



No Amnesty for Rights Violators of War Era: OPM Gautam



Officiating Prime Minister Bamdev Gautam releasing the NHRC publication on the occasion of the 14th Anniversary of the NHRC, 2014

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

Addressing the program, NHRC Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai said ‘entire Nepalese society is expecting the promulgation of new constitution through the Constituent Assembly that would pave ways for sustainable peace and the process of development leading to the perceptible improvement in an environment where human rights are enjoyed to optimum.’

He stated that no country is perfect in the protection and respect of human rights. ‘This problem appears seemingly complex and challenging where developing nations or least developed nations have to endure poverty, unemployment including impunity taking shelter at the helm of politics,’ he added.

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LALITPUR: Officiating Prime Minister Bamdev Gautam has said, ‘Together with the completeness to be given to the government, we are moving ahead positively to frame the human rights friendly constitution.’

14th ANNIVERSARY OF NHRC

Speaking at the program organized to mark 14th anniversary of the Commission, Officiating Prime Minister Gautam as the chief guest of the program said ‘Government is upfront in forming the transitional justice mechanisms such as Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and Commission on the Enquiry of Disappeared (CoID) conceptualized through the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA),’ he affirmed.

He, however, made it clear that no amnesty would be granted to those involved in grave human rights violations of war era. Referring the international treaties and conventions ratified by Nepal, he also ruled out the blanket amnesty at all.

With regard to the Commission, DPM Gautam said, ‘the National Human Rights Commission has been doing its utmost for safeguarding human rights of the people ever since it came into being following the vibrant civil society movement in the country.’

‘I have taken this with serious note that I will place this issue before the finance ministry about the financial independence of the Commission,’ he added.

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Concern expressed over Media Report

LALITPUR: The attention of the Commission has been drawn to the piece of news entitling '13 years have passed since the door of the Commission knocked' published in the Kantipur daily dated 28th May, 2014. I would like to inform the concerned stakeholders that the decision was dispensed upon investigation completed its course on the complaints related to the disappeared Tej Bahadur Bhandari and murdered Muktinath Adhikari (persons quoted in the news) and the letter was sent to the Government of Nepal (GoN) for the implementation of the recommendation. The complaints on both cases received by the Commission and implementation status of the recommendations forwarded by the Commission have been furnished in the NHRC publication entitled 'Implementation status of the NHRC Recommendations within the period of Thirteen Years (2057-2070).' The decisions had been dispensed on both the complaints as mentioned hereunder:

Details with regard to the case of Tej Bahadur Bhandari of Simpani VDC of Valam-3, Lamjung district have been contained from page 399 to 433 in the above mentioned publication.

Brief description of the Complaint:

POKHARA : As per the record maintained in the file no. 488, Tej Bahadur Bhandari, a 56 year old ex-teacher and local level secretary of CPN (UML) of Simapan Village Development Committee, Bhalam-3 of Lamjung district was arrested by a team of six security personnel from Nepal Police and Royal Nepal Army on December 31, 2001 on his way to the District Administration Office. Having detained arbitrarily since then, he was not allowed to meet with his family members and relatives. Following this, a complaint was lodged at the Commission on January 31, 2002 with an appeal to initiate for his release and

to safeguard his human rights.

Decision and Recommendation of the Commission:

As per the NHRC investigation, the version of the Army wasn't found truthful and credible as they mentioned that arrestee Bhandari was shot dead as he was making a futile attempt to escape from the hand of the security instead of taking an action against the unarmed person as determined by law. An unarmed person taken under the custody of the security force can't make such an easy escape. With the extra judicial killing executed on Tej Bahadur Bhandari under custody by the security force, therefore, the right to life of Mr. Bhandari was found violated.

The Commission dispensed the decision on 15 July, 2011 and sent the recommendations to the Government of Nepal to take legal action against the then Chief District Officer of Lamjung district Shiva Prasad Nepal, Major of Royal Nepal Army-Santosh Singh Thakuri, DSP Pitamvar Adhikari and several other commanders as per the Homicide Act of Civil Code and to compensate the kin of victim with Rs. 3,00,000 (RS three hundred thousand) and also to make an arrangement for subsidized fee structure for the education of victims' children pursuant to the regulation 17 of the NHRC (Complaint, Action and Compensation Determination) Regulations, 2000.

