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Workshop on the Effective use of Writ Jurisdiction for the Protection of HRs concluded in Far West



NHRC Acting Secretary Bed P. Bhattarai, Former NHRC Member Ram Nagina Singh, Senior most Justice of Supreme Court Hon. Ram Kumar Prasad Shah, Hon. Justice Sushila Karki and SCNHRC Manager Sadhana Ghimire, Central Vice Chair of NBA Rajendra Saud including Hon'ble Chief Judges of the Mid and Far Western Region at the workshop held on the 'Effective use of Writ Jurisdiction for the Protection of Human Rights', February 27, Dhangadhi (Photo: Nisha Pandey, NHRC Central Office)

Underscoring the foremost responsibilities of the government officials to protect the rights of the citizens, Justice Shah also stressed on sustaining collaboration between NHRC and judiciary.

He added that so long the cooperation and collaboration between the NHRC and judiciary remains dormant, the rights of the citizens cannot be guaranteed.

Delivering the welcome address, NHRC Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai said that the role of the district level courts is significantly pivotal to enhance the overall

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KAILALI: The regional level workshop has been successfully concluded in Far West with the common concept built among the participating Judges from the Appellate Court and District Courts of the Mid and Far Western regions in the effective use of writ jurisdiction by the courts for the protection of human rights.

Objectives of the program were to create a common understanding among the Appellate Court and District Court Judges on effectively using writ jurisdiction for better protection of Human Rights, specially in

the context of Writ jurisdiction extended to the district courts.

Addressing the inaugural session of the workshop, senior most Justice and the chair of the Judges Society-Nepal, Hon. Ram Kumar Prasad Shah as the chief guest said, 'judiciary is always observant

and sensitive towards the protection of human rights.'

'Since the courts bear

the right to issue the writ, I call upon all hon'ble justices to work with due sensitiveness towards the protection of human rights of common citizens, he urged.

Human rights of the citizens is the natural rights and the use of writ jurisdiction for the protection of such rights would be very useful as evidenced by the precedent of the Supreme Court.

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Children, woman evacuated from Geriatric Home

KATHMANDU: The Office of the National Human Rights Commission has monitored the rescue of 34 children along with a mentally disabled woman with her one-year-old baby from Aamako Ghar (Geriatric Home) run by Dil Shova Shrestha, a renowned philanthropist.

A team deployed by the Kathmandu District Administration Office (DAO) and Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB) had reached Kathmandu based elderly home following a complaint lodged against Dil Shova

of sheltering children without the government's permission.

The pursuit of the rescue was done at the presence of the Asst. CDO of Kathmandu Bed Bahadur Karki and NHRC Officials. The children were rescued for the reason that they were deprived of adequate care in a home meant to be for the helpless elderly, Asst. CDO Karki said.

The rescued children between ages 4 and 14 have been sheltered at a transit home run by 'Sano Paila'

at Godawari, 20 km far from main city.

Shrestha is learned to have admitted not abiding by legal formalities required for sheltering children due to ignorance. She, however, refuted media reports that claimed her involvement in what media has reported as illicit.

Earlier, the NHRC has monitored the Home whether or not the children were kept as per the set standard.

Right to Shelter and Mental Health monitored



The NHRC Officials interacting with the victim Dhan Kumari Gautam. (Photo: NHRC Central Office)

KATHMANDU: The Office of the National Human Rights Commission has monitored the incident of forced eviction of Dhan Kumari Gautam, 70 from the shelter of habitual residence in Lalitpur district.

According to her, her son Dol Prasad Gautam, priest of Tripureshwar Kalmochan Trust, Gopal Temple and Laxmi Narayan Temple was killed by the guard Gopal Bhattarai of the same trust with the help of his wife Sushila, Ram Hari Magar and Narayan Magar way back in 2003. While the case was under the purview of the Supreme Court,

she was forcefully evicted from the temple where she was residing all alone after her son's death. She even received the death threat if she didn't leave the temple, she said.

Lalitpur Sub metropolitan city authority along with security force again took her belongings forcing her to evict from the temporary make shift at the Bagmati Bridge, Lalitpur District where she was taking shelter. Having no option left with the victim after her eviction, she came to knock the door of NHRC and placed her verbal complaint at the NHRC about her enforced displacement.

