Where: Park National d'Oka**

Details:

Two buses from Metro Namur at 9:00 AM

Two buses from Metro Parc at 8:30 AM

Tickets: adult \$18, child \$12

For RSVP and any information please call 514-528-8812



### **TALENT SHOW!**

Join us on August 15th for the Summer camp Talent show!

The show starts at 1pm and features performances from children participating in our annual summer camp.

### **Volunteer Opportunity at Head and Hands: Sense Project Animator!**

We are currently seeking new volunteer animators for the 2014-15 school year! Interested in facilitating sex ed workshops with youth in high schools? Getting involved with the Sense Project at Head & Hands is a fantastic opportunity to learn, grow and support the well-being of youths in Montreal.



Visit the Head and Hands website for more information: [headandhands.ca/2014/07/sense-animator-2014-15/](http://headandhands.ca/2014/07/sense-animator-2014-15/)

### **Bénévolat avec l'organisme : à deux mains: animateur-trice pour le Projet Sens!**

Nous sommes à la recherche de nouveaux-elles bénévoles pour l'année scolaire 2014-15! L'animation d'ateliers d'éducation sexuelle auprès de jeunes du secondaire t'intéresse? Le Projet Sens est l'occasion parfaite de s'impliquer et faire une différence. Ce programme d'À Deux Mains, permet d'apprendre et de soutenir le mieux-être et l'épanouissement des jeunes de Montréal.

## DEEPAN – still waiting – Needs Support

Deepan Budlakoti is a 24 year old Canadian who due to the government's interpretation of citizenship is living in a legal limbo. SAWCC has been supporting Deepan. He has just written requesting continued and more support. If you know of organizations that can endorse his appeal, please encourage them to do so. You can also sign an online petition. His legal fees are skyrocketing. You can contribute.

All information is available at <http://www.justicefordeepan.org/>



## Après 19 ans, Charkaoui Devient Citoyen Canadien

Montréal, 25 Juillet 2014 - Hier à midi, plus de 19 ans après son arrivée au Canada en compagnie de sa famille en quête d'une vie meilleure, Adil Charkaoui est devenu citoyen canadien. La Coalition Justice pour Adil Charkaoui considère que l'octroi de la citoyenneté canadienne à M. Charkaoui par le gouvernement est une admission définitive par le Canada que les deux «certificats de sécurité» que M. Charkaoui a contesté avec succès en 2007 suite à la décision historique devant la Cour Suprême du Canada (Arrêt Charkaoui I) et en 2009 suite à l'annulation du 2e certificat en Cour fédérale de la Juge Tremblay Lamer furent des erreurs monumentales d'utilisation d'un processus fondamentalement injuste, raciste et islamophobe.



Pour Adil et sa famille, il est impossible d'oublier les années de séparation et d'emprisonnement et les conditions draconiennes de détention à domicile et de surveillance électronique et physique qui lui ont été imposées ainsi qu'à toute la famille, en plus des terribles allégations diffusées dans le monde entier. Le dommage est irréparable: ces années ne reviendront jamais, les souvenirs douloureux ne vont pas disparaître, Adil ne pourra peut-être jamais être en mesure de voyager en toute sécurité. À

défait d'un règlement final de la poursuite intentée par M. Charkaoui en 2010, les fausses allégations et l'atteinte à la réputation risquent de continuer à être diffusées.

Mais il est également impossible d'effacer ce qui a été construit dans des années de lutte: la mobilisation exemplaire de la communauté, la solidarité avec Adil et sa famille contre le racisme et la violence des lois d'exception du système d'immigration. C'est une victoire pour les milliers de personnes de milieux très divers et des croyances différentes qui ont uni leurs forces pour marcher, écrire des lettres, parler, contribuer des fonds, accueil et organiser des événements, des présences à des audiences interminables, offrir un soutien moral à Charkaoui et da famille. C'est aussi une victoire pour les organisations communautaires, les ONG, les syndicats et les députés qui ont apporté leur soutien tout au long de ces années; pour les journalistes qui ont couvert l'histoire d'une façon critique et intelligente; et pour l'équipe juridique, qui a mis des milliers d'heures de travail minutieux jour et nuit. Ce fut surtout une victoire pour le courage et la force d'Adil et sa famille, qui ont refusé d'abandonner et qui ont conservé toute leur dignité et leur intégrité tout au long de ces années de lutte.