Implementation status of the NHRC Recommendations on the said cases:

The recommendation letter with dispatch number 877 based on the investigation no 488 was sent to the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers on February 1, 2012 for the implementation of the decision. As per the implementation status of the decision, therefore, the Commission was in receipt of the detailed letter dated May 20, 2013 with dispatch number 1974 from

Reliefs and Rehabilitation Unit of the PMO which reads that the victim's family have been paid 3,00,000 (Rs three hundred thousand only) as the compensation.

Details with regard to the case of Muktinath Adhikari of Chandreswar Village Development Committee, Ward 6 of Lamjung district have been contained from page 534 to 588 in the above mentioned publication.

A complaint was lodged on February 3, 2011 at the Commission to look into the incident of killing of Muktinath Adhikari from Chandreswar VDC, Ward 6 of Lamjung district by the then CPN (Maoists) cadres and take legal action against the persons involved in the incident and to provide compensation to the victims' family. Mr. Adhikari, a teacher at Panini Sanskrit Secondary School, Dura Danda of the same district was abducted by 8-10 cadres of the then CPN Maoists on January 16, 2002 around 1:30 PM in the afternoon. He was then taken to Khaje Village, Ward-4 of the same VDC and tied to a tree with a muffler. He was then blindfolded, stabbed with knife and murdered with bullet shots.

The investigation launched by the Commission led to the decision that Muktinath Adhikari was not involved in insurgency and was found abducted and killed by the party cadres of the then CPN (Maoists).

The decision was dispensed on May 13, 2012 to identify the accused persons of the then CPN (Maoists) involved in the incident, take legal action against accused as per the Homicide Act of Civil code and to provide Rs. 300,000 (Rs. three thousand hundred only) as the compensation to the victims' family in accordance with the section 16(3) of the, NHRC Act (2012). It has been urged in the recommendation sent to the Government of Nepal to deduce the amount of compensation if the kin of victims are already paid

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Protection of Right to Health urged

LALITPUR: The Commission has expressed serious concern on the incidents of death toll reaching 10 due to the outbreak of jaundice and hepatitis in various places including Biratnagar of Morang district. Following the incident of jaundice endemic and the subsequent closure of schools, the life is learnt to have been hit hard in the area.

The flow of patients is found increasing optimum in hospitals and clinics due to the outbreak of disease which is said to have been caused from contamination of drinking water with Coliform and the treatment hasn't been found well managed and effective. Though the government had mobilized a rapid response team

in the jaundice prone areas, the disease hasn't been controlled due to the lack of coordination among the health institutions in the area. It is simultaneously learned that the children are being deprived of their right to education due to the closure of the school.

Keeping in mind the severity of the disease, it is deemed necessary to launch initiatives towards the prompt adoption of necessary measures to prevent the disease in national level so that such outbreak does not repeat in future. In this regard, a fact finding mission from Biratnagar Regional Office of the Commission has been deployed in the incident sites.

The Commission has, therefore, urged the Government to launch necessary initiatives to protect the citizens' fundamental rights such as right to treatment, right to education and right to life including respect and protection of consumers rights provisioned through the constitution by adopting necessary measures leading to arrangement of necessary treatment, prevention of the outbreak and also the arrangement of safe drinking water supply including the prompt initiative to commence awareness programs in order to help restore normalcy in the life of general people.

Restriction of Entry into the Village intervened



Participants at a program held on the racial discriminating in Kaski district

Photo: Binod Pariyar, Pokhara

KASKI: Dalits community of Laha Chowk 5 of Pokhara has put forwards their grievances that they are restricted to get facilities from the village on the basis of their caste. The participants said this at an interaction program entitling Caste Based Discrimination and Untouchability organized by NHRC Pokhara and Association of Human Right Journalist (HURJA).

Speaking at the program, Shyamlal Pariyar, the Chair of the Janajagan Primary School's Management shared that in Lahachowk total 364 household represent the Dalits who are deprived of necessary access to enter into the

jungle and they are in difficult situation to earn their livelihood due to the unavailability of the firewood and other daily commodities.

A local, Ganga Sunar said in wearying tongue that political party always kept them in between and even they placed their complaint before District Administration Office. Sadly, the District Administration remained tightfisted to take action by saying that all issues were political, the participants lamented.

The so-called higher caste people of the society are the major obstacle for the deprivation of all human rights on the ground of cast discrimination, the participants said this in unison.