Following the complaint registered by the victim Dahal, therefore, NHRC investigated the case only to find no any evidence of the murder of her son as claimed by the complainant. The case of killing, therefore, was dismissed. Meanwhile, NHRC has sent a letter

to the Lalitpur sub metropolitan city office urging to provide shelter and support to the victim. According to the authorities, her taking shelter at the bridge opposite the police post was illegal and was informed to find out the shelter on her own. She was evicted after several warnings tendered, as per the authority.

Prima facie could be the trauma left on the life of the victim and the NHRC has sensed the need of psycho-counseling to the victim.

The Commission has, therefore, contacted Matrika Devkota, President of 'Koshish', the National Self Help Mental Health and informed about the case. She has now been sent to the "Kosish" for proper counseling and shelter.

The NHRC team comprising the human rights officers has been continuously monitoring various stages of the case in order to safeguard the right to shelter of the victim including the situation of the victims' mental health.

The team with due concern, has also sent letter to the Lalitpur district public health office for her proper health treatment.

Manage War-Era Explosives

LALITPUR: The Office of the NHRC has expressed serious concern over the incident of bomb blast that injured six people at Talle village of Dasera VDC- 3 in Jajarkot district on February 20, 2014.

Issuing a press release, therefore, the NHRC has expressed sadness over the incident and urged the Government to provide free and effective treatment to the people injured in the incident.

The press release reads, ‘despite the fact that the Comprehensive Peace Accord was signed on November 21, 2006 between the Government of Nepal and the then CPN Maoists to destroy all types

of explosives within two months, the implementation of the deal hasn’t been translated into action appropriately. Nepal government and the then rebel group should be active to identify and locate

after the country was declared free of landmines on June 14, 2011. Prior to this incident, many commoners have either lost their lives or they have been amputated due to the blast of stray landmines and explosives abandoned during the insurgency period. Nepal government, the Maoists party and the concerned stakeholders should become serious towards possible recurrences of such incidents. The commission also urges the stakeholders to take steps to make sure that no people become victim of such incident due to the explosives abandoned during the conflict era, says the press release.

CPA on Landmine and Explosives

5.1.4 Both sides will assist each other in informing the other side in 30 days about mapping and storing of their ambushes and land mines and to neutralize and eliminate them in 60 days.

the places where the explosives and landmines were planted and defuse them.

It is sad to learn the occurrence of this kind of explosion even

Persons with Disabilities stage Hunger Strike: Monitoring Conducted

KATHMANDU: A monitoring team deployed by the NHRC Central Office monitored the hunger strike staged by the persons with disabilities at Bhadrakali premises in Kathmandu on February 12, 2014.

The representatives of the National Federation of Disabled Nepal (NFDN) have been staging their hunger strike effecting February 5, 2014 to have their demands meted out by the political parties and the government.

As per the protestors, all the political parties have deliberately ignored the issues raised by the persons with disabilities. Their key demand is minimum 4 seats in Constituent Assembly to be made reserved for the representatives of the persons with disabilities. ‘Until and unless the concrete solution is made feasible by the political parties, we will continue

our hunger strike. If needed, we will also start fast-unto-death program anytime soon, said Bhojraj Shrestha, the campaigner.

As per the monitoring report, NFDN has been raising these issues through various advocacy campaigns for some years now but to no avail. The participants of the hunger strike said that neither the political parties nor the Government has heard their voice.

It is learned that agitating persons with disabilities called a press conference amid their protest program to mount pressure on the political parties and Government. They have given 10 days ultimatum to the concerned for addressing

their legitimate demands, said Tika Devi Dahal, General Secretary of NFDN.

The protest program at Bhadrakali was monitored by NHRC team on the eighth day while the Persons with Disabilities ended their hunger strike on eleventh day after the government and political leaders made a written commitment to include them in the recently formed Constitutional Assembly.