Aujourd'hui, nous célébrons cette victoire qui doit nous inspirer pour reprendre des forces pour contester le fait que Mohammad Mahjoub, Mahmoud Jaballah et Mohamed Harkat demeurent encore soumis à des certificats de sécurité, que leur vie est considérable affectée et que des milliers d'autres souffrent de la violence quotidienne du système d'immigration du Canada; et que les actes islamophobes sont ouvertement à la hausse au Québec au cours de la dernière année.

Justice for Adil Charkaoui  
www.adilinfo.org  
justiceforadil@riseup.net

## Buzas Family: Good News, But it's not over yet! Update and Call for Continued Support

Shortly before noon on July 2nd, the Federal Court ordered the government to suspend the deportation of the Buzas family, which was scheduled for the following day. The stay came in the context of a public campaign, including widespread media coverage. The family learned the good news at a public support rally calling on Minister Alexander to stop the deportation.

A huge thank you to all who wrote and called the Minister of Immigration, participated in the press conference and rally, worked on the legal file and provided reports and research. The support that came together around the Buzas family was impressive and inspiring; a model of what a Solidarity City can look like.

The family's struggle is unfortunately not over. The Federal Court granted an emergency stay until the Court further decides whether it will hear two issues: the constitutionality of the one-year (and in the case of so-called safe countries like Hungary, three-year) bar on pre-removal risk assessments; and the legality of proceeding to deport someone before their application for permanent residence on humanitarian grounds is decided when a serious question of the best interest of a child is at stake. If the family wins, their file will go back to the Canadian Border Services Agency. If the family loses, a new deportation date will be set.

However, at any time before these legal questions are settled, Minister of Immigration Chris Alexander can make things easy by simply reading and accepting the family's application for permanent residence on humanitarian grounds, which they submitted last December. This is not even a question of the Minister exercising discretionary power, it is simply a matter of doing his job.

**Please email or fax the Federal Minister of Immigration Chris Alexander and urge him to respond to the family's humanitarian application as soon as possible and no later than 1 September. (Points to make in letter provided below.)**

**CONTACT DETAILS:**

E-Mail: [Minister@cic.gc.ca](mailto:Minister@cic.gc.ca) or [Chris.Alexander@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Chris.Alexander@parl.gc.ca)

Fax: 613-996-1289 or Fax: 905-426-9564

OPRE ROMA! STATUS FOR ALL! NO ONE IS ILLEGAL!

**BACKGROUND**

Renata Buzas and her husband Tibor, their children Tibor (13), Mercedesz (11) and Lili (9) are of Roma ethnic origin and fear to return to their native Hungary, where racist violence against Roma and Jews is again on the rise, in a context of long-standing, deep-rooted discrimination. Renata herself was violently attacked by two racist men in the presence of her son Tibor, who was deeply traumatized by the incident. This was the last straw for the family and they decided to leave Hungary. In Hungary, the three children were bullied and ostracized as Roma. In Montreal, they have made friends and found confidence. Importantly, Tibor (13) and his sister Lili (9) have finally received the support they need to address language development difficulties that did not receive necessary attention in Hungary.

Despite the widely documented violence and discrimination against Roma in Hungary, the Canadian government maintains that the country is "safe".

The family has lived in Quebec since 2011 and applied for permanent residence on humanitarian grounds in December 2013 after being refused as refugees. If they are deported, the minister no longer has any legal obligation to respond to their application and in practice deportees are not accepted.

Renata Buzas brought her children to Canada to protect them from the discrimination and violence against Roma that she experienced her entire life in Hungary. Canada is trying to send them back, before their application for permanent residence is even decided.

**Status for All! End Deportations!**

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**Solidarité sans frontières:** [www.solidaritesansfrontieres.org](http://www.solidaritesansfrontieres.org)

**Solidarity Across Borders:** [www.solidarityacrossborders.org](http://www.solidarityacrossborders.org)

**Solidaridad sin fronteras:** [www.solidarityacrossborders.org/es](http://www.solidarityacrossborders.org/es)

**Points to make in letter to Federal Minister of Immigration, Chris Alexander:**

- Inform him that you support the application of Renata and Tibor Buzas and their three children, Tibor, Mercedesz and Lili, for permanent residence on humanitarian grounds;
- Point out that the family made the application in December 2013 and is still waiting for an answer;
- Remind him that by law he has the obligation to respond to this kind of application made inside Canada;
- Point out that the case is going to the courts and the family is under threat of deportation only because he has not yet responded to their application;
- Ask him to respond as soon as possible and no later than 1 September to release the family from this stress as soon as possible;
- Remind him that that neo-Nazi violence and racism against Roma is again on the rise in Hungary and this family has already suffered from that;
- Inform him that two of the children have language difficulties and are now receiving the support they need and sending them back to a place where they did not receive support but faced bullying and racist insults is definitely not in their best interests.