The head master of the Janjagan Primary School Rewata Sunar said that the NHRC ought to help address the plight of the Dalit of the Laha

Chowk VDC.

Meanwhile, speaking on the occasion, the NHRC Deputy Director Yagya Prasad Adhikari said that peace and development is not possible unless there is equal treatment fostered among denizens belonging to all castes and ethnicity. He also added that the UN CERD 1965 has the provision that calls for unity to end racial and caste discrimination.

During the program, the Chair of the HURJA Kaski expressed commitment to continue to conduct such program that works as the bridge between the village and state.



The Head of NHRC Western Reg. Office Pokhara Yagya P Adhikari addressing at a program held on racial discrimination in Kaski district

Photo: Binod Pariyar, Pokhara

Investigation on Backlog Cases accomplished

LALITPUR: The Office of the National Human Rights Commission, in a feat to give impetus to the investigation mission on the backlog cases, deployed three teams comprising the human right officers to the incident sites this past month.

The teams including three human rights officers each were deployed effecting from April 27 till May 14, 2014 in Dhanusha, Siraha and Udaypur districts respectively. A team comprising the human rights officers from Janakpur Sub Regional Office also carried out investigation in Maohottari district. During the mission, the teams met with the district level chiefs of the state actors including the peace committee members, heads of the security agencies, victims' families, alleged perpetrators, eye-witnesses, civil society members, representatives

of the local level NGOs and political parties separately and obtained the vital information required for the investigation. The visiting team to the district courts were overwhelmed by very quick response of the court officials in information sharing about the cases. Most investigations are related to the complaints registered in connection with the incidents of insurgency period.

Of the total 36 cases, 33 cases related to killing, sexual assault, abduction, disappearance and torture were investigated upon. Three cases being under the jurisdiction of Morang district still remain pending. The investigation was launched in coordination with the NHRC Regional and Sub-Regional Offices located in the respective region.



NHRC investigation team talking with the victims' family of the incidents of rights violations that occurred in the conflict period

Photo: Ram Tharu, Regional Office, Janakpur



An investigation team member obtaining information about the rights violation from the victims' family members

Photo: Bhim Bahadur Lama, Central Office



An NHRC Official monitoring the situation of the food crunch in Humla district

Photo: NHRC Regional Office, Dhangadhi

HUMLA: NHRC, Regional Office (Dhangadhi) carried out monitoring on National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) in Humla.

The monitoring report says that most of the government officials in Humla remain unfamiliar and indifferent to NHRAP brought by the Government.

The report suggests, 'Familiarity of human rights culture at the grassroots level seems unexpectedly low. Human rights education should be given to the people to increase their familiarity

Implementation Status of NHRAP monitored

with human rights culture.'

The report has also shed light on the problems that have been ballooning in the education sector. According to the report, one of the problems of schools in Humla is understaffed teachers, which has been seriously hampering teaching learning environment for the last 19 years.

Around 10 percent of students are yet to be enrolled in the schools, the report further clarifies.

The report has also painted a grim picture about health service in Humla as well. As stated in the report, there is only one doctor deputed whereas three positions of doctors are lying vacant in the district.

According to the monitoring report, medicines are also sold charging high prices. 'The medicines are sold at 150

percent higher than the actual cost,' the report says.

According to the report, total demand of food grain in Humla is 9745.40 metric ton whereas the supply of it is only 3456 metric ton. The report has suggested solving the problem of food crunch well in time.

Humla lacks infrastructures viz. accessible roads and electricity etc. that has made the life of common people difficult. The report hints infrastructural development of Humla should top the agenda.

The report has thrown light on bleak side of transitional justice. 'The government has addressed only one side of a decade-long armed conflict related cases by paying compensation the conflict victims. But, the culprits of the armed-conflict era cases are hardly brought to justice,' the report unveils.

No Proof of Sexual Exploitation at Aamaghar: NHRC

KATHMANDU: The National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC's) monitoring report has concluded that the charge of sexual misbehavior leveled against Dil Shova Shrestha is baseless. Shrestha is running an old age home known as 'Aamaghar' and she was charged with availing a dependant lady for sexual purpose.

Releasing a brief monitoring report at a press conference on May 22, NHRC's acting secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai said that NHRC found no proof of sexual misbehavior. He, however, said that human rights situation of the young and elderly dependents are not satisfactory.

