South Asia Human Security Series

Ethnicity and Human Security in Bangladesh and Pakistan

Mohammad Humayun Kabir Abu Taher Salahuddin Ahmed The book identifies the sources and nature of threats to people belonging to ethnic groups and conceptualizes human security in a manner that addresses the inadequacy of the traditional approach. It conducts an analysis on ethnicity- and non-ethnicity-induced human security problems in the CHT of Bangladesh and the Sindh Province of Pakistan, as important areas of human security. This work deals with threats stemming from ethnicity and the resultant conflict thereof in the CHT and in Sindh. The book, therefore, conceptualizes the concept of human security to mainstream it into security discourse. The book is definitely destined to result in a positive contribution to security studies.

(see next flap)

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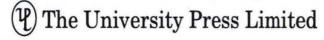
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Mohammad Humayun Kabir Abu Taher Salahuddin Ahmed



Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies



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## South Asia Human Security Series

South Asia Human Security Series is the product of a three-year regional collaborative research project titled, *Human Security in South Asia: Discourse, Practice and Policy Proposition* conducted by BIISS under the aegis of the Ford Foundation, New Delhi, 2003-06. The aim of the project has been to provide an understanding of the prevailing discourses and practices on human security in South Asia as well as to generate inputs for policy making at regional and national levels. Five individual country papers on Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and five thematic areas: (a) Constructing a Human Security Index for South Asia; (b) Violence, Terrorism and Human Security; (c) Ethnicity and Human Security; (d) Gender and Human Security; (e) Marginalisation and Human Security – were covered. The outcome is the present series.

# The Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS)

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### Abbreviations

ADB Asian Development Bank

AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

APMSO All Pakistan Mohajir Student Organisation

BBS Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

BCEHR Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights

BEPS Basic Education and Policy Support BFD Bangladesh's Forest Department

BIISS Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies

BJP Bharatiya Janata Party

BMI Body Mass Index

BNP Bangladesh Nationalist Party

CCA Canal Command Area

CED Chronic Energy Deficiency

CHS Commission on Human Security

CHT Chittagong Hill Tracts

CPFLR Committee for the Protection of Forest and Land Rights

CSOs Civil Society Organisations

DANIDA Danish International Development Agency
DFID Department for International Development

GoB. Government of Bangladesh

HDCs Hill District Councils

HDR Human Development Report

HTNF Hill Tracts NGO Forum HWF Hill Women Federation

ICDP Integrated Community Development Project

ICIMOD International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

IDF Integrated Development Foundation

IDPs Internally Displaced Peoples

IFIs International Financial Institutions

IGOs Intergovernmental Oganisations
ILO International Labor Organisation

IPCS Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies

IT Information Technology

LGED Local Government Engineering Department

MAF Million Acre-Feet

MoEF Ministry of Environment and Forest

MP Member of Parliament

MQM Mohajir Qaumi Movement

MRD Movement for Restoration of Democracy

NGOs Non-Governmental Organisations

NSP National Survelliance Project NWFP North West Frontier Province

PCJSS Parbattya Chattagram Janashanghoti Samity

PFs Protected Forests

PGP Pahari Gono Parishad

PKSF Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation

POFs Privately Owned Forests

RCSS Regional Centre for Strategic Studies

RFs Reserved Forests

RTF Report of the Task Force

SAP-I South Asia Partnership-International

SB Shanti Bhahini

SD Standard Deviations

SEMP Sustainable Environment Management Programme

TT Tetanus Toxoid
UN United Nations

UNDP United Nations Development Programme
UNEP United Nations Environmental Programme

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

UNPO Unrepresented Nation and Peoples Organisation

USFs Unclassed State Forests

WHO World Health Organisation

# Preface

This work, which has examined two cases of ethnicity in two different countries of South Asia, has focused on human security values, security threats, and the sources of such threats. The idea behind selecting the two particular cases was to examine one example of a unitary and near-homogeneous state (*i. e.* the CHT case of Bangladesh) and the other of a multi-ethnic, federal state (*i. e.* the Sindh case of Pakistan).

In the CHT's case, as was the case at the pre-Accord time, in the Accord's aftermath (post-December 1997), the policy of relocation, in the name of "development" and "integration" remains a festering sore for both the Bengali community and the hill people. The latter views it as an encroachment on their rights to land. Out of this encroachment stems the problem of "freedom from fear", and out of the dislocation a set of human security problems arose such as landlessness and pauperization, homelessness, joblessness, food insecurity, morbidity, social disarticulation, etc. These gave rise to the problem of "freedom from want". Land certainly has become one of the key lodestars of the CHT people.

The Sindh case shows that Sindhi discontentment stems from issues such as illegal immigration, control of natural resources of gas, petrol, and coal, the construction of large dams, discrimination in military (government) jobs, provincial autonomy, and overall revenue sharing. This study notes that the Sindh problem has become dormant, but that there is no sign of absolute disappearance. The position of the Mohajir community may be characterized as a shift from dominance to relative marginalization or "relative deprivation". The state in Pakistan has played multiple roles, depending on the time and the situation. The state first identified itself with the Mohajir community, then took affirmative measures to deprive them, used the community in political games against political parties, finally attempting to reduce the power and influence of the Mohajirs. In the process, the state induced ethnicity-related security problems so that ethnic communities in Sindh continue to suffer from lack of human security.

However, our engagement with the BIISS-Ford Foundation Project on "Human Security in South Asia" has been learning and rewarding processes as well. We are beholden to Professor Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema of National Defence University, Islamabad, and Professor Amena Mohsin of Department of International Relations of University of Dhaka, respectively, for going through the earlier draft of the book, offering constructive suggestions. We express our deep gratitude to Dr Abdur Rob Khan, the project Coordinator, for reading the entire manuscript. Due thanks to Mr AKM Abdus Sabur, Research Director of BIISS, and Co-Coordinator of the project, for his logistic help.

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