A MEMORANDUM
TO
THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA
&
THE UNION HOME MINISTER OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

SUBMITTED BY-
ALL DIMASA STUDENTS' UNION
HEAD OFFICE : HAFLONG,
NORTH CACHAR HILLS.
AND
DIMARAJI REVIVAL DEMAND COMMITTEE
HEAD OFFICE : MAIBANG,
NORTH CACHAR HILLS, ASSAM.

Date: 27.11.1996
To,

THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA
&
THE UNION HOME MINISTER OF INDIA
NEW DELHI.

The Most Respected Sirs,

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 kind self 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, economical and social etc. and thereby secure protection, preservation and peace etc. of our aborigine Dimasa tribal people through unified self-rule under the same provisions of the Constitution as enjoyed by our immediate 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 us necessary measures giving due justification and sympathetic consideration for the fulfilment of our inevitable and legitimate claims without losing much time.

With best regards and hopes we remained.

JUTHAI.

Sincerely yours,

For and on behalf of the
All Dimasa Students' Union

For and on behalf of the
Dimaraji Revival Demand Committee

1. Sri Sanmoni Kemprai
   President, ADSU

1. Sri Santa Lal Bader Baiga
   Chairman, DRDC

2. Sri Lojo Daulaguphu
   General Secretary, ADSU

2. Sri Shol Bangpha Phonglosa
   General Secretary, DRDC
1. THE BRIEF HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS OF DIMASA

The DIMASAS (KACHARIS) are the aboriginals of the earliest known inhabitants of Assam. They are known by different names as - Boros, Meches, Rabhas, Sonowals, and Tiwas etc. They are even closely allied of the Koches, Chutias, Morans, Garos and Tipperahas. 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 - Sri E. Gait)

Since the advent of the Ahoms through the south eastern of the Brahmaputra into the great Kachari kingdom in 1228 AD, there started several wars with the Kacharis' the predominant, aboriginal ruling tribe. Mrs. L. Devi says - 'The Ahoms appeared on the political scene of Assam in the beginning of the 13th 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 organised 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 13th century thus included the major part of the Sibsagar District, about half of the Nagaon 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 Relation – 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 compelled to shift their capital from Dimapur to Maibang in 1536 AD. The Kachari kingdom which was ruled from Dimapur capital was known as HERAMBA KINGDOM and the royal dynasty was called – THE DIMASA by themselves.

The Maibang capital was again sacked by the Ahoms in 1706 AD during the reign of Kachari king Tamradhavj Narayan and so he was compelled to shift his capital from Maibang to Khaspur in the present Cachar district. Since then there occurred no such big collision between Ahom and Kachari monarchs. The last Kachari king Govinda Chandra Hasnu had ruled the Heramba kingdom till his assassination in 1832 AD by his own brother-in-law-Gambhir Singh. After his tragic death the Heramba kingdom was annexed by the British Government to their dominion on 14th August, 1832 for there was no legal heir to inherit the THRONE.

On the other hand, another Kachari Chief – Senapati Taluram Hasnu by name had also been in possession of certain territories of king Govinda Chandra Hasnu's Heramba Kingdom since 1830. Taluram Hasnu had ruled it till his death on 12th October 1850. After his death his province was also annexed by the British on 20th July 1854 on the ground of non-availability of efficient heir. Thus by the 20th July, 1854 AD, the vast and glorious Kingdom of the Dimasa Kachari came to an end. However, it would be worthwhile to mention here that the Ahom Kingdom was came to an end in 1826 AD and the Jayantia Kingdom in 1853 AD through British annexation.
2. THE TERRITORY OF KACHARI KINGDOM DURING THE TIME OF BRITISH ANNEXATION.

The Heramba (Kachari) kingdom – 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 present Bangladesh.

The country of Tularam Hasnu was bounded on the north by Jamuna and the Diyung (Doyang), on the south by the Mahur river and the Naga Hills, on the east by the Dhansiri and on the west by the Diyung.