Acting secretary Bhattarai further said that they are deprived of basic facilities like healthy living environment, hygienic food and sanitation. It is found that 'Aamaghar' has been carrying out its activities which contradict with the existing laws, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, human rights officer Basudev Bajgain said that NHRC is still investigating the charge and will make public its findings once NHRC reaches to the in-depth conclusion.

According to the monitoring report, though Aamaghar claimed that the children living there were former street children, most of them hailed from Karnali and had their guardians adding 15 children from single district of Kalikot.

The children were allegedly engaged in Christian religious activities including praying and religious studies, the report reveals.

Speaking at the same press conference, the executive director of Central Child Welfare Committee said that



Aamaghar situated at Kalimati of Kathmandu district

Photo: NHRC Central Office

his office was working actively across the country to bring such orphanages within the legal parameters.

A team of human rights officers Basudev Bajgain and Manju Khatiwada had investigated the case. Meanwhile, in a ten-point suggestions, NHRC has suggested government to carry out necessary actions aiming at improving human rights situation of the needy people.

Head of NHRC Pokhara Office felicitated, bade farewell

KASKI: NHRC Regional Head Yagya Prasad Adhikari was honored amidst a function organized by the Civil Society Pokhara, and Voluntary Human Rights Activists Network-Nepal and Nepal Human Rights and Peace Society in Pokhara.

The NHRC Deputy Director, the chief of Pokhara Office was honored for his tireless effort made for the protection and promotions of human rights in collaboration and coordination with various organizations and agencies, civil society and human right activists in the western region in the capacity of the Regional Director.

Giving away the 'letter of honor' to Mr. Adhikari, chief guest of the program, Judge of Appellate Court of Kaski, Dilliraj Acharya, expressed his heartfelt delight for starting the trend of celebrating the works of Mr. Adhikari that, according to him, met the expectations of general public accomplished with so much devotion



The Deputy director Yagya P Adhikari of Western Regional Officer Pokhara was felicitated while the incoming head Deputy Director Dr. Tikaram Pokhrel was welcomes amidst a program held in Pokhara

Photo: Binod Pariyar, Pokhara

and selfless propensity. He also said that the civil society honor conferred on the government servant bears exceptional significance.

At the program, the newly assigned chief, Dr. Tikaram Pokhrel, was welcomed to the Commission by the organizers. Outgoing chief of NHRC Pokhara Office Mr. Adhikari expressed his appreciation to the human rights team of Pokhara, whereas Tikaram

Pokhrel, the new chief, expressed his enthusiasm to have got the opportunity to work with the Pokhara NHRC team.

The program was facilitated by Taramaya Thapa Magar while the representatives of the civil society and human rights activists network Ram Bahadur Poudel, Khagraj Acharya, Nandakala Nepali, Deviram Sharma, Sashi Tulachan, and Prawata Dhiraj spoke on the occasion.



Message by Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai on the occasion of the 14th Anniversary of the NHRC

On the occasion of the 14th Anniversary of the National Human Rights Commission, I would like to hereby extend my hearty wishes to all the Nepalese citizens, victims and their families, brothers and sisters.

Today, the Commission would like to commemorate its anniversary as the milestone established as the result of the landmark civil society movement for the respect and protection of human rights. The major duty of the Commission is to protect and promote human rights and also to ensure for the respect of human rights and their realization. The Commission as the constitutional body has been, as mandated, advancing the process of the incidents of human rights violation due to pervasive discrimination, gender inequality, killing, violence, social and economical discrimination in society through dialogue, discussion, studies, investigation including monitoring and sending the recommendations to the Government of Nepal (GoN) for the reparation and compensation to the victims and legal action against the perpetrators.

With the changing economic and social transformation, the entire

world including Nepal has been experiencing widespread change in human relationships among one another in recent years. At the same time, livelihood including human dignity has been left with bad impact due to various reasons such as the rapidly increasing population, unemployment, migration and poverty. A huge number of competent youth force have been migrating to foreign land and struggling against extreme hardships over there.

Albeit, the Nepalese society has seen infinite advancement in the field of communication and technology, it still endures in the whirlpool of incidents such as human trafficking, violence against women, ghastly racial discrimination, killing and violence and above all the state of impunity as the by-product of all these is acutely horrifying.

Government of Nepal has been implementing the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) bearing the responsibility to foster respect, protection, promotion and reparation by gradually ratifying the vital international human rights treaties and conventions one after another.