The NHRC Officials monitoring the human rights situation of the persons with disabilities staging their hunger strike at Bhadrakali, Kathmandu. (Photo: Yadav Poudel, NHRC Central Office)

Prison Monitoring taps Impetus across the Country



A scene of the district prison of Solukhumbu district.
(Photo: NHRC Sub Regional Office Khotang)

SOLUKHOMBU: The Office of the National Human Rights Commission carried out on-the-spot monitoring on the district prison of Solukhumbu district on February 8, 2014.

The team including the NHRC Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai, Under Secretary of Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers Prakash Adhikari, Human Rights Officer Badri Subedi and the Office Head of NHRC Sub Regional Office Khotang Loknath Ghimire met with the officiating chief of the prison Rudra Subedi, inmates serving their term and Chief District Officer Sita Ram Karki and had discussion on the basic needs of the prison and prison improvement.

The monitoring team found that a total of 55 inmates including 48 males and 7 females were accommodated in the prison cells bearing the capacity to accommodate just 25 males and 10 females. Established in 2007, the district prison falls in D category.

‘It is very difficult to keep the inmates in the cells since the prison is in wretched condition, according to the prison administration. As no innovation is initiated so far, the inmates are at risk of any unprecedented incident due to the overflow of the inmates as well as

natural disaster, informed by the security guard on duty.

The monitoring report says that the prison cells was built in 1 ropani land area while the prison is located in the land property covering an area of 5 ropanis. This has made difficult for the inmates to perform skill oriented activities including income generating activities and sports. Just a few number of staff were found posted at the place of

The NHRC has solicited the recommendations made during the regional level workshop on the Effective Use of Writ Jurisdiction for the Protection of Human Rights held in Dhangadhi to include the status of the visits of Hon justices of district level appellate and district court to the prison regarding whether or not the directives issued by them are complied with by the prison administration. The commission would with due priority furnish such status within the NHRC recommendations accordingly.

nine staff prescribed by the prison management department due to which prison administration has been facing difficulty in day to day activities and regular inspection of the prison cells. Similarly, no charter with regard to the code of conduct of the inmates serving their terms was found installed in the prison. The provision of essential amenities such as education, communication and other skill

development activities was not arranged, as per the monitoring report.

However, the prison was found to be adequately equipped with the newspapers, books, magazines and journals that helped the inmates while away their leisure and hone their knowledge and wisdom.

The report further says that the access of the inmates to the legal counselor and case related documents needed for the court process was not made easy as because the passages of the prison was very congested and there was no spacious room where meeting can be held with the inmates.

Likewise, during the monitoring, the inmates came up with the grievances with regard to the problem of drinking water supply and proper sanitation. They even placed their request before the NHRC monitoring team for the recommendation of their transfer to other prisons.

The monitoring report unveiled that though the prison administration approached the concerned for the amnesty to some of the inmates, it hasn't been translated into action for the last two years. The prison officials requested the NHRC to draw the attention of the concerned towards this.

The monitoring team has recommended the timely and proper renovation of the prison cells including the erection of another prison in the land property owned by the district prison and adequate human resource for the day to day management of the prison.

The monitoring was carried out in accordance with the Prison and Detention Centers Guidelines endorsed and issued by the Commission in 2012 AD.



The NHRC Monitoring team including the Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai and Human Rights Officer Shyam Babu Kafle during the on-the-spot monitoring in Okhaldhunga district prison
(Photo: NHRC Regional Office, Khotang)

OKHALDHUNGA: The Office of the Commission conducted yet another monitoring on the district prison of Okhaldhunga District in East on February 16, 2014.

During the monitoring, the team comprising NHRC Acting Secretary, Bed Prasad Bhattarai Under Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers Prakash Adhikari, along with two other NHRC Human Rights Officers met with prison officials and the Chief District

Officer, district level chiefs of the security agencies as well as the inmates serving their terms.

The monitoring mainly focused on the improvement of administrative management and existing facilities provided to inmates especially drinking water and sanitation. While talking with the head of the district prison, Secretary Bhattarai focused on the regular health checkup of the inmates and their human rights conditions.

Secretary Bhattarai also briefed to the district level stakeholders on the adoption of the prison and Detention Centre Monitoring, 2011 and its effective implementation.

KANCHANPUR: The NHRC Regional Office, Dhangadhi, in a series of monitoring, conducted monitoring on the district prison in Kanchanpur district on March 1, 2014.

Led by the NHRC Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai, the monitoring mission comprised Director Dr. Tikaram Pokharel, Human Rights Officer Mohan Dev Joshi.

During the monitoring, the team met with the jailor, security personnel including inmates and held discussion with regard to the existing problems of the prison. The team also monitored whether or not the directives issued from time to time by the district level justices have been complied with by the prison administration. It was learned during the monitoring that hon. Justices of the appellate court of Mahendranagar had visited the district prison this current year. The district administration, however, hasn't visited the prison for the last five or six months according to the inmates.

The team inspected the physical condition of the prison and detention cells, human rights situation of inmates serving their terms and the adequacy of the amenities entitled for the inmates. The team found the prison was overcrowded. In total, there were 187 inmates including 171 male and 20 females inmates accommodated in the capacity of just 95 inmates.

Though the inmates were involved in petty indoor sports, the skill oriented and income generating activities were not provided to them. The inmates, however, enjoyed reading the national dailies and watched TV separately in both male and female cells. As per the inmates, they did have the access to the legal counselors as and when they visited the prison.

The inmates

The team also had discussion with the inmates, prison administration officials, security personnel and Chief District Officer and raised concern to fulfill and basic needs required for the smooth operation of the prison.

Like in other district prisons, the team noticed the excessive number of inmates accommodated in the district prison of Okhaldhunga also. 66 inmates including one minor were kept in the prison cell which was only for 13 female and 12 male inmates. The prison even didn't have the meeting room for the visitors.

The team has, therefore, recommended to the authority for the overall improvement of the prison including the income generating activities and regular health check up.

placed their grievance before the monitoring team stating that the prison administration was dispirited to provide amnesty to the deserving prisoners as opposed to the norms practiced as customary on February 19 (Fagun 7th) every year. They also urged for the open air prison as in the other prisons of the world.

The monitoring team also found some of the inmates suffering from mental illness needing necessary treatment and special kind of cells were kept with other inmates.



NHRC Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai and Human Rights Officer Mohan Dev Joshi monitoring at the Kanchanpur district prison in Far West
(Photo: NHRC Sub Regional Office, Dhangadhi)

Child Rights Friendly Education is Inevitable: Acting Secretary Bhattarai

OKHALDHUNGA: NHRC Acting Secretary has stressed on human rights friendly education based on the human rights friendly school curriculum and teachers in schools.

Addressing the concluding ceremony of human rights training for the resource persons from various schools held in Okhaldhunga district, Secretary Bhattarai remarked that it is high time now that schools across the country had human rights friendly teaching learning process.

Throwing light on the value of human rights resource materials prepared of the school teachers, Acting Secretary Bhattarai said that since the children deliberately

receive conventional corporal punishment in the name of molding their character, child rights friendly education has become inevitable at schools.

He urged that the teachers in the first place to be educated about child rights friendly education prior to going to the classrooms. Keeping this in mind, therefore, the Commission felt deemed necessary to train the teachers on human rights friendly education through the facilitation of training, he informed.

He also unveiled about the rights of child to pursue in pleasant and friendly environment as per

the constitutional provision and thus the schools inspectors have been issued the directive to help end the corporal punishment and other form torture in the name of molding the character of

children in schools of the region.

At the program, Under Secretary Prakash Adhikari from the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers laid his emphasis on all state actors to be responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights.

Pointing out the possibility of human rights friendly environment in schools through teaching catered by the teachers, Joint Secretary Adhikari urged for the inclusion of human rights friendly education through school curriculum.

On the occasion, Chief District Officer Surya Bahadur Khatri enthused the teachers to utilize their learning realm from the training in their work field.

The trainees comprised 32 teachers from various schools of Okhaldhunga, Khotang and Solukhumbu districts.



Under Secretary Prakash Adhikari, Officer of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers facilitating the training to the teachers in Okhaldhunga district. (Photo: NHRC Sub Regional Office, Khotang)



Participants at human rights training organized among the district level teachers of Okhaldhunga district. (Photo: NHRC Sub Regional Office, Khotang)

Role of Stakeholders urged in the Protection of Rights of Child

KASKI: The representatives of the rights organizations including the human rights activists of Pokhara have stressed on the effective role of stakeholders on the protection of rights of child.