3. THE RUINATION OF HERAMBA KINGDOM.

After the annexation, the British Govt. had divided the vastly Heramba Kingdom into several segments for their administrative convenience. The Cachar was divided into two sub-divisions – Cachar and North Cachar. The 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 its Headquarter at Asalu. It was bounded on the north by the Jamuna river, and Rengma Naga Hills, on the south by Borail Hills, and Cachar district, on the west by the Kapili and Ompung river and Jayantia 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 aborigin tribes were thus outnumbered by the non-tribal settlers. The very name and identity of Dimasa Kachari and their homeland Haramba 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. E. 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 Ahoms, and was subsequently used with to the area under the control of Commissioner of Assam, is the six districts of the Brahmaputra valley, has been given a wider significance, and is now used as the designation of the whole territory which included in the Chief Commissionership, including the Surama valley the Hills districts, and Manipur."

4. THE MOVEMENT OF STRUGGLE FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE COUNTRY FROM BRITISH RULE.

Veer Sambudhan Phonglosa born on the 16th March, 1850, one of the Dimasa revolutionary youths of North Cachar Hills was not at all happy at the divide and
of the British. He went rebellions against the British and formed underground organisation to drive out the British from the country to liberate the Heramba kingdom. Mr. Major Boyd, the then Deputy Commissioner, Cachar and Mr. G. A. Sopit, Sub. Divisional Officer of North Cachar 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 Sambudhan Phonglosa. But a year’s later, on 12th February, 1883, Sambudhan was killed by the British forces at Egraling near Khaspur in Cachar when he was busy in forming organisation.

A Dimasa damsel — Jaya Thaosen, born at Jorai village near Haflong, the present headquarter of North Cachar hills district also organised revolutionary Dimasa Army to liberate her motherland and marched to join the AZAD HIND FOUJ with her Army but unfortunately she was killed by the Allied Forces of the British on the 7th April, 1944 at Khirem Khowai Range near Dimapur - Naga Hills.

Thus the attempt of regaining the lost motherland - Heramba kingdom from the British possession was gone in vain.

5. THE DEPLORABLE CONDITION OF DIMASA TRIBE AND THEIR HOME LAND AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

After India’s independence in 1947, the State of Assam was re-organised by the Government. A new Karbi Anglong (Mikir Hills) sub-division was created by carving out a few territories from Nagoon 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 Province of Tularam Senapati which were earlier tagged to those districts after the annexation by the British in 1854 and there was no clear mention of the bounderies of the so called Karbi Anglong (Mikir Hills) tract. By tagging the North Cachar Hills sub-division (which was already in existence) with Karbi Anglong, a new district as “UNITED NORTH CACHAR AND KARBI ANGLONG DISTRICT” was came into existance in 1951.

The North Cachar Hills sub-division was upgraded to a full fledged district and separated from Karbi Anglong district in 1970;

The Naga Hills district which was created in 1866 remained with Assam under one state administration left Assam in 1963 and formed into a separate State—“NAGALAND”, so also the Khasi and Jayantia Hills, Garo Hills and erstwhile NEFA region went out of Assam and formed into a separate States as —“MEGHALAYA” and “ARUNACHAL” respectively.
8. 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 solutions 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 districts of Cachar, Nagaon, Karbi Anglong of Assam, a few areas of Dhansiri-per and Dimapur of Dimapur district of Nagaland, and the entire area of North Cachar Hills district of Assam as per size and territory, drawn in a map attached herewith for determination of our own fate and development 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 entire areas populated by them (Tangmi or Rukhini Barmans) for their proper 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 district of North Cachar Hills, Assam with effect from the next parliamentary term, pending the people’s Representative Act, 1951, Section 4 (b).

4. Recognise the following Castes/Tribes as Dimasa Scheduled Tribe ( plains or Plains where necessary) by modification of Scheduled List of the Constitution of India, for they were wrongly identified in different names in those days whereas they were really belonged to the same language and culture of Dimasa people. They are:
   1. Barmans, Scheduled Tribe ( plains ) of Cachar, Assam
   2. Tangmi or Rukhini Barmans, ST(P) of Karimganj, Assam
   3. Hojai Kachari, ST(Plains) of Nagaon district of Assam
   4. Kacharis of Dimapur & Dhansiri per areas of Dimapur district of Nagaland.

