



**Urgent Action Office** 3-1992 Yonge Street Toronto ON M4S 1Z7 Phone: (416) 363-9933 Fax: (416) 363-3103 [urgentaction@amnesty.ca](mailto:urgentaction@amnesty.ca)  
Second UA: 48/24 Index: ASA 13/0550/2025 Bangladesh of December 12, 2025

## **BANGLADESH INDIGENOUS BAWM PEOPLE DETAINED WITHOUT TRIAL**

Fifty-nine Indigenous Bawm people continue to be held without trial in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in south-eastern Bangladesh. Bangladeshi authorities accuse them of being “terrorists” and allege that they are members or supporters of a military group involved in the robbery of two public banks and the hostage-taking of a bank manager in April 2024.

In total, 142 people were arrested in April 2024. Since then, three detainees have died in custody, raising serious concerns about access to adequate health care. Those who remain in detention continue to face significant risks to their safety and wellbeing.

While 80 people have been released on bail, 59 Bawm people, including three children, are still jailed without trial. Under international law, Bangladeshi authorities must either promptly charge detainees with a recognizable criminal offence or release them.

### **Write to the Chief advisor urging him to:**

- Either promptly charge individuals with an internationally recognizable criminal offence or release them, if sufficient admissible evidence exists,
- Provide adequate legal representation and access to adequate healthcare for all those detained and allow their relatives to visit them without fear of being arrested in the process;
- End the crackdown against the Bawm community;
- Fully implement all human rights provisions of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord.

### **Write to:**

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus  
Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh  
Old Sangsad Bhaban Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215  
Bangladesh  
Email: [psecy@cao.gov.bd](mailto:psecy@cao.gov.bd)

*Salutation: Dear Excellency Professor Muhammad Yunus,*

### **And copy:**

His Excellency MD Jashim Uddin  
High Commissioner  
High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
350 Sparks Street, Suite 1100  
Ottawa, ON K1R 7S8  
Tel: (613) 236-0138 / 236-0139 Fax: (613) 567-3213  
Email: [mission.ottawa@mofa.gov.bd](mailto:mission.ottawa@mofa.gov.bd)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Indigenous Peoples in Bangladesh have faced decades of persecution and discrimination across social, economic, and political life. More than 25 years ago, the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord was signed by the Government of Bangladesh and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti, a political party formed to defend the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the region. The Accord aimed to end conflict and address long-standing injustices in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. However, many of its core commitments remain unfulfilled, and the current situation has forced people to flee their villages.

Many Bawm detainees continue to be held without access to legal representation, leaving their chances of release increasingly uncertain. Due to severe financial hardship, most families have been unable to afford legal assistance and have not applied for bail.

After detainee Lal Tleng died in custody in May 2025, the Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission issued a statement calling for an end to the systematic persecution of the Bawm community. Ongoing detention without adequate safeguards continues to place detainees at serious risk.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission has also raised concerns about Lian Thang Pui Bawm, who remains imprisoned in poor health. In October, he reportedly required a blood transfusion. Although the High Court initially granted him bail, a stay order from the Chamber Court prevented his release. His case is now before the Appellate Division, where securing a hearing date has become increasingly difficult.

Like his case, many others remain stayed and pending in the Appellate Division. There are reports that some lawyers accepted large sums of money from families but failed to secure bail, leaving the Bawm community deeply indebted. Many families have been forced to sell land and property to pursue justice through the courts.

At present, villages including Bethel, Pankhyang, Suanlu, Faruk, Eden, and Darjeeling are under military operations in the Ruma, Bandarban, and Rowangchari sub-districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

***Please take action as soon as possible until June 30, 2026. The UA will be duly updated should there be the need for further action.***