

In the Chittagong Hill Tracts, incidents of violence surrounding demands for justice reveal the disproportionate and brutal nature of state and settler responses. When calls for accountability were raised following the rape of an Indigenous girl(12) on the 23rd of September, 2025 subsequent protests were met with military gunfire, leaving many fatally wounded, injured, and many young protestors who sought to resist injustice became victims of armed settler attacks.

The violence extended beyond individuals to the destruction of community infrastructure: homes and shops were set ablaze, symbolizing not only material loss but also the erosion of the remaining prospects for justice. The pervasive smoke over the hills became emblematic of systemic impunity and the silencing of dissent.

Amidst this, fathers were seen carrying their wounded children, whose cries of pain underscored the intergenerational trauma being inflicted upon the Indigenous population. The bloodshed, metaphorically described as a flood sweeping across the hills, represents the pervasive tide of structural violence and oppression experienced by these marginalized communities.

This sequence of events underscores a critical reality: that the pursuit of justice in cases of sexual violence against Indigenous women is often met with communal attacks.

28 September 2025

Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh