



Newsletter



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Human Remains of Godar Victims handed over: Last Rites performed

JANAKPUR: The Nepal Police has handed over the human remains of five persons to the concerned families amidst a program held at the NHRC Regional Office, Janakpur on 23rd July, 2014.

DSP Dilip Ghimire of Nepal Police of Janakpur district handed over the remains of 5 victims to their families at the presence of Acting Secretary of NHRC, Former Commissioners, CDO of Dhanusha district, Victims' families, political leaders and civil society representatives. The last rite of the human remains of 5 youths including Sanjeev Kumar Karn, then aged 25, Durgesh Labh-20, Jitendra Jha-25, Shailendra Yadav-23 and Pramod Mandal-25, was performed on the same day.



The written record of the human remains being processed at the presence of the NHRC Officials before handing over the same to the kin of victims

Photo: Janak Raj BHatta, Central Office

18, 2010 while the second phase of exhumation was performed from February 13 to 16, 2010, as per the report made public amidst a program held during the handing over of the human remains to the concerned family members of the victims.

Prior to handing over the human remains, NHRC organized a press meet at its Regional Office, Janakpur in which Acting Secretary Bed Prasad

Continued on page 4

Godar Exhumation

Earlier, the NHRC had conducted exhumation at the site near Kamala River in Tallo Godar VDC-3 of Dhanusha district in two phases. The first phase of exhumation was conducted from September 6 to



Victims killed and buried at the bank of Kamala River, Tallo Godar VDC, Dhanusha

File Photo

Photo features in page 12

CONTENTS PAGE

Human Remains of Godar Victims..	1
Government corresponded for.....	2
Safeguarding the Rights	2
Sort out the Problems.....	3
Remains of Godar Victims	3
Persons with Disability.....	3
A Brief Report	5
Consumer Rights Situation.....	7
NHRC inaugurates media center.....	8
NHRC Official participated.....	10
NHRC-Qatar Efforts lauded.....	11
Interaction taps impetus.....	11
Images of Godar Incident.....	12

IN THIS ISSUE

Government corresponded for the Protection of the Rights of Senior Citizens

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission has written to the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers recommending for initiatives for safeguarding the rights of senior citizens. The Government has been corresponded on the basis of the monitoring conducted by the Commission on the rights of senior citizens.

The letter sent to Government mentions that though there have been constitutional and legal provisions that safeguard the rights senior citizens, they haven't been implemented appropriately.

It has been urged through the letter, therefore, to adequately raise the

social security allowance that the senior citizens are entitled to for their living. Also, it is urged to manage for the distribution of the senior citizen allowance in such a way that the senior citizens residing in senior citizen homes and remote parts of the country receive the same in a convenient manner.

The letter further reads, 'There needs to be prompt and effective monitoring on whether or not the senior citizens are receiving concessions they are entitled to in public vehicles, health services, religious and public places, including drinking water, electricity, telephone and other essential public services, as per the Senior Citizens Act 2007.

'There is dire need to formulate senior citizens welfare committee at central, and district levels, and the senior citizens welfare fund, as per Sections 13, 15 and 17, of the above Act respectively for their effective implementation,' the letter further reads.

It is also mentioned in the letter sent to the OPMCM that there is need to rehabilitate the elderly individuals in violence and those abandoned by the family and also to arrange necessary health care facilities and other psychological treatment for such senior citizens.

Earlier, the Commission had sent the recommendations dated September 27, 2012 urging the Government to amend the Senior Citizens 2007 Act, so as to criminalize the act of abandoning senior citizens by their family.

Pressure mounted to safeguard the Rights of Senior Citizens

LALITPUR: The Commission has been monitoring on the situation of human rights of senior citizens in various parts of the country. Placing various demands before, the senior citizens have been staging sit in program at Min Bhavan, Kathmandu for a long time now.

