

Bhutan Peoples' Party

SARBHANG : BHUTAN

President
R.K Budathoki

General Secretary
D.K Rai

Ref. No.

Date: 26th August 1990

To,
His Majesty King of Bhutan,
Tashichhodzong,
THIMPHU, BHUTAN.

Subject : Demand Charter

Your Majesty,

In view of the present situation in Bhutan and the merciless high-handedness of the Royal Government we the fate less and futureless people from every district of southern and eastern Bhutan gather here in protest against; the atrocities and to submit our demands.

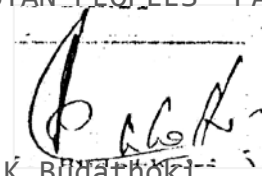
The thirteen point demand charter reflects our cries and its acceptance would be the only solution to the turmoil that your Majesty's government has dragged Bhutan into.

The Bhutan Peoples' Party and the Students Union of Bhutan await Your Majesty's call for a peaceful settlement latest by 31st August 1990.

In anticipation of a peaceful settlement we beg to remain,

Your faithfully,

For BHUTAN PEOPLES' PARTY



R.K. Budathoki

PRESIDENT

DEMANDS

1. **Unconditional release of political prisoners.**

We demand the unconditional release of all prisoners arrested from within and outside Bhutan.

2. **Change of Absolute Monarchy to Constitutional Monarchy.**

We demand constitutional monarchy in place of the present system of absolute monarchy. The Parliamentary System of Government with Multiparty provision must be introduced with a view to electing a government responsible to the legislature.

3. **Reform in the Judiciary**

Article 7 of the U.N. declaration of human rights provides that "all are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law". We demand a completely new and independent judiciary with professional judges who impart justice without distinction of race, religion, wealth, social status or political influence. The system of representation by attorney and lawyers must be introduced. The present system of one-man judgment must be abolished.

4. **Amendment of the Citizenship Act.**

The baseless cutoff year should be amended and implicit biases inherent in the present system be removed. However, infiltration of illegal immigrants must be restricted and people must be left free to marry persons of their choice.

5. **Right to Culture, Dress, Language and Script.**

The U.N. declaration of human rights (10th Dec.1948) grants an individual the freedom to one's own culture, dress, religion, language and script. Further resolution No. 8 of the National Assembly of Bhutan, (autumn1959) recognize the Southern Bhutanese as one of the ethnic group in Bhutan the rights of the lands. We demand for every ethnic group in Bhutan the right to conserve their own culture, dress, languages and script. We demand freedom in matters of dress and celebration of festivals. The languages of the dominant ethnic groups should receive equal recognition an support of the government.

6. **Freedom of Religion.**

We demand freedom to profess and practice religion of one's choice. The state shall have no religion and it shall not allow religious or cultural instructions in governmental institutions nor shall the state fund be used for any religious body. Bhutan should be a secular state, meaning: 'equal respect for all religion' and the separation of the state from religion.

7. **Freedom of press.speech and expression .**

We demand the right to express one's convictions and opinions freely through speech, writing, painting, picture or any other modes of expressions. We demand freedom of press.

8. **Freedom of formation of Unions, Associations and Political Parties.**

We demand the right to form associations, unions and political parties.

9. **Freedom of Trade and Occupation**

We demand the right to practice any profession or carry out any occupation, trade or business, which are not illegal, immoral or dangerous to the health and welfare of the people.

10. **Right to Equitable Distribution of Wealth and Funds.**

We demand equitable distribution of wealth and development funds in all areas of Bhutan without distinction of grounds of race, religion, language and culture.

11. **Right to Equality of Opportunities in Matters of Public Employment**

We demand equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the state.

12. **Right to Education**

We demand the right to education in any field and up to any level as per one's ability and choice. There must be no discrimination in respect of opportunities for training, scholarship and admission on grounds of race, religion, language and culture.

13. **Right against Exploitation.**

We demand the abolition of the present system of forced labour such as 'National Work Force', 'Goongdawoola', 'Septolemi' etc. through which women, children and old people are also exploited.

SD/

R.K.Budathoki

PRESIDENT

Note- : About this 13 points demand was addressed at the National Assembly by the then home minister Dago Tshiring in 1990 and 1991. The National Assembly of Bhutan sat to discuss and rectify the thirteen point demands of BPP submitted on 19, September 1990 through peaceful rally. The Assembly declared that of thirteen demands, the two, the point No-2 and No-8 are genuine and rest cosmetics. The demand No-2 embodies the change of absolute monarchy to constitutional monarchy and the demand No-8 does for the freedom of formation of unions and political parties. By this, however, the RGOB has accepted all the demands diplomatically; but the changes in action lieu of demands are not seen appearing in the country.