On this auspicious day, therefore, we all are hopeful that Nepal, in few years of time, will be expediting towards positive direction for developing human rights based approach and human rights culture upon bringing about improvement in the field of the human rights protection and promotion in the country .

In this regard, I call upon all concerned parties to move ahead hand in hand to necessarily inculcate concerted efforts

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for the protection and promotion of human rights of the people at home and those scattered in every nook and corner of the world thereby establishing human rights as universal rights in practical term.

Lastly, on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the Commission, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to international community and all fellow citizens and appeal for alerting for impartiality, independence and autonomy of the Commission with due respect, confidence, harmony and magnanimity shown towards the Commission.

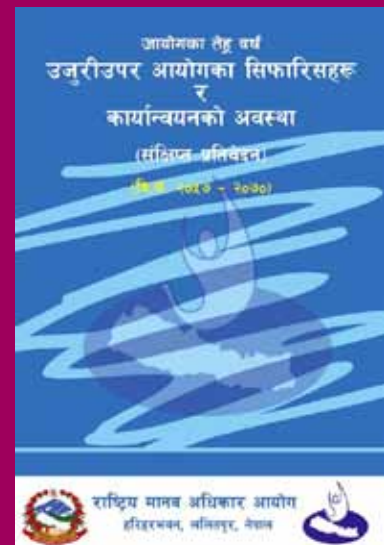
Recent NHRC Publications



Report on Education & Health Rights-2014



Report on CA Election Monitoring-2014



A Brief Report on the Implementation Status of NHRC Recommendations of 13 years



Speech delivered by NHRC Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai on the occasion of the 14th Anniversary of the NHRC, 2014

It's been 14 years since the National Human Rights Commission was established and we have gathered here today to celebrate this occasion. Today is also the day for rejoicing the glorious achievement resulted from the vibrant Civil Society's movement for the respect, protection and promotion of human rights in Nepal. Human rights is the concern of not only those active in this field but it is the common concern of those in state operating system including all

SARY OF NHRC

common citizens. Today, on behalf of the Commission, I extend my best wishes to all the Nepalese citizens on the occasion.

It's been seven years now that Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) was signed for long term peace, justice and reconciliation giving an end to the armed struggle launched by the then CPN Maoists. Following this, thousands of Nepalese are still waiting for the transitional justice delivery. Similarly, entire Nepalese society is expecting the dawn of new constitution framed through the Constituent Assembly that would pave ways for sustainable peace and the process of development leading to the perceptive improvement in an environment where human rights are enjoyed to optimum. All the Nepalese are hopeful that, respecting the people's long nurtured expectation, the present government elected through the people's mandate would achieve success towards this direction.

Indeed, no country is perfect in the protection and respect of human rights. This problem appears seemingly complex and challenging where developing nations or least developed nations have to endure poverty, unemployment including

impunity taking shelter at the helm of politics. Though the rule of law is the foundation of human rights, the situation sometimes is such that all laws can't be human rights friendly. It is therefore necessary to see from the perspective of whether or not the prevalent laws seeking to redress the transitional justice would work as panacea for the delivery of justice to the victims. Under the circumstances that the Rome Statute of International Criminal Court hasn't been yet ratified, it is crystal clear that justice, respect for human rights and the rule of law would become downright mockery if in the present situation, the incidents of human rights violations are settled with mere departmental action entertained without giving any space to the environment of reconciliation. It is, thus, way better to deviate the attention towards such situation which might be counter-productive for the political parties and peace loving Nepalese people committed to struggling for democracy and human rights.

We all know that the Commission has been without the officials for the past eight months now. Despite this, the Commission has given impetus to sending of the recommendations to the concerned authorities based on the information obtained through investigation, education, awareness raising or the monitoring on the issues of human rights violations pursuant to the mandates provisioned by the constitution. The Commission successfully accomplished on-the-spot monitoring of the entire electoral process of Constituent Assembly election through human rights perspectives in all 75 districts of the country last November. The CA election monitoring report has just been made public by the hand of the Rt. Honorable Officiating Prime Minister. It may be noted that this

monitoring was extremely rewarding from the perspective of civil and political rights.