Despite the Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007, Senior Citizens Act, 2006, Senior Citizens Regulations, 2009 and Human Right National Action Plan have provisioned that senior citizens will be entitled to social security, during (our) monitoring, implementation of these provisions have been found to be bleak. The Government of Nepal therefore needs to immediately arrange the following provisions:

- Increase the social security allowance the old age people are entitled to and make their living adequate and also make arrangement for the convenient distribution of the allowance to the citizens taking shelter in old age homes and in the remote part of the country.
- Issue directives to the concerned authorities to address the problems faced by the elderly citizens such as the deprivation of the citizenship and the social security allowance due to their migration.
- Build a mechanism for prompt and effective monitoring on the provisions laid out for the senior citizens to receive concessions, reservations and facilities they are entitled to in public vehicles, health services, religious and public places, including drinking water, electricity, telephone and other essential public services, as per the section 9 of the Senior Citizens Act 2007.
- Effectively implement or cause to implement the provisions set forth for the establishment and operation of the senior citizens welfare committee at central, and district levels, and the senior citizens welfare fund, as per Sections 13, 15 and 17 of the Senior Citizens Act respectively.
- Implement or cause to implement the provisions meeting the minimum standard to establish and operate the government and institutionally owned old age homes since the NHRC monitoring has found most

of the old age homes do not meet the required standard.

- Rehabilitate the abandoned elderly citizens languishing in the street due to various reasons.
- Develop the mechanisms and implement or cause to implement them to rehabilitate the elderly individuals in violence and those discarded by the family and also to arrange necessary health care facilities and other psychological treatment for such senior citizens.
- Implement the NHRC recommendations dated September 27, 2012 and amend the Senior Citizens 2007 Act relating to protection and promotion of rights of senior citizens and their society security so as to criminalize the act of abandoning senior citizens by their family among others.
- The Commission has therefore, urged to implement the above mentioned provisions and intimate the Commission as per the decision drawn on July 8, 2014 pursuant to section 17 of NHRC Act, 2012.

Sort out the Problems at KIST Medical College: NHRC

LALITPUR: Having the serious attention of the National Human Rights Commission drawn to the inconvenience caused due to the agitation launched by the students of Kist Medical College of Lalitpur district with their demands placed forth for the last few days, the Commission has issued a press release.

Press release says that the team comprising human rights officers has monitored the situation. As per the preliminary report, the teaching and learning process of the college has been brought to grinding halt, the boarders at college hostels have been given 24 hour ultimatum to evacuate the hostel with the main gate kept locked. Following this, the students have been facing problems as they are debarred to enter into the college premises. Owing to the uncomfortable

situation emerged, therefore, the patients visiting the hospital have been facing difficulty in receiving the health services.

Similarly, heavy deployment of police personnel at the college premises has sent negative message among the general public seeking health treatment, the report unveils, the press release further says.

The Commission has, therefore, urged the Ministry of Health and Population, Tribhuvan University, Nepal Medical Council, KIST management and all concerned including all the concerned parties to immediately resolve all the issues keeping in mind the students' fundamental rights to education and citizens' right to receive medical treatment, the press release reads, as per the press release.

Remains of Godar Victims identified

LALITPUR: Exhumed in 2010, the remains of the Godar victims have been examined and identified in Laboratory of Biology Department of Forensic Medicine Hjel Institute University of Helsinki, Finland. It is confirmed that those remains belonged to five youths namely Sanjeev Karn, Durgesh Labh, Jitendra Jha, Pramod Narayan Mandla and Shailendra Yadav of Janakpur. They were reportedly missing after the security force had allegedly taken them under custody on October 8, 2003.

In regard to handing over those remains to their kin, a discussion was held at the NHRC conference hall among the human rights defenders, legal professional and the civil society leaders.

The suggestions were provided during the discussion that the high level officials of Government of Nepal be present during the time of handing over the remains to their kins as per the Exhumation Guidelines 2012 adopted by the Commission, arrangement be made for the reparation to the families of the victims and legal action be taken against the accused ensuring justice to the victims' families. The above incidents being related to the transitional justice and victims' right to receive justice, the Commission urges the Government of Nepal to address the incident appropriately.

At the program, former NHRC members Gauri Pradhan, Sushil Pyakurel, Sudip Pathak, and rights activists Charan Prasain, Subodh Pyakurel, Kanak Mani Dixit, Govinda Sharma Bandi, Bishnu Pukar Shrestha, Bhawani Kharel, Dr. Gopal Siwakoti, Devi Sunar and Pradip Pokhrel were present.