Organized by the NHRC Regional Office, Pokhara, the program had the core objective laid out to interact on the national and international concepts for the protection of rights of child, role and obligation of the stakeholders on the rights

of child including the information sharing on the situation of rights of child in western region.

Interacting at a program held in Pokhara, they have urged that unless the stakeholders including both state and non state agencies become proactive, the enjoyment of rights of child won't be materialized. At the program, the participants also raised their concern with regard to the capacity building with

appropriate training facilitated to the child rights activists and the human rights defenders. They also laid their emphasis on the NHRC role to build coordination and collaboration along the rights organizations along the together with the training facilitation to the child rights workers of the nation.

According to Child Act 2048, children below 16 years of age are considered as minors while Convention on the Rights of Child 1989 has recognized the children below 18 years of age as children.

School Teachers oriented on Human Rights

TANAHU: The Office of the National Human Rights Commission organized an orientation-cum-training on human rights education to the teachers of community schools as the resource persons.

The objective of the training was to impart human rights education to the resource persons and to have discussion on the draft human rights manual prepared by NHRC for the school teachers of the country.

Inaugurated by Hon. Judge Balabhadra Bastola from Tanahun District, the training sessions advanced with the working paper presentations by the NHRC Director Subarna Kumar Karmacharya and Regional Director of Pokhara Yagya Prasad Adhikari.

Addressing the inauguration, NHRC Director Karmacharya highlighted the role of state for the promotion and protection of



School teachers of Tanahun district attending human rights training while Director Subarna Karmacharya is facilitating the training (Photo: NHRC Regional Office, Pokhara)

human rights and also briefed on the NHRC accomplishments on the protection and promotion human rights throughout the country. Similarly, Hon. Judge Bastola enumerated on the prevalent situation of Human rights with main focus on the rights of child.

Training mainly focused on the basic concept and principle of human rights, an overview on the UDHR/civil and the political Rights, understanding human rights instrument and state obligation for the implementation of human rights treaties, roles of teachers to minimize the corporal punishment in school, teachers conduct and its effects, right to education through National Human Rights Action

Plan (NHRAP), human rights monitoring mechanism and the role of judiciary, human rights monitoring mechanism, human rights collaboration guidelines and implementation, NHRC mandates and functions.

A total of 28 participants attended the training. Various experts from the Judicial, academia and NHRC facilitated different sessions as the resource persons.

Training was held from 24-26 Feb 2014 in Tanahun and Lumjung districts of western region.

The orientation was held at the support extended from FINNISH Project.



Participants and the resource persons taking photograph after the training held on the human rights education in schools

(Photo: NHRC Regional Office, Pokhara)

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Regional Level Workshop...

situation of human rights specially the enjoyment of civil, political, economic and cultural rights.

Addressing the program, the NHRC former member Ram Nagina Singh threw light on the significant role of judiciary for the protection of human rights. '21st Century is the century of human rights and thus the country which cannot protect human rights will have no dignity and respect in international community.

Stressing on the program to be vitally significant for the NHRC, Supreme Court and participating justices, Chair of the program, Hon. Justice Sushila Karki said that human rights of the citizens is the natural rights and the use of writ jurisdiction for the protection of such rights would be very useful as evidenced by the precedent of the Supreme Court.

At the program, Justice Shah, as the resource person, presented the paper on 'Interim Order on the Writ submitted on the Violation of Human Rights' and 'The use of Injunction Order for the Prevention of Human Rights Violations' while Justice Karki presented her paper on the 'Habeas Corpus as the Effective Measures



Representatives from the appellate courts and district courts at the regional level workshop on the effective use of the writ jurisdiction held in Dhangadhi from 27th Feb till 1st March, 2014

(Photo: Sarki Man Tamang, NHRC Central Office)

for the Protection of Individual Rights.' Similarly, NHRC Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai presented the paper on 'Role and Coordination between Judiciary and the NHRC for the Protection of Human Rights.'