Also, equally important is the matter of the situation related to the increasing unemployment in Nepal and human rights protection of millions of Nepalese and their families flocking together into the countries in Middle East as migrant workers. In this context, National Human Rights Committee of Qatar and the Chairs of the NHRIs of the Asia Pacific Region have been formally requested from time to time for the effective monitoring on the rights of Nepalese migrant workers stationed in Qatar and the recent decision drawn by Qatar in this concern is indeed commendable. Similarly, the Commission has expressed its view for the first time in UN Human Rights Committee, Geneva with regard to the human rights situation in Nepal and the efforts inculcated from the Government and the existing challenges to be surmounted over.

The Commission has been advancing in close coordination and collaboration with the Judges Society-Nepal, National Judicial Academy, Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers and other state actors, Nepal Police, Civil Society Organizations including other organizations and agencies working in the field of human rights with an objective to take every human rights concern with due seriousness.

In the same process, the Commission will gradually have necessary coordination and collaboration with Social Justice and Human Rights Committee of the Legislature-Parliament and other prototype committees in near future based at their request.

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14th Anniversary of NHRC...

Urging the government to ratify the Rome Statute of ICC, he went on to mention that it is crystal clear that justice, respect for human rights and the rule of law would become downright mockery if in the present situation, the incidents of human rights violations are settled with mere departmental action entertained without giving any space to the environment of reconciliation.

Adding that the Commission has expressed its view for the first time in UN Human Rights Council, Geneva with regard to the human rights situation in Nepal and the efforts inculcated from the Government and the existing challenges to be surmounted over, he reminded that the Commission has been successful to maintain its accreditation status under 'A' category on the basis of the decision of the Supreme Court.

Speaking on the occasion, UN Resident Coordinator Jamie McGoldrick called on the government to abide by the Supreme Court's order issued last year, which ensures autonomy and independence of NHRC.



Human Rights Defender Dr. Karna Baniya receiving Dayaram Pariyar HR award from Rt. Hon. OPM Gautam at a program held on the occasion of 14th NHRC Day, 2014

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

Underscoring the Commission holding an 'A' Status fully in compliance with the Paris Principles, Mr McGoldrick urged the government to do all possible in their powers to help the NHRC to maintain 'A' status.

Commending the NHRC work accomplished despite 50% of the existing work force since September last year when the office term of the Commissioners expired, he stressed on early appointment of the NHRC officials based on the norms that ensure fair, inclusive and transparent selection process as per the Paris Principles.

He also laid his emphasis on the implementation of the past UPR recommendations on the pertinent human rights issues.

Meanwhile, Officiating Prime Minister Bamdev Gautam conferred 'Dayaram Pariyar Human Rights Honor' on the human rights defenders duo Dr. Karna Baniya and Ms Sharda Chand. On the occasion, expressing gratitude for giving away the human rights award for their contribution in the

field of human rights, both the awardees further expressed their commitment to wholeheartedly continue the work in the field of human rights, as always.

Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Chand Tara, Chair of the National Women's Commission said that women being



Human Rights Defender Ms Sharda Chand receiving Dayaram Pariyar HR award from Rt. Hon. OPM Gautam at a program held on the occasion of 14th NHRC Day, 2014

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

the victims of prevalent ill culture in society, they are exploited in many forms. 'The government should work upon having the strategies to give an end to social ill culture existed as social taboo together with pervasive impunity,' she added.

Urging the government to give the NWC the status of constitutional body, she called on the government to address the issues of women's rights in would-be framed new constitution.

The senior vice chair of NGO Federation Gopal Nath Yogi said that the completeness in the government ensures the protection of rights violation while on the other hand, much awaited appointment of the NHRC official has been the paramount concern at the moment. He also drew the attention of the Government towards due fulfillment of the people's economic, social and cultural rights.

NHRC Director Subarna Karmachary delivered the welcome address on the occasion while promotion and Advocacy division head Surya Deuja facilitated the program.

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Concern expressed over...

and to pay full prescribed amount of compensation to the kin of victims, if not yet paid.

The Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers has been corresponded on July 15, 2012 as per the dispatch no. 1 and investigation

record file number 466 for the implementation of the decision.

The wife of late Muktinath Adhikari has already received Rs 4,50,000 (Rs four hundred fifty thousand only) in three installments from the District Administration office as per the detail information mentioned in the letter dated January 9, 2013 and dispatch

no 170 sent to the Commission by the Police Head Quarter.

The Commission urges the Government of Nepal once again to implement the NHRC recommendations and also requests to verify the media report from the concerned media with due seriousness paid to the subject matter.