Persons with Disability express their Woes



Participating persons with disability after attending the training session held in Khotang

Photo: Sub-Regional Office, Khotang

At the training, the participants shared the problems being faced by the people with disability. Degrading behavior from the society, even by the government offices, lack of friendly physical infrastructures for people with disability were some of the problems the participants shared at the program.

KHOTANG: NHRC Sub-regional Office, (Khotang) has conducted training on the rights of people with disability in Khotang.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the training, Govinda Sapkota, Chief District Officer (CDO) of Khotang, said that Nepal Government has been making every effort for the rights of people with disability.

The training also focused on rights of people with disability including national and international legal provisions that ensure rights of aforesaid people.

The training was facilitated by Loknath Ghimire, head of NHRC Sub-Regional Office (Khotang) and Madhav Bharati, central member of National Federation of The Disabled, Nepal.



Exhumation team taking the measurement of the excavated burial site upon discovering the skeleton of the fifth victim at the bank of Kamala River, Godar VDC-3, Dhanusha

Photo: File Photo

Chief District Officer of Dhanusha District Rewati Raj Kafle upon confirming their alleged involvement in the incident of such grave human rights violations including extra judicial killing.

Representing the victims' families, Rajeev Karn, brother of Sanjeev Karn appreciated the role of NHRC and other human rights organizations and strongly demanded for the legal justice. The

Bhattarai presented a synopsis of the final report on the Godar Incident at the presence of political leaders, former ministers of Nepal government, human rights defenders, former NHRC Commissioners, journalists, victims' families, government representatives including Nepal Police and local residents and the staff members of the NHRC.

Releasing its final report on the case related to the extra judicial killing in Janakpur on Wednesday, NHRC said the scientific tests conducted with evidences collected from the exhumation site indicate that SLR guns were used to kill the five individuals. The report mentions that the killing could have been an act of the then Royal Nepal Army as it was the only security force possessing SLR weapons at that time.

A Forensic Anthropology Report sent from the Helsinki University, Finland confirmed that the causes of death of five individuals are multiple gunshot wounds to the vertebral columns and skulls respectively. The manner of death of five individuals is homicide in which the victims were shot by others using rifled firearms, the report confirmed.

At the program, Acting Secretary Bhattarai clearly stated that it was a big achievement for the national rights body in terms of establishing the truth eventually leading to a milestone for transitional justice process.

He added that NHRC will mount pressure on the Government for the legal action against the erstwhile officers of the then Royal Nepal Army and the Government Officials including Senior Superintendent of Police Chuda Bahadur Shrestha. Regional Police Unit Office-Janakpur, District Superintendent of Police Kuber Singh Rana of Dhanusha district, Major Anup Adhikari of Dharapani Army Barrack of number 9 Field Battalion, and the

other participants in the program representing NHRC were SCNHRM NPM Sadhana Ghimire, NHRC Deputy Directors duo Yagya Prasad Adhikari and Koshraj Neupane, Officiating Head of Janakpur RO Buddha Narayan Sahani, HROs Basudev Bajagain, Shyam Babu Kafle and Regam Maharjan.

At the program, former NHRC Commissioners Ram Nagina Singh, Gauri Pradhan and Sushil Pyakurel, Political leaders and former Deputy Prime Minister and Ministers of Government of Nepal Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Dev Bahadur Gurung, Matrika Prasad Yadav and human rights activists were also present.



The sealed human remains being handed over to Nepal Police prior to sending them for DNA test

Photo: File Photo

A Brief NHRC Report on the Godar Exhumation

July 23, 2014, Janakpur



NHRC Acting secretary reading the brief final report on the exhumation case at a press meet held at Janakpur

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

1. Background

A complaint was lodged at the Commission by one of the victims' family member Jay Kishor Labh in connection with the disappearance of Sanjeev Kumar Karn of Janakpur Municipality, Ward-10 of Dhanusha district, Durgesh Labh, Jitendra Jha (alias Machchali) of Ward-4, Pramod Narayan Mandal of Kurtha VDC-1, Shailendra Yadav of Duhabi VDC-7 on October 8, 2003 after they were arrested by the security force from Kataiyachauri situated at Biswakarma Chok of Janakpur Municipality, Ward-4 of Dhanusha district.