Similarly, former NHRC Member Ram Nagina Singh presented the paper on 'Writ Jurisdiction and the Protection of Human Rights,' while Justice of Appellate Court of Dipayal Hon. Ishwar Chandra Khatiwada presented the paper on 'The Role of Judiciary in the Criminal Justice System for the Protection of Human Rights.'

Justice of the Appellate Court, Tulsipur, Hon. Justice Dr. Ananda

Mohan Bhattarai presented the working paper on 'Implementation of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Writ Jurisdiction.'

Jointly organized by the National Human Rights Commission and Judges Society Nepal, the workshop was attended by fifty seven justices from the appellate and district court of Mid and Far Western Region held in Dhangadhi of Kailali districts from 27th February to 1st March, 2014.

The program was held with the joint support extended from Rule of Law Programme and the Strengthening the Capacity of the NHRC/UNDP.

Rights Situation reviewed in Mid West: HRDs discuss on their Roles

BANKE: The NHRC Regional Office Nepalgunj organized a meeting with the Human Rights defenders of the Dailekh and Surkhet (Birendra Nagar) on February 5 and 6, 2014 to discuss about the rights situation in the districts and the role of HRDs.

At the meeting, focused on the situation and challenges with regard to the protection of human rights, the rights defenders came

up with several grievances. At the outset, they highlighted the incident of torture taking place in the police custody and detention centers in Surkhet. They added that even the family members of the victims and legal counselors are not provided easy access to the detention centers. Earlier, they had requested the NHRC to mediate in providing adequate access.

Similarly, they lamented over the

dilly dallying of the law enforcing agency towards HRDs request for speeding up the investigation on criminal cases. They also revealed that violence against women was rampant and most of the cases ended up following the mediation without having the prosecution made. They pointed out that most of the criminal cases are given political color and impunity, on the other hand, has been an obstacle in realizing human rights in society.



Speech delivered by the NHRC Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai at the workshop entitling 'Effective use of Writ Jurisdiction for the Protection of Human Rights'



I, on behalf of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), would like to heartily welcome all the participants present here to attend the workshop jointly organized by the Commission and Judges Society, Nepal. We are gathered here today with the objective to have discussion in pledging support to the protection of human rights via the effective use of writ jurisdiction of the courts. I firmly believe that this three day program would prove to be a corner stone as well as significantly useful in the context of writ on habeas corpus and injunction of writ jurisdiction reaching to the level of district court.

The situation has now been created in which the state must fulfill its obligation to address the issues of individual rights rising beyond the defined role as a catalyst in the issues of human life, dignity, freedom and prosperity paved ways by the development and change in the state functioning system such as religion, spirituality, community and monarchy of by-gone years. With the gradual advancement as such, the responsibilities bestowed on the authorities like court and NHRC have been further increased in the context of the protection of human rights. In this regard, all the justice delivery system of the court were on the basis of human

rights norms directly or indirectly before the origin and the use of the term 'Human Rights' came into practice.

Today's world is advancing with the new concept different from that of past years. The trend is now increasing to assess high respect of human rights and their miserable situation on the issues pertaining to life, dignity, protection, peace, administration of justice and impunity etc. in national and international level. We all are cognizant of the context that the effectiveness of judiciary or quasi judiciary also won't remain aloof from this periphery. Since the effectiveness of any institution rests upon the will and clarity in principles of human resource working under it, I would like to express my confidence that this interactive program would pledge substantial support to hon'ble Justices in moving towards that direction.

The NHRC monitoring and interactive discussions held with civil society and other stakeholders have observed that the role of district level courts can be remarkably significant to enhance the enjoyment of overall human rights specially civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights in the country. Indeed, the scope relating to the expansion of the writ jurisdiction has added further

essence to it. Begun in recent days, the judicial process reaching to dispensing verdict through continuous hearing process on the cases of rape, violence against women and human trafficking well in time has itself become a matter of sensitiveness towards human rights. I would like to hereby recall that the NHRC has been incessantly advocating on the appropriateness to institute the conceptualized fast track court on such issues in the past.

Last but certainly not the least, this Far Western and Mid-Western Regional level workshop in Dhangadhi is the follow-up program of the Eastern Regional level workshop held in collaboration with the Judges Society, Nepal in Biratnagar last May, 2013. Efforts will be sustained to give continuity to this collaboration in taking such program to both Central Region and Western Regional level in near future.