**Budget shortfall forces Chez Doris to close on weekends**

The doors of Chez Doris had only been open about an hour on Monday, but the drop-in day shelter for disadvantaged women was already buzzing with activity.

An Inuit woman was searching the library for a Scrabble dictionary while other women drank coffee or flipped through the morning's newspapers. Some had dropped in to speak to their case worker and others, like Carol Cobb, were looking for companionship after a lonely weekend.

For the first time in 27 years, Chez Doris closed its doors over the weekend because of funding problems, leaving dozens of homeless women without food and other marginalized women without a secure refuge.

Cobb, 64, who has been coming to the day shelter near the Forum for about 20 years, said Saturday was a difficult day. Instead of drinking coffee and eating toast with the other women, as she does each Saturday morning, she walked the streets of her Hochelaga-Maisonneuve neighbourhood looking for a newspaper to read.

"I had nothing to do," Cobb told The Gazette this week. "I can't go to a movie or shopping because I am on welfare and have no money. My friend called me long distance and I said: 'Thank God,' because I hadn't talked to anyone all day." Since opening in 1977, Chez Doris has been a safe haven for disadvantaged women with drug, alcohol, gambling and social isolation issues. But increasingly, the women's problems are more complicated and many have multiple issues, including mental illness.



Carol Cobb, right, stops to see Suzanne get her hair cut by volunteer hair stylist Sandra Rizi at the Chez Doris women's drop-in centre.

About 80 women use the shelter each day and over the past seven years, the number of women who use the service has doubled. Apart from two meals a day, the women receive clothing, a shower, medical help, computer training, massage therapy and yoga. They also have a psychiatrist, nurse and doctor who come regularly.

But the organization is facing a \$100,000 shortfall, so instead of going into the red, they have decided to close on weekends. The result is many women may end up in nearby Cabot Square or at the Lucien L'Allier metro and fall prey to pimps and violence, said Peter Newman, vice-chair of the Chez Doris foundation.

With more women using their services, Chez Doris is seeking financial help to continue to operate its many programs and pay its staff.

In just one year, the organization served over 40,000 meals (breakfast and lunch) which is an increase of 9.5 per cent in a year. One of the best things they offer the women, Newman said, is acting as their trustee. Welfare and other cheques go directly to Chez Doris and the organization pays the women's rent and bills, then helps them budget whatever is left over. They help them get a birth certificate, so they can get a medicare card, then open a file at a CLSC.

"It's life altering for many women," Newman said.

He estimates that about 80 women aren't homeless because of this program. There are about 25 women on the waiting list for "trusteeship" now, and because of the lack of increase in funding, they won't be taking any more names.

Chez Doris is named after a Montreal woman who was raped and beaten to death in a downtown alley in 1973. The 43-year-old homeless woman had turned to prostitution to support her alcohol addiction. Before her death, Doris told a social worker that women like her needed "a place to go without prying eyes and too many questions."

After she died, a community group founded the refuge for marginalized women in her memory. A picture of a smiling Doris greets newcomers who enter the two-story house on Chomedey St., north of Ste-Catherine St.

When Marie-Paule Th  berge first walked through the door, she was living on the street because of a gambling problem. Th  berge said staff members listened to her problems, without judging her, and offered solutions.

"If I didn't have Chez Doris, my physical and psychological health would be worse," said Th  berge, 49, who has had her own apartment for the past seven years. "It's like my second family. I like to talk with people. If you stay in the house by yourself because you have no money, it leads to depression."

Th  berge said the weekend closings will be especially hard for the homeless women who come to Chez Doris for meals and a place to rest, especially during the winter.

The organization needs about \$100,000 in funding to operate on the weekends, said Tania Filippone, an assistant director of programs and services. "A lot of these women have fallen on hard times and they need someone to help them get back up," she said.

Cobb first came to Chez Doris about 20 years ago when she was raising her son and didn't have enough money for food or clothing for herself.

"If your apartment is freezing in the winter they give you socks or a blanket," she said. "This place saves your life."

