

BODHI Human Rights Committee



Dilip Chakma, <http://www.friendsofthechakmas.tripod.com/>

Dilip is a student at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) in Bangalore, India. On 10 November 2005, he and a small group of socially-conscious NLSIU freshmen formed Friends of the Chakmas (FOTC), a 'global initiative to campaign for support and solidarity of the Chakma people.'

Dilip says, 'I have worked on papers related to 'third generation' rights with the main focus being the indigenous people of the northeast [India], a paper on law, poverty, and development, and another on the movements for autonomy in north-east India which is a hub of multiple ethnic diversities. Among other fields of law, my primary interest lies in areas like human rights and those that relate to law, poverty and development.'



Kabita Chakma

Kabita presented the first project of BODHI's Human Rights Committee: preparation of a position paper on the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), Bangladesh for the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), in Geneva. The CHT Position Paper entitled, 'The Human Rights Situation of the Indigenous Peoples of the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh' was submitted on 14th March, 2008 to the ICJ. We are hopeful about a possible ICJ mission to Bangladesh and are working on the final draft of the submission.

15 January 2009. In London recently, Kabita Chakma met with Lord Avebury (human rights campaigner and Co-Chair of the CHT Commission, Chair of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group UK). She updated him on Australian activities regarding the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh.

20 February 2009. Kabita Chakma on behalf of the CHT Indigenous Jumma Association Australia, has prepared a Proposal for Improving Water, Sanitation, Health and the Environment of the Kaptai Lake Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), Bangladesh.

20 February 2009. Kabita Chakma has submitted a follow-up of the CHT Indigenous Jumma Association Australia meeting with Hon Bob McMullan MP and Margaret Watt Chief of Staff.



Emilia Della Torre

Miss Emilia Della Torre is a human rights lawyer with over fifteen years experience in the field. Emilia has worked with the United Nations, government and non-government organisations on many human rights issues. These include the rights of indigenous peoples, women, refugees, religious minorities and others. Her publications in the field include a manual, *How to Make a Complaint to the United Nations Human Rights Committee* (White Possum Press). This is used by government and non-government organisations in over thirteen nations.

Emilia divides her time between pro bono legal work, consultant activities and travel. 'I am really looking forward to working with the Jumma people in Asia and in Australia,' Emilia says. 'I hope I can make a contribution in this area. I am certain that my life is about to become enriched through this new and exciting experience.'



Marty Rubin

Dr Martin Rubin has a long interest in human rights. 'My personal agenda is to stop hate speech on campuses,' he says.

Marty helped to keep BODHI afloat in the beginning and funded the first few newsletters and mailings. He has been consistently generous and reliable ever since, for instance by helping to keep the Revolving Sheep Bank going in the early days.



Scott Trimmingham, <http://www.moldinspections-losangeles.com/>

Scott Trimmingham is a registered Environmental Assessor and Director and Founder of the Indoor Air Project, which studies indoor air quality issues, determines successful remediation/mitigation strategies and provides educational support to local and national health organisations. Scott is Past Chair of the Air Quality

Subcommittee, American Lung Association of Los Angeles. He published articles and editorials on health and environmental issues and provides broadcast commentary on CNN Television and American Public Radio in the United States, as well as internationally.

'I've been active in issues of health, the environment and animal rights - and now human rights,' Scott says.



Susan Woldenberg Butler, <http://www.susanbutler.com.au>

Susan has long been interested in the human rights aspect of BODHI's work. She welcomes this opportunity for BODHI to expand in new ways to meet the escalating challenges of our times.