Hoping the program to be a great success, I express my best wishes that general citizens of this region may experience a new dimension in the protection of human rights through the effective use of the writ jurisdiction by the courts in these regions.

Thank you

February 27, Dhangadhi, Nepal

Political Parties to pledge Support to HRDs

DAILEKH: At the meeting held in Dailekh on February 6, 2014, the representatives of the political parties committed to pledge support to the work of human rights defenders. They said that they never intervened the investigation of cases related to rights violation but alerted the HRDs should not be, in anyway, biased to raise the cases of conflict time.

The participants of the meeting urged that the NHRC recommendations on the human rights violation cases be implemented timely. A few cases including the cases of Dekendra Thapa has been investigated upon following the recommendation of the NHRC. They, however, urged the NHRC to send in the recommendations on other cases related to the violation of human rights lingering to be decided upon.

The political party representatives also laid their emphasis on the training related to their professionalism to be provided to the HRDs.

The participants also called on the government to form the transitional justice mechanisms such as Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission on the Inquiry of Disappeared (CoID) without any obliviousness.

Meanwhile, yet another meeting was held with the Chief District Officer of Dailekh district. Addressing the meeting the CDO expressed his concern about the roles of the HRDs.

The HRDs team including the NHRC Officials briefed about the challenges faced by the HRDs and rampant torture in police custody and detention centers, restriction



A team of Human Rights Defenders in the course of the meeting held with the Chief District Officer at the district headquarter of Dailekh
(Photo: NHRC Regional Office, Nepalgunj)

on easy access made available to the HRDs and information sharing including their security. At the meeting, the HRDs also raised the question about the alleged killing of police inspector by his guard.

At the meeting, comprehensive discussion was held on good governance and service provision to the rights holders. The CDO expressed his commitment to good governance such as service delivery which was reportedly sluggish mainly due the lack of human resources and other resource crunch.

Expressing his curiosity as to who actually the HRDs are, The CDO ruled out the torture taking place in the custody. He committed to looking into the matter if the incidents were true.

The CDO also confirmed about the facilitating the human rights training to the law enforcement officials for the effective protection and fulfillment of human rights

Meanwhile, the team also briefed him on the HRDs Guidelines

prepared by NHRC with regard to HRDs' rights, roles and responsibilities as well as the role of law enforcement agencies in terms of providing information, security and other support.

The HRDs team comprised of Zenovia Hernandedz, Deputy Head of EU Network and Chief of the EU HR Defenders network mission, Bijaya Gautam, Executive Director, INSEC, Shiv Bhandari, Focal person- EU HR defenders network, Baburam Adhikari, Executive Director, WOREC, Prabina Bajracharya, Office of the UN Resident Representative, KTM, Manju Lama, Program Officer EU defenders network/ Danish Embassy, Representatives of Embassy of Denmark, Representatives of Embassy of Finland, Amar Shrestha, UN FCO, Nepalgunj, Jiban, EU network team Shiv Khakurel, INSEC, Nepalgunj including Murari Kharel, NHRC, Nepalgunj



The Head of the Promotion and Advocacy Division Surya Deuja and Director Yagya P Adhikari among others at the closing ceremony of the training held in Chitwan district
(Photo: Pradip Subedi, NHRC Central Office)

NHRC Staffs trained on Human Rights Monitoring and Investigation

CHITWAN: The Office of the National Human Rights Commission organized training on Human Rights Monitoring and Investigation among the staffs from 4-8 February, 2014.

The major objective of the training was to hone the skills of the support staff and to enhance their capacity in the field of human rights monitoring and investigation.

During the training, the trainee staff participated in the both theoretical and practical aspects of the training that would help them apply while discharging their duties specially in the protection of human rights. Similarly, the

trainees involved themselves in various training with the help of lectures and presentation, audio visual materials, case study and role play in order to achieve overall objectives of the training.