Monitoring taps Impetus on Women's Human Rights

SINDHUPALCHOK: National Human Rights Commission has recently monitored human rights situation of women from Sindhupalchok district. Monitoring report has revealed different facades of women rights in Sindhupalchok district.

The report has drawn a picture of political participation of women in the political arena of district. Quoting a secondary source of data the report says that the involvement of women in the district committee of Nepali Congress, Community Party of Nepal (United Marxist and Leninist), Maoist Party, United Maoist Party and Ratriya Prajantra Party are seen 28.57 per cent, 26.98, 11.11 per cent, 10.52 and 25.92 respectively.

According to the report, Sindhupalchok district witnessed 37 cases regarding the violence of women's rights last year. Most of cases were related to trafficking, killing, rape and different

forms of domestic violence.

The report has also talked about women's education scenario. The report observes 51.88 per cent of women are literate and 40 percent of women are yet to be educated in the district.

The report has also thrown light on discrimination prevailing on schooling pattern of boys and girls. It says, "Most sons are being admitted in boarding schools whereas daughters are being admitted in the government owned public schools. General perception is that public schools are relatively poor in delivering better education."

Land ownership is one of the areas that NHRC has monitored in Sindhupalchok. Data received by monitoring team suggests that a total of 6464 items of land were transacted



Finnish Project Manager Subash Shiwakoti facilitating a session on rights of rural women among the women participants of Sindhupalchok district

Photo: Krishna Shrestha, Central Office

last year. Of them, 1357 items were registered in women's name and 399 items of land came under joint ownership.

The monitoring team visited Pangretar, Barabise, Sangachok, Tatopani, Chautara Village Development Committees (VDCs) and district headquarter. Also, the team consulted with government officials, human right activists including women's rights activists, health workers, security forces, general public among others in the course of collecting information.

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Speech delivered by NHRC Acting Secretary...

This year, the Commission has carried out study as well as monitoring on air service in the interior part of the country including Karnali, the right to freedom of movement, right to education, right to health, right to occupation and right to access to justice of the people of that region and the impact left on their lives and good governance. The report of the same will be made public soon. Likewise, a well equipped communication unit has been established under the purview of the Commission to bring the NHRC activities before public and to bring about awareness on all spheres of human rights. Together with this, the Commission is going to introduce its communication policy in near future.

Of late, the responses with clear view of the Commission have been sent to the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC-SCA) with regard the queries and concerns raised on impartiality, independence and autonomy of the Commission. I would also like to remind here that the Commission has been successful to maintain its accreditation status under 'A' category on the basis of the decision of the Supreme Court dispensed on August 1, 2013. It is, therefore, necessary on the part of the Government of Nepal to always have positive notion towards impartial, independent and autonomous

Commission as per the norms and values of human rights enshrined in the Paris Principle different in existence from other administrative authorities in terms of financial and administrative independence.

Last but not the least, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Rt. Hon. Officiating Prime Minister including all the guests for your solidarity and for accepting our invitation to be the part of celebration despite busy schedule. I would also like to extend my special thanks to entire member staff of the Commission for their wholehearted participation to make this program a success.

Rights of Rural Women monitored

NUWAKOT: A NHRC team comprising human rights officers Sarita Gyawali and Hari Gyawali carried out monitoring on the rural women's human rights enshrined in the article 14 of CEDAW in Nuwakot district.

During the monitoring, the team consulted with the district level Government stake holders such as Chief District Officer, representatives of the Women Development Office, District Police Office, District Education Office, District Agriculture Office and District Public Health Office respectively and collected the information with regard to the status of district level rural women.

In the process of motoring, the team organized consultation meeting,



Human Rights Officers Hari Gyawali and Sarita Gyawali facilitating a program held on the rights of rural women in Nuwakot district

Photo: Ram Sharan Shrestha, Central Office

focus groups discussion with women from both urban and village such as Somari VDC, Kalyanpur, Devighat' ChaughadaVDC, Okharpauwa VDC including Bidur Municipality. The team also consulted with single women groups as well as with the women of cross section of society like Tamang, Chhetri, Brahmin, Dalit, Rai, Magar

and so on during the monitoring. The team briefed about the provision set forth in the CEDAW article 14. The presentation was followed by the comprehensive discussions were held on education, health, training, status of implementation of the national budget segregated specially for women and excluded castes.