In conclusion, we the members of DRDC and ADSU, are of the opinion that the long deprivation and exploitation which have brought serious set-back against the mere existence and identity of the Dimasa people have badly hurt the sentiments and preistics of our people beyond toleration. We are therefore determined to move the Government at the cost of everything for the creation or revival of our lost HOME LAND—DIMARAJI STATE which is the only means inevitable for our DIMASA PEOPLE’S SURVIVAL.
DESCRIPTION OF DETAILED BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPOSED DIMARAJI STATE
TO BE CARVED OUT FROM THE DIFFERENT DISTRICTS OF ASSAM &
NAGALAND STATE.

1. The District of Cachar, Assam.
   Via NH 44 from Meghalaya - Cachar boundary Via Bihara (Via state Road) - Borkhola -
   Dalu - Leurbond - Udharbond - Sanpur - NH 63 - Lakhipur - Talka - Ram Nagar - Kanchanpur -
   Palangghat - Dhalai (Via Cachar - Mizoram NH 54 & State Road) - Kangla Cachar Mizoram
   Border. (Map - A)

2. The District of Nagaon, Assam.
   From N.C. Hills border near Patharkhola Rly Station (Lumding) - Langmailo (Via Forest land) -
   Langkaijan - Habairpur Rly Station (Via Rly. Road) - Lanka - Hojai - Jugijan - Jamuna mukh (Via
   Jamuna river to Karbi Anglong border (Hamren Sub-division). (Map - B)

3. The District of Karbi Anglong (Diphu Sub-division) Assam.
   Dimapur (Karbi Anglong & Nagaland border) (Via NH 36) - Dilai (Via Forest land) Didaola (Langkuku) -
   below the Khonbaman Hill Range and leaving the village boundaries of P. Taijial -
   Khaibung - Tuithang - Jorlin Kuki villages - Langrik river - (Through Langrik river) - Lungi river - Via
   Lungi river - Lungi Bridge of Manja - Bakulia NH 36 - Via NH 36 - Bakuliaghat - Howraghat Tiniali
   Via State Road - Era - Dighalipani Gaon Howraghat town - Okreng Gaon - Parokhowa - Karbi
   Anglong & Nagaon district border. (Map - C)

   Hamren Sub-division of Karbi Anglong district,
   Nagaon district boundary to Taradubi - Via State Road - Rupa Pathar - Kal;anga Amreng
   Panimur - North Cachar Hills district border. (Map - C)

4. The District of Dimapur, Nagaland.
   The Dimapur Rajbari Town Areas bordering Dhansiri river which was earlier included with the
   district of Karbi Anglong prior to leasing out to Nagaland by the Govt. for 25 years' period through
   an Agreement. (Map - D)

5. The District of North Cachar Hills, Assam.
   The whole district of North Cachar Hills is included within the proposed DIMARAJI state (Map - E)


7. Ancient Map of Nagaon Showing Taluram Senapati's Country


9. Copies of Treaties concluded between Rajah Govinda Chandra Narayan of Heramba, Tularam
   Senapati, and East India Company.
CLAIMED AREAS FOR DIMARAJI STATE

SCALE: 1:650,000
1 CM = 6.5 KMS.

1. BIHARA
2. BORKHOLA
3. DOLU
4. UDHBOND
5. SANPUR
6. KAMRANGA BOND
7. PHULERTOP
8. TALKA
9. RAMNAGAR
10. KANCHANPUR
11. DHALAI
12. KANGLAI
CARVED OUT TERRITORIES FOR THE PROPOSED DIMARAJI STATE:
THE DISTRICTS CARVED:
1. NORTH CACHAR HILLS
2. KARBI-ANGLONG
3. NAGAON
4. CACHAR
5. DHANSIRI VALLEY OF NAGA-LAND
KARBI ANGLONG

1. DILLAI
2. DIDAOOLA
3. P. TAJJAL
4. KHABUNG
5. TUITHANG
6. JORLING
7. LANGRIKNALA
8. LONGI
9. SIKA RHIGHAT
10. BAKALIA
11. HOWRAGHAT TIN ALI
12. HOWRAGHAT
13. BALIJAN
14. OKRENG
15. ERADIGHAT DANI BRIDGE
16. PAROKHOWA
17. TARADUBI
18. RUPA PATHER
19. KALANGLA
20. AMRENG

CLAIMED AREAS AS FOR DIMARAJI STATE

SCALE 1:650,000
1 CM = 6.8 KMS.
CARVED OUT TERRITORIES
FOR THE PROPOSED DIMAJAJI STATE

THE DISTRICTS CARVED .......
1. NORTH CACHAR HILLS
2. KARBI-ANGLONG
3. NAGAON
4. CACHAR
5. DHANSIRI VALLEY OF NAGA-LAND
APPENDIX I

Treaty of Badarpur

Treaty concluded between David Scott, Esquire, Agent to the Governor General on the part of the Honorable East India Company, and Rajah Govind Chunder Narayana, of Herumba

Article I

Rajah Govind Chunder, for himself and his successors, acknowledges allegiance to the Honorable Company, and places his territory of Cachar, or Herumba, under their protection.