The participants attended fourteen sessions in the training entitling Conceptualization of Human Rights Violations, Human Rights Monitoring and Investigation, Dealing With the Authority in HR Monitoring & Investigation,

Basic Aspects of Human Rights Monitoring, Session Role of NHRC in Monitoring, Dealing with the Cases from Gender Perspectives, Interview Techniques during Monitoring and Investigation, Investigation and Prosecution of Cases related to Crimes and HR Violation, Techniques and Tools of Crime Investigation, Documentation and Reporting, Specialized Investigative Techniques, Case Studies, Group Work including Communication Skills.

Amid the training sessions, a documentary on collective rights was screened on 7th February, 2014. 30 staff members undertook the training provided by the resource persons including



Participants engaged in the 'Role-play' during the training held on monitoring and investigation on HR violations.

(Photo: Radha Dahal, NHRC Central Office)

NHRC Acting Secretary Mr. Bed Bhattarai, Director Subrana Kumar Karmacharya, Deputy Director Yagya Prasad Adhikari, Deputy Director Dipak Jung Dhoj Karki, SCNHRC Program Manager Sadhana Ghimire, Ex-Police Officer Jaya Bishnu Nepali, Dr. Harihar Wasti (Tribuvan University Teaching Hospital/TUTH), Ex-Deputy AG Surya Koirala, HR Officer Kailash Siwakoti, Surya Deuja and Shyambabu Kafley.

The training was conducted at the support extended the Strengthening the Capacity of National Human Rights Commission/UNDP.



Participants and the resource persons at the training on investigation and monitoring held in Chitwan
(Photo: Pradip Subedi, NHRC Central Office)

Incident of Extra Judicial Killing monitored

MAHOTTARI: The Office of the NHRC, Janakpur has monitored the incident of extra judicial killing in Mahottari district on February 19 and 22 in which two persons were reportedly killed. The locals have ruled out the nature of the incident to be 'police encounter' as claimed by the authority.

As per the monitoring team deployed by the NHRC Janakpur Regional Office, the victims duo aged 30 and 25 approximately

have been reported killed in the incident that took place in Halkhori village development committee, Ward – 2 and Sonam VDC, Ward 5 respectively.

The team took to the morgue and monitored the corpse of the victim and incident spot. Meanwhile the process of gathering evidences with regard to the incident is underway. In the process, the team met with the witnesses, district administration office, chief of

district police Rajendra Shrestha and collected the necessary information supportive for the evidences.

The victims have been identified as the Jakauallah Nadaf and Mohmmad Sherajukl Nurie belonging to the Muslim community as the per their family members.

The victims were arrested and taken under police custody by the police. The family members of the victims said, 'killing of two victims was premeditated and not the police encounter.'

Reach the Consensus through Dialogue: NHRC

BARA: By issuing a press release, the NHRC Regional Office, Janakpur, has called on the reporters staging their hunger strike to have bilateral talk for the peaceful remedial solution.

Few reporters from Bara district have been staging indefinite hunger strike from January 31st, 2014 regarding the denial of

membership of the Nepal Reporters Association at the premises of the association's office. The health stitution of the reporters is said to have been worsening day by day. Keeping the situation in mind, therefore, the NHRC has urged both the central office of Nepal Reporters Association and the agitating reporters to reach the consensus through dialogue.

Rights Workers Committed to Working in Collaboration

DHANUSHA: The NHRC Regional Office Janakpur organized a discussion program on human rights in Dhanusha.

The Regional Head Budhanarayan Sahani Kewat, Human Rights Officers Basudev Bajagain and Loknath Bastola from central office facilitated the interaction sessions among the human rights workers

and civil society representatives working in the area on February 5, 2014 at the meeting hall of Advocacy Forum (Branch Office) Dhanusha. The participants of the program pointed out the importance of actively working together for the protection and promotion of human rights.

Youths Visit NHRC

LALITPUR: Under the leadership of Youth Initiatives Nepal, a group of youths visited the National Human Rights Commission and acquired basic information about the Commission amid a program held during their visit.

On the occasion, Human Rights Officer Badri Subedi presented the paper on the roles, responsibilities and constitutional jurisdiction of NHRC.

The presentation was followed by question and answer session. NHRC Legal Aid Division Head Bir Bahadur Budhamagar, Human Rights Officers Samjhana Sharma and Nitu Gadtaula answered to the queries and concerns raised by the youths.

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