With regard to this, as per the decision drawn on January 29, 2008, the Commission had recommended to the Government of Nepal (GoN) for the legal action against erstwhile Senior Superintendent of Police Chuda Bahadur Shrestha, Superintendent of Police Kuber Singh Rana, Major Anup Adhikari of Dharapani Army Barrack of Number 9 Field Battalion, and the Chief District Officer of Dhanusha District Rewati Raj Kafle upon confirming their alleged involvement in the incident of human rights violations including extra judicial killing on the basis of the investigation conducted by the NHRC.

As of today, the Government of Nepal has provided NRs. three hundred

thousand each to the victims' families and additional NRs. one hundred thousand entitled to the conflict victims as the relief and reparation on the basis of the NHRC recommendations. Similarly, NRs. 40,000/-each has been provided to the victims' families by the Government at the presence of the Commission on July 20, 2014 enabling them to perform the after-death rituals of the victims.

2. Exhumation of Dead Bodies and the Facts Discovered

- In this regard, District Attorney of Dhanusha district had, upon the registration of the complaints by the victims' families, issued directives to the District Police Office, Dhanusha on November 25, 2009 to advance the investigation with exhumation of the dead bodies of five youths which were said to have been buried at the bank of Kamala River situated in Tallo Godar VDC, ward-3 of Dhanusha district as per the NHRC investigation report. In line with the decision resolved on August 12, 2010, therefore, the Commission had sent a letter to the Ministry of Home Affairs of GoN to give the directives to the Nepal Police and to allow NHRC to seek assistance from the national and

international experts to advance the exhumation the dead bodies of those five youths at the suspected burial site.

- In this regard, a discussion was held at the Commission with the Home Minister of GoN and high level government officials of GoN including Attorney General, Chief Secretary of GoN, Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Home Secretary, Secretary of Ministry of Law and Justice, Inspector General of Police of Nepal Police and the decision was reached on September 3, 2010 followed by another discussion held with human rights defenders and Civil Society members on September 4, 2010 for the due commencement of the exhumation work at Tallo Godar.

The first phase of exhumation was done on September 6-18, 2010 at Tallo Godar and four dead bodies were exhumed by the NHRC led-team comprising the national and international experts and Nepal Police. The second phase of exhumation was carried out on February 13-16, 2011 and remaining one dead body was exhumed.

Godar Exhumation

- By digging the trench scientifically, exhumation was carried out to unearth the human remains at the places where five corpses were suspected to have been buried. In this process, a total of 64 trenches, 9 extensions and 4 blocks had been excavated at the suspected sites.
- As the DNA of all five human remains had to be tested upon exhumation, blood samples was collected from 19 kins including father and mother of the youths who were suspected to have been killed prior to their burial.
- The human remains of all five dead bodies were examined at the Forensic Department of Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, Maharajgunj while the DNA test was performed in Laboratory of Biology Department of Forensic Medicine Hjelt Institute University of Helsinki, Finland. The deceased

persons have been identified on the basis of the comparative analysis of the DNA groups collected from the kins of the victims received from the National Forensic Laboratory of GoN, with the DNA test report sent from the Helsinki, Finland.

Analysis of the DNA test Report is as follows:

1. DNA of sample of exhumed Body 1 matched with the DNA of biological mother Bimala Devi by 99.8521 %. Hence, the human remains of Body 1 is identified as Sanjeev Kumar Karn.
2. DNA of sample of exhumed Body 2 matched with the DNA of biological mother Indira Jha by 99.9966 %. Hence, the human remains of Body 2 is identified as Jitendra Jha.
3. DNA of sample of exhumed Body 3 matched with the DNA of biological father Bouye Ram Yadav by 99.9998 %. Hence, the human remains of Body 3 is identified as Shailendra Yadav.

the Central Police Science and Technology Laboratory.