**By Katherine Wilton and Sue Montgomery**

[kwilton@montrealgazette.com](mailto:kwilton@montrealgazette.com)

*Taken from The Montreal Gazette*





## Don't Wrong a Right

Any attempt to codify the Muslim law to bring in legal monogamy should not end up in subjecting Muslim women to a plight which is similar to that of the Hindu second wife. This needs to be stated while suggesting reforms within personal laws.

A provocatively titled article which appeared in a newspaper last month (No second wife, please by Jyoti Punwani), while highlighting the efforts of a Muslim women's group, the Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan (BMMA), on finalising the final draft of the new Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act, released on June 18, which makes polygamy illegal, quoted the BMMA co-founder as saying, "This is what the poor, uneducated Muslim women living in ghettos wanted... We played the Devil's Advocate with them, asking them, wasn't a second wife necessary if the first couldn't conceive, for example. Their reply was, 'No. No second wife. No woman should have to share her husband with another woman.'"

The article said that senior lawyers have pointed out that despite bigamy being an offence, Hindu men continue to take a second wife. And that these women didn't enjoy the status of a wife, whereas even the fourth wife of a Muslim man had that status. In a large number of reported cases (around 40 per cent), Hindu husbands deny that the marriage is valid because they have an earlier marriage subsisting and have not obtained a divorce. In *D. Velusamy v. D. Patchaiammal*, where the woman was awarded maintenance by two lower courts — family court at Madurai and the high court of Madras — the husband filed an appeal in the Supreme Court. Justice Markandey Katju overruled the judgments and called the woman a "mistress" and a "keep" and held that such women are not entitled to maintenance.

After this it has been extremely difficult for Hindu women in bigamous marriages to file for maintenance. This is the major flaw of the Hindu law.

Even after 60 years of the enactment of the Hindu Marriage Act, it is almost impossible to arrive at the conclusion that polygamous tendencies can be controlled by codification. Statistics continue to indicate that bigamy among Hindu men (which includes, Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs and other denominations) is, in fact, higher than it is among Muslims. In 1974, a government survey found Muslims to account for 5.6 per cent of all bigamous marriages, with upper-caste Hindus accounting for 5.8 per cent. The difference may appear to be small but in real terms it is big. The 1971 census records 45.3 crore Hindus and six crore Muslims. Allowing for women and children to make up 65 per cent of each group, as many as one crore Hindu men had more than one wife in 1971, compared to 12 lakh Muslim men. The survey did not take into account instances of extra-marital relationships.

So, if the codified Hindu law could not achieve this, how will the change be brought about by codifying the Muslim law? Given this fact, what's not clear is why would poor and marginalized Muslim women trapped in bigamous marriages forego their current status of a "wife", albeit a wife in a bigamous/polygamous marriage, and face the humiliation of being termed "mistresses", "concubines" and "keeps", and be denied the basic right of maintenance?

The argument here is not on morality but on basic right of survival. It appears the suggestion of the BMMA is based on rather naïve, even flawed reasoning. No woman would like to "share her husband", of course. But what if the woman had been asked, when a man abandons his wife, and she goes to court to claim her right, she will be denied maintenance if the husband proves that she is his "second wife", an escape mechanism which is not available to a Muslim husband today.

It may be argued that a husband in retaliation can send a talaqnama, along with his reply to the wife's maintenance application, and thereby deprive the wife of her rights. This argument can be advanced only by those ignorant of law. The Shamim Ara ruling of 2002 outlawed this practice and lay down strict Quranic injunctions which must be followed at the time of pronouncing the talaq, hence the fraudulent practices adopted by lawyers no longer constitute valid talaq. Further, the full bench ruling of the Supreme Court, in the *Danial Latifi & Anr v. Union of India*, 2001, upheld the Muslim woman's rights to post-divorce lump sum settlement.

On the other hand, reported cases in law journals bear testimony to the frequency with which Hindu men plead a pre-existing marriage to deny their second wives maintenance. Sympathetic and sensitive judges are constantly groping to find ways in which to secure the rights of Hindu women trapped in such technically invalid marriages. While there are several negative rulings which deny women their rights, the few positive ones need special mention.

In 2005, in *Rameshchandra Daga v. Rameshwari Daga*, the Supreme Court, while awarding maintenance to a woman whose husband had challenged the validity of their marriage on the ground of previous subsisting marriage, had conceded that despite codification and introduction of monogamy, the ground reality had not changed much and that Hindu marriages, like Muslim marriages, continue to be bigamous. The court had further commented that though such marriages are illegal as per

the provisions of the codified Hindu law, they are not “immoral” and hence a financially dependent woman cannot be denied maintenance on this ground.

In 2010, the Supreme Court in *Chanmuniya v. Virendra Kumar Singh Kushwaha*, upheld the right of women in technically defective marriages by holding that the term “wife” must be given a broad and expansive interpretation. The bench recommended that cases where a man and woman have been living together for a reasonable period of time, should be brought within the scope of Section 125 of the CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure) and a strict proof of marriage should not be a pre-condition for maintenance so as to fulfil the true spirit and essence of the beneficial provision of maintenance.

In 2013, in *Badshah v. Sou. Urmila Badshah Godse*, the Supreme Court upheld the right of a Hindu woman who had been duped into a bigamous marriage and thwarted the attempt of her husband to deny her maintenance on this pretext. The judgment emphasised that while dealing with the application of a destitute wife, the court is dealing with the marginalised sections of the society. The purpose is to achieve “social justice” which is enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution of India. Therefore, it becomes the bounden duty of the courts to advance the cause of social justice. The judgment cites the journey from *Shah Bano* to *Shabana Bano*, which secures the maintenance rights of Muslim women as a classic example of this trend.

Any attempt to codify the Muslim law to bring in legal monogamy should not end up in subjecting Muslim women to a plight which is similar to that of the Hindu second wife. This is an important concern which needs to be taken on board while suggesting reforms within personal laws.

Right to maintenance, sustenance, protection and residence belong to the realm of “right to life”, within the ambit of Article 21 of our Constitution, which forms the core of our fundamental rights. The aim in reforms must be towards an inclusive realm of rights rather than an exclusive one, which would lead to denial of rights to a section of women, most of whom belong to the marginalised sections of our society.

**By Flavia Agnes**

*This article was written by a women's rights lawyer*

*Taken from The Asian Age*

## **Attacks on Indigenous People in Chittagong Hill Tracts**

On 5 July 2014, a commission of inquiry, including eminent persons of Bangladesh -- Co-Chair, advocate Sultana Kamal and members Ms. Khushi Kabir, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Dr. Shapan Adnan, Barrister Sara Hossain, and CHTC [Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission] Secretariat Coordinator Ms. Hana Shams Ahmed and Research Fellow and Journalist Ms. Illira Dewan -- was attacked in the Rangamati Hill Tracts. The commission was carrying out its 7<sup>th</sup> mission from 2-8 July .

They were attacked in the vehicle in which they were travelling, and were injured. Journalist Illira Dewan was seriously injured and required stitches to her head. She was kept in Chittagong Medical College Hospital under observation for 36 hours. The attack occurred in broad daylight and the local administration and police failed to protect the team, despite the commission announcing their mission in advance. As well, no effective steps have been taken against the attackers, even though it has been reported in Bangladeshi national dailies and a number of political parties, civil society organizations and individuals have made representation to the government of Bangladesh in this regard. The attack on the commission comes in the wake of continued attacks on indigenous people in the CHT with a view to ethnically cleanse the region. It is unfortunate because on the ground it pits poor and marginalized land-hungry ethnically Bengali peasants against the indigenous people of the CHT.

In 1997, the government of Bangladesh under Sheikh Hasina (who once again is Prime Minister of Bangladesh) signed the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Accord. Since then, despite assurances given by the government in Bangladesh and abroad, including the last two Universal Periodical Reviews of Bangladesh at the UN Human Rights Council, it has not implemented the Accord.

The President and Secretary of the International Council for Indigenous Peoples – Chittagong Hill Tracts, (ICIP-CHT) Aditya Dewan and Rana Chakma, have written urgent letters to Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, to express their deep concern that a number of crucial provisions of the Accord still remain unimplemented. They see the attack on the CHTC mission as part of efforts to destabilize the CHT situation by people who do not want implementation of the Accord.

On 10 June, hired labourers who are Bengali settlers, along with Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) attacked indigenous people in three villages and forced them to leave. The villages are Santosh Kumar Karbari Para, Gobinda Karbari Para and Notun Chandra Karbari Para of Dighinala Union under Dighinala upazila in Khagrachari Hill Tracts. In all, 29.81 acres were



expropriated by force. There is concern that all the villagers, many of who are repatriated refugees from India, will lose their homes and lands and they will be compelled to living in inhuman conditions.