Article II

The internal government of the country shall be conducted by the Rajah, and the jurisdiction of the British courts of justice shall not extend there; but the Rajah agrees to attend at all times to the advice offered for the welfare of his subjects by the Governor General in Council, and agreeably there to rectify any abuses that may arise in the administration of affairs.

Article III

The Honorable Company engages to protect the territories of Cachar from external enemies, and to arbitrate any differences that may arise between the Rajah and other states. The Rajah agrees to abide by such arbitration and to hold no correspondence or communication with foreign powers, except through the channel of the British Government.

Article IV

In consideration of the aid promised by the above article, and other circumstances, the Rajah agrees to pay to the Honorable Company, from the beginning of the year 1232 B.S., an annual tribute of ten thousand sicca rupees, and the Honorable Company engages to provide for the maintenance of the Munnipooran chiefs lately occupying Cachar.

Article V

If the Rajah should fail in the performance of the above article, the Honorable Company will be at liberty to occupy and attach, in perpetuity, to their possessions, a sufficient tract of the Cachar country to provide for the future realisation of the tribute.

Article VI

The Rajah agrees, in concert with the British local authorities, to adopt all measures that may be necessary for the maintenance, in the district of Sylhet, of the arrangements in force in the Police, Opium, and Salt Departments.

Executed at Budderpore, this 6th day of May 1824, corresponding with the 24th of Fagoon 1230 B.S.
APPENDIX 2

Agreement with Tularam Senapati

Terms of Agreement concluded with Toolaram Senaputtee
on the 3rd November under the Orders of Government,
dated 16th October 1834

First : Toolaram forgoes all claims to the country between
the Morihur and Dyung and the Dyung and Keopoli rivers,
from which he was dispossessed by Govind Ram and Doorga
Ram.

Second : Toolaram is to hold the remainder of the country
formerly in his possession, or the tract of country bounded on
the west by the Dyung river, and a line to be determine here
after, drawn from the Barce ford or the Dyung to a point on
the Jamoona river, between the cultivation of Seil Dhurmpur and
of Duboka and the Hajaee (excluding the two latter) ; by the
Jamoona and Dyung rivers north, by the Dunsira river east, and
to the south and south-west the Naga Hills and Mowheir river,
and he agrees to hold the above tract in dependence on the
British Government, and to pay a yearly tribute, for their pro-
tection, of four pairs of elephants' teeth, each pair to weigh
thirty-five seers.

Third : Toolaram, during his life, shall receive from the
British Government a stipend of fifty Rupees a month in consi-
deration of the foregoing cessions and the Agreements.

Fourth : The British Government shall have the right of
placing Military Posts in any part of Toolaram's country, and
should there be occasion to march troops through it, Toolaram
engages to furnish them with all the requisites of carriage and
provisions in his power, he being paid for the same.

Fifth : All petty offences committed within Toolaram's
country, he shall take cognizance of, and do justice according
to the custom of the country, but all heinous crimes shall be
transferred to the nearest British court, and Toolaram engages
to bring such to notice, and endeavour to apprehend the offen-
ders.

Sixth : Toolaram shall not establish any custom chowkies
on the rivers forming the boundaries of his country.

Seventh : Toolaram will not commence any military opera-
tion against neighbouring chiefs without permission of the
British Government, and in case of being attacked, he shall
report the same and be protected by British troops, provided the
British Authorities are satisfied that the aggression has been
unprovoked on his part.

Eighth : Ryots shall not be prevented from emigrating to,
and settling on, either side of the boundary they may prefer.

Ninth : In case of failing to abide by these conditions, the
British Government shall be at liberty to take possession of my
country.

(Sd.) TOOLARAM SENAPUTTE
F. JENINS