- Four out of five skulls of the human remains had their eyes in blindfolded condition while one human remains appeared to have been beheaded since it was discovered without skull.
- The Forensic Anthropology Report prepared by the experts upon examinations has unveiled the causes of death of the five (5) individuals to be multiple gunshot wounds to the vertebral columns and skulls respectively. The manner of death of the five (5) individuals is homicide; the persons were shot by others using rifle firearms.
- Upon having consultation with the victims' families following the identification of all deceased, the Commission, keeping in mind the protection of the cultural rights of the victims' families as per the section 4 (c) of chapter 7 of National Human Rights Commission Exhumation

Godar Exhumation

4. DNA of sample of exhumed Body 4 matched with the DNA of biological father Ramautar Mandal by 99.9998 %. Hence, the human remains of Body 4 is identified as Pramod Narayan Mandal.
5. DNA of sample of exhumed Body 5 matched with the DNA of biological mother Gayatri Devi Karn by 99.5671 %. Hence, the human remains of Body 5 is identified as Durgesh Labh.

- The evidence of collected ballistic (ammunitions) was examined at

Guidelines-2012, decided to hold the last rites of the deceased as early

as possible on July 23, 2014, Wednesday coinciding the day of their disappearance as per the formal request received from the victims' families. Thus, the government has made this arrangement to hand over the human remains of all five victims to the families at Devi Chok, Janakpur today as per the directives of the Commission.

3. Conclusion

- It has been, therefore, proved from the NHRC investigation and made

public that all five disappeared persons were taken under control by the security force and allegedly killed with gunshots.

- Since the Forensic Anthropology Report prepared by the experts has been furnished with the causes of death of the five (5) individuals to be multiple gunshot wounds to the vertebral columns and skulls respectively and the manner of death of the five (5) individuals is homicide; the persons were shot by others using rifled firearms, it is now evident that the all five persons under the control of the security force were allegedly shot and killed.
- The bullet casings were discovered at the burial site from where the human remains were exhumed. Therefore, it is proved that all five persons were killed with bullet shots at the burial site only.
- Since those found with skulls were killed blindfolded and both hands tied at the back, the deed is proved to have been premeditated which is serious violation of human rights and therefore, such an act comes under the heinous crimes against humanity as per the International Humanitarian Law.
- The police investigation into the bullet casings found at the incident site has indicated that Self Loading Rifle (SLR) was used to kill the victims. The killing could have been an act of Nepal Army as it was the only security force possessing SLR weapons at the time of the incident. Therefore, it indicates that, evidently, the then Royal Nepal Army was directly involved in the act.
- Since, the facts received prior to exhumation serve as the proof with the NHRC recommendations sent to the GoN earlier on January 29, 2008, the persons involved in committing such criminal offense must be brought to justice without any delay.
- Ensuring the rights of the victims' families to perform the last rites of their beloved ones, further initiatives must be made for the reparation, justice and respect for those killed.



Kin of one of the Godar victims sharing about the aftermath plight and trauma they had to undergo following the killing of his brother

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

Continued on page 9

Consumer Rights Situation: Achievement and Challenges reviewed



Bishnu Timilsina, the human rights expert, making his presentation on the rights situation of the commuters of far-west region of the country

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

LALITPUR: Coinciding the day of the formal adoption of the Consumer Rights Monitoring Guidelines in the past, a program on the situation of consumer rights was organized jointly by the National Human Rights Commission and the Consumer Rights Protection Forum on 28th July, 2014 at NHRC.

Chaired by the NHRC Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai, the program aimed at assessing the rights situation of the consumers with focus on the state accountability and responsibility of the citizens.

He strongly urged the government agencies including the consumer rights activists to follow the consumer guidelines duly ensuring the better production and service delivery. He also made it clear that in the event of the violation of human rights in terms of the consumer rights the Commission would intervene the de-facto consumer rights situation.

Civil servants, on the other hand, are equally active and alert for the implementation of human rights of consumers, he laid his emphasis.

Welcoming the participants representing various consumer rights organizations, officials from both state and non-state actors including the media persons, Deputy Director and the Head of the Investigation and Planning Division Yagya Prasad Adhikari threw light on the objective and rationale of the program. Also, shedding light on the historical background of the ESC rights including the consumer rights, Mr. Adhikari said that state can't possibly deviate from their responsibility and should be accountable to protect the rights of consumers.