Many indigenous men and women were seriously injured in the attack. As well, two women in their '50s and '60s and a 16-year old girl who were in hospital, being treated for the injuries sustained in the attack were arrested. 84 indigenous people, men, women and children, belonging to 21 families fled their villages without any belongings and took shelter at Babuchara High School. Even here they are not safe, for it because the BGB personnel have been threatening them, blocking the roads and controlling their movements. As well, the existence of the primary school there is threatened. It had been established in the East Pakistan era, but now, with the rest of the villages it has been fenced in with barbed wire, making it inaccessible.

Prior to being attacked, the International Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission (CHTC) on its 7th mission had visited these villages on July 3, 2014 and confirmed ongoing construction by the BGB on land of the villages. A number of villagers told the CHTC mission that false cases had been filed against them and that they were compelled to go into hiding. Many of the villagers were already displaced persons, removed from Balukhali of Rangamati Hill Tracts in 1959 due to the construction of the Kaptai Hydroelectric Dam, and many others were displaced during the insurgency war from 1975-1996, when some were compelled to flee to Tripura State in India in 1989 as refugees

In their letters to Sheikh Hasina, the ICIP-CHT call on her to:

1. Take necessary urgent action to bring the attackers to justice to ensure the CHTC mission can carry out its legitimate rightful activities in a fair manner impartially;
2. Fully implement the CHT Accord before its 17th year of signing in December 2014.

They also point out that acquiring or transfer of lands, hills and forests, without consultation or the consent of the District Council is against the provisions of the CHT Accord, which is the case in this instance. They have asked the Prime Minister to action to prevent the setting up of the BGB Headquarters at Dighinala in Khagrachari Hill Tracts and to ensure the return to the villagers of their homes and lands. As well they ask for compensation for destruction of the villages and the distribution of food and other necessary items to villagers, including those needed to the children to return to school after the Ramadan vacation. In addition they want the government to ensure that all government agencies follow the provisions of the CHT Accord to establish the law and order and bring peace in the CHT. Finally the want full implementation of the CHT Accord before the end of 17th year of its signing -- December 2014.

**By Dolores Chew**

## Watermelon Rind Pickle Recipe

Buying watermelon and throwing away the rind (the bottom part) always feels very wasteful. Here is a recipe to use up every bit of watermelon you buy over the summer!

### Ingredients

500 gm watermelon rind (the white part between the red flesh and green skin)  
 1 large shallot (100 gm)  
 2 teaspoons urad dal  
 5-6 dried red chilies  
 pinch of methi (fenugreek) seeds  
 1 Tablespoon + 5 Tablespoons oil  
 1/2 teaspoon mustard seeds  
 2 teaspoons salt (or more)  
 1 teaspoon turmeric  
 1 Tablespoon thick tamarind extract  
 2 Tablespoons sugar



### Method

Chop the watermelon rind and shallots into fine pieces.

In a small skillet, roast the urad dal, chilies, and methi seeds until the seeds start to turn golden brown. Let it cool and powder it completely.

In a large pan, heat a tablespoon of oil, add the mustard seeds, and when they start to pop add the chopped shallot and watermelon rind, and cook it together. Add salt, turmeric, tamarind extract, spice powder, sugar and remaining oil, and cook it on low heat until the rind softens, stirring occasionally to make sure it doesn't stick to the pan. [It took me about 25 minutes to get it to this consistency]. Check for salt and add more if needed. Let it cool completely before filling into a jar.

**Centre Communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques**

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33 years of sisterhood, strength, struggle and success 1981-2014

[www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca](http://www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca)

August 9– Annual Picnic

August 12– Art's and Crafts  
(10:30am– 12:00 pm)

August 15– Summer camp Talent  
show (1:00pm–)

August 19– Pre Menopause and  
other issues (10:30am– 12:00 pm)

August 29– EID party! (12:30 pm–  
2:00pm)

9 Août– Pique-nique annuel






12 Août— Une activité sur l'artisanal  
(10h30—12h)

15 Août—Spectacle organisé par  
les enfants du camp d'été (13h-)

19 Août— Session d'information sur  
la pré-ménopause (10h30—12h)

29 Août– Fête de l'Eid (12h30—  
14h00)

# August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 
10	11	12 	13	14	15 	16
17	18	19 	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 	30
31						