



# UNITED PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UPDF)

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### Press Release

#### **Doubt Over 'July Declaration' and the 13th National Parliament Election**

#### **No Free and Fair Elections Possible in the Chittagong Hill Tracts Without a Peaceful Democratic Environment: UPDF**

Welcoming the announcement of the 13th National Parliament elections scheduled by February 2026, the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) has stated that no free, fair, and impartial elections are possible in the Chittagong Hill Tracts under continued military rule and control.

In a statement issued today, Wednesday, August 6, 2025, UPDF Vice President Nutan Kumar Chakma made the above remarks.

In the statement sent to the media, he further said: "Where there is no freedom of expression, no right to hold meetings or rallies, no democratic space for party activities, and where an atmosphere of fear is maintained daily in villages under the guise of operations, expecting free and fair elections is nothing but wishful thinking."

He further commented that with undemocratic and fascist rule prevailing in a vast region like the Chittagong Hill Tracts, no truly democratic government or system can be established in the country through elections.

He added: "Such so-called elections can only replace one fascist regime with another."

The UPDF leader called upon the government to immediately take four urgent measures to create a conducive environment for free, fair, and impartial elections in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. These are:

1. Ending military rule and control to create a democratic atmosphere;
2. Disbanding the vigilante group formed during the fascist Hasina regime, arresting and prosecuting its members involved in crimes including murder, enforced disappearances, and rape;
3. Taking action against the armed group patronized by Santu Larma, chairman of a state institution, the Regional Council; and
4. Stopping military operations in villages, harassment, arrests, and torture of civilians.

Nutan Kumar Chakma stated: "Under the leadership of UPDF, the indigenous people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, along with people from the plains, participated in a popular uprising against the tyrannical rule of fascist Hasina with the aim of establishing genuine democracy across the

country. They also welcomed the interim government formed under Dr. Yunus on August 8 and expressed their support for its justified steps."

However, he noted that "Within just a month of assuming power, the interim government allowed killings, arson, and looting in Rangamati and Khagrachhari on September 19-20, followed by further attacks and looting in Khagrachhari town on October 1 in the presence of the military. Yet, no legal action was taken against the perpetrators. The repression against UPDF and the people continues as before. Under pressure from an obscure religious fascist group, UPDF was shamefully excluded from a scheduled meeting in the middle of the state reform process. And just yesterday, August 5, a brutal attack was carried out on a UPDF rally in Khagrachhari marking the 'Fall of Fascist Hasina Day,' with participants being obstructed as well. These incidents have exposed the fascist character of Dr. Yunus's government."

He concluded by stating that in reality, there is no fundamental difference between the fascist regime of Hasina and the interim government of Dr. Yunus in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Given this situation, the UPDF leader made it clear that there is no question of continuing support for the interim government, and formally announced the withdrawal of UPDF's previously declared support for the newly fascist Yunus government.

In the same statement, the UPDF leader also expressed skepticism over the 'July Declaration', saying that its failure to include more significant and fundamental issues will make it unacceptable to many political parties.

Release sent by:

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