



राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोग

National Human Rights Commission

केन्द्रीय कार्यालय, Central Office

हरिहर भवन, पुल्चोक, ललितपुर, Harihar Bhawan, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal



Press Release

(For immediate use by media)

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NHRC's monitoring on local level election concluded,

Enthusiastic participation of voters

The National Human Rights Commission conducted monitoring and observations on the first phase of local elections, Sunday April 14, 2017, in order to ensure that the local election was conducted in a free, fair and independent manner. Six high-level monitoring teams including led by the Hon. Chairperson of the Commission, Anup Raj Sharma, as well as 42 monitoring teams, were deployed to 34 districts.

The monitoring teams observed the voting process through a human rights perspective. On the basis of information received during the monitoring process, the Commission has learned of the death of one individual, and a number of injuries, after a police officer opened fire in Dolakha district, as well as the death of Nabaraj Pathak in Kavrepalanchowk, caused by a member of the Armed Police Force firing their gun. Similarly, in Chitwan, Prem Bahadur Rimal, a candidate of the Maoist (Center) for Ward Chief has been abducted. There were accounts, from Sindhupalchowk, Humla, Ramechhap, Dolpa, and a few other districts, of some disturbances to polling. These included minor clashes between members of political parties and security forces firing in the air to disperse these crowds, as well as reports of some explosive devices. Despite these incidents, voting continued and concluded peacefully.

Overall, voters appeared enthusiastic, and voting was completed in a peaceful manner. The Commission found that many voters had walked 3-4 hours to reach their polling center. Elderly and pregnant voters, and voters with disabilities, took part in the election, in both rural and urban areas. There was a high turnout of, and participation by, female voters.

Through its monitoring, the Commission found that there must be a serious review of, and changes to, some aspects of the voting process, including issues surrounding voter identity cards, the process of voter education, and the management of polling centers. The Commission calls for the attention of the Government of Nepal to these matters for the coming elections. There must also be an impartial investigation into the deaths of those who were killed during the election process, and legal action against those who were responsible, as well as free and effective medical treatment for those who have been injured. Furthermore, the Commission calls on the Government of Nepal to safely rescue the individual who has been abducted.

Mohna Ansari
Member/Spokesperson