Protect Right to Life through Dialogue and Consensus

LALITPUR: The NHRC has expressed deep concern over the incident of fast-onto-death staged by Scout Leaders duo Gunraj Pyakurel and Ramila Nagarkoti of Progressive Action Committee for the past 16 days and 13 days respectively.

The team deployed by the Commission carried out on-the-spot monitoring on health condition including the protection of right to life of the scout

leaders of Nepal Scout who have been staging hunger strike as part of their protest to press the government to address their demands including the improvement of internal management of Nepal Scout.

During the monitoring, it was found that the agitating Scout leaders showed no sign to call off their hunger strike, as the concerned party hasn't shown any concern to find a solution to the

crisis. On the other hand, their health condition has been found worsening due to their denial to receive medical treatment.

The Commission has, therefore, urged the concerned party to resolve the crisis at the earliest and protect the lives of the agitators through talks and dialogue.

NHRC to conceive Strategic Plan

KATHMANDU: National Human Rights Commission has organized an initial discussion meeting on the formulation of its fifth Strategic Plan for 2015 -2019 on April 27, 2014. On the occasion, Acting Secretary Mr. Bed Prasad Bhattarai stated that the fifth Strategic Plan should be prepared in new pattern including the newly identified human rights issues in changed context.

Second round of intensive consultation

meeting in this regard was held to identify the priority issues for the new Strategic Plan at Gokarna Resort on May 9 – 11, 2014. Speaking at the inaugural session of the meeting, Acting Secretary Mr. Bhattarai expressed his views that the Strategic Plan should be able to guide all the programs, policies and activities of the Commission. At the program, National Project Manager of Strengthening the Capacity of National Human Rights Commission Ms. Sadhana Ghimire

stated that the new strategy would focus on newly identified priority areas as per the guidelines formulated by the meeting.

At the program, Policy, Research and Planning Division head Mr. Jaya Shor Chapagain threw light on the emerging and priority issues of human rights for the upcoming Strategic Plan. The meeting concluded identifying priority issues to be included for the upcoming Strategic Plan 2014- 2019.

NHRC Day Observed in Jumla

JUMLA: National Human Rights Commission Sub-regional Office, Jumla observed NHRC's 14th anniversary by organizing different activities.

Speaking on the occasion Chief Guest Surendra Bir Singh Basnet (chief judge of Appellate Court, Jumla) stressed on the need of rule of law in the country.

Distinguished guests like Abdul Aziz Musalman (judge of Appellate Court, Jumla), Ram Prasad Sharma, (judge of District Court, Jumla), Vishnu



The regional Head of Sub regional Office Jumla Rajendra P Neupane and participants at a refreshment program held on the eve of the NHRC day in Jumla district.

Photo: NHRC Sub-Regional Office, Jumla

Bahadur Thapa (CDO of Jumla), Netra Bahadur Shah (journalist), Amber Singh Budhthapa (political activist), were among the speakers at the program.

46 people representing governmental and non-governmental organizations including those of security forces, media, and human rights defenders were present on the occasion.

Development Actors trained on Human Rights

MUGU: The NHRC Sub Regional Office organized a two day human rights training program in Mugu district.

The participants of the program comprised the representatives of the District Administration Office, District Police Office, District Court, District Forest Office, Agriculture Development Office, District level

Election Commission, District Health Office, District Education Office, Revenue Committee, and various other bodies of Nepal government.

The objective of the training was to impart the knowledge of human rights including the sense of security and civic to the staff of the respective offices so that they can practice human rights in their respective areas of work.

Facilitated by Head of NHRC Sub-Regional Office Jumla Rajendra Neupane, the program was attended by the District Attorney of Mugu Narendra Devkota, Assistant Chief District Officer of Mugu district ToranParajuli.

This program covered 7 important topics and 10 other sub-topics. Human Rights and its retention, the functions and duties of the Commission, laws related to national and international human rights, public responsibility, role of judiciary in the protection of human rights, role of non-governmental organization in the protection of human rights, national and international mechanisms related to human rights, role of coordination between governmental and non-governmental bodies including national human rights action place (NHRAP) were some of the issues that were discussed comprehensively. The program was divided into three parts where two issues were worked in teams.



Resource persons and participants at human rights training organized among the representatives of the Dev. Actors in Mugu district

Photo: NHRC Sub-Regional Office, Jumla

Glimpses of the Program organized to mark the 14th Anniversary of NHRC, 2014



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