He added that there has been paradigm shift from the notion of buyers be aware to sellers be aware. The Economic and Social and Cultural rights were focused minimally during the armed conflict in the country as because the civil and political rights were the main concern of authorities and the human rights stakeholders, he said.

Though the consumer rights is at high risk until today, it still staggers due to the slackness of the civil society and the other NGOs working in the

field of the consumers rights and the organizations like consumer rights protection forum is the exception in this regard, he unveiled.

During the program, Bishnu Timilsina presented research findings conducted by NHRC on the air traffic situation in remote districts of Nepal with focus on human rights perspective. The presentation mainly brought up the issues related to the pervasive problems in air service in the remote parts of the country. While presenting the dismal situation of air services in the interior part of the country, he pointed out some remedial solutions to the problems as well with due focus on the human rights of the people living in remote areas which are affected by the situation of air transportation.

On the occasion, the participants representing various organizations including Suprabhat Bhandari, Nar Bahadur Limbu, Sahadev Gautam, Jagannath Mishra, Ranjan Sharma Khanal, Rama Dhakal, Ram Ghimire, Dev Bahadur Bohara, Ramesh Chandra Poudel, Dilli Raj Poudel, Bhim Raj Rai raised their concern with perspective of human rights concern of consumers.

Similarly, speaking as a guest Jyoti Bania from consumer rights protection forum, Jiban Prava Lama, Director General of Department of Food and Quality Control, Gajendra Bahadur Bhujju, Director General of Department of Drug Administration and Satish Chandra Suman, Executive Director of Civil Aviation Authority gave their remarks with activities conducted by their respective offices with a view to promote and protect the consumer rights in the program.

The program was facilitated by Human Rights Officer Suresh Malla.

NHRC inaugurates Media Center



Information and Communication Minister Dr. Minendra Rijal inaugurating the newly established media center at NHRC

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

LALITPUR: Information Minister Dr. Minendra Rijal has said that the Government initiative was made to fulfill the posts of Commissioners lying vacant for almost a year now before the Prime Minister proceeded to the United States for treatment.

Minister Rijal said this while inaugurating the newly established NHRC Media Center amidst a program held at NHRC on 29th May, 2014.

He commended the establishment of the well equipped media center besides the NHRC being wholeheartedly dedicated to respect, protection and promotion of human rights in the country. He added that such an exemplary infrastructure has added more essence to the Commission's endeavours which the other Constitutional Bodies and Ministries ought to follow.

Recalling the inception of the NHRC with the concerted effort made by the civil society via private bill, Minister Rijal went unto say that the NHRC is a state body and not a body of the government.

'I am happy that NHRC is discharging all its mandated duties effectively and diligently despite the fact that there are no commissioners appointed until now,' said Minister Rijal.

Meanwhile, Dr. Rijal formally released much needed Media Policy of NHRC to be implemented by the Commission. Following the release of the policy, Minister Rijal stressed on the fact that violation of right to privacy is something that is not appropriate while enjoying one's own right to freedom of expression and right to information. Underlining the significance of right to information, he also laid emphasis on the journalists to be exceptionally sensitive about the media report at their disposal.

He also alerted that the NHRC will have to bear more responsibilities than ever as soon as the Truth and

Reconciliation Commission (TRC) starts functioning for the transitional justice delivery.

After unveiling the media center, Communication Expert Sahaj Man Shrestha briefed the guests about the media center, its functions and uses. The Media Center aims at facilitating NHRC programs via the mainstream national media by disseminating accurate information related to NHRC products and activities with main focus on the promotion of human rights across the country.

The Centre will increase NHRC's institutional relationship with the media sector, will work to expand access to human rights knowledge and deepen the understanding of human rights of general public, offer disadvantaged people free access to human rights education, and create a platform for stakeholders to interact on pertinent human rights issues.

The main objective of communication and information policy, on the other hand, is to streamline NHRC's internal and external communication and enhance its reach to internal and external stakeholders alike.

On the occasion, the NHRC Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai said that the media policy would help the Commission to carry out its activities in well organized manner to a great



Information and Communication Minister Dr. Minendra Rijal releasing the Internal Communication Policy amidst a function organized at NHRC

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

extent. Underscoring the transparency being equally important as right to privacy, Mr. Bhattarai enumerated that the media policy would help keep the citizens well-informed and updated as to how the state is moving ahead with the implementation of human rights conventions to which Nepal is a party.

The media policy as such was needed long ago in order to maintain uniformity in our endeavors. However, better late than never, the implementation of policy as such would turn out to be a milestone to move ahead hand in hand with mainstream media, said Acting Secretary Bhattarai.

At the outset of the program, NHRC Director, Subarna Kumar Karmacharya delivered the welcome address throwing light on the objective and rationale of having the media center and media policy under the purview of NHRC as one of its endeavors. This, he said, is yet another feather in the cap of NHRC. He added that the media center will prove to be a better means of achieving the aim of protecting and promotion of human rights on the whole.

Similarly, congratulating the NHRC for developing media policy Dr. Mahendra Bista, Chair of Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) said that this is something that paves ways for the swift flow of information to the general citizens. He however suggested to put things in practical



Information and Communication Minister Dr. Minendra Rijal Sharing a few words on safeguarding the human rights of the general people and the role played by the NHRC in this concern

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

terms with due concentration given to the qualitative media materials including the reports.

Yet another invitee guest Prakash Rimal, Editor-in-Chief of the Himalayan Times said that implementation of media policy at the Commission as a Constitutional Rights Watchdog is commendable. Mr. Rimal, however, suggested the Commission to broaden the horizon of its workfield while working with the mainstream media.

Wishing best wishes to the Commission for its future endeavors, Mr. Rimal suggested to display prime concern over as to how to bring about public awareness since the general public being eventually the end users of information.

At the program, delivering vote of thanks, Sadhana Ghimire, the National

Project Manager of SCNHRC-UNDP Project said that the implementation of media policy will not only help the Commission to be clear in its deliveries, but also make the NHRC's presence in media world thereby reaching to the general public. She on behalf of NHRC, voted thanks to the Chief Guest, media, development partners, UNDP, GoN for the timely support extended to the NHRC and also all those involved in establishing the media center and bringing out the media policy.

She said that the policy would be timely revamped based on the constructive criticism and suggestions made available to the Commission in days ahead.

The program was facilitated by the NHRC Communication Officer Yam Bahadur Dura.

Continued from page 6

A Brief Report...

- It is deemed necessary that the GoN, political parties and civil society ought to be further sensitive and committed towards respect and protection of human rights.

Lastly, NHRC duly commends the contribution extended by the GoN, Nepal Police, National and International experts, Helsinki University (Finland), GIZ, Human Rights Defenders, Civil Society, Media, Local Administration, Former NHRC Members, Residents of Tallo Godar,

then Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) - Nepal including ICRC for exhumation work. The Commission would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude specially to all those families who, despite extreme sorrow and agony for losing their beloved ones, have shown high degree of patience and extended their cooperation during all phases of exhumation.

The Commission, thanking heartily to all those family members of victims who have patiently extended their

harmonious support for the truth and justice, wishes for their strength to have patience and also wishes for support and cooperation from all the concerned parties leading to justice delivery. The Commission also wishes no recurrence of such spine chilling incident under any pretext and anywhere at all in future.

This report will be translated into Maithili and Bhojpuri language and kept in the web site of the Commission.

NHRC Official participates in HRs Policy Development Program-2014 in Korea



Participants with Prof. Hyun Byung Chul, the Chairperson and high ranking officials of NHRC-Korea during the opening ceremony of the program

Photo courtesy: NHRC-Korea

SEOUL: Representing the NHRC-Nepal, Human Rights Officer Ghanashyam Bhandari attended Human Rights Policy Development program-2014 in South Korea effecting from 19 June – 9 July 2014.

The core objective of the program was to have sharing in-depth knowledge about the human rights related concepts and policies, International and Regional Mechanism for Human Rights and internalized by the Republic of Korea.

Chairing the inauguration session of the program, Prof. Hyun Byung Chul, the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of Republic of Korea (NHRCK) highlighted that the freedom of thought has no meaning if there is no freedom of press, speech, expression, assembly and association.

Underlining the spirit of political typology of the country, he emphasized that the liberal democracy should be the ideal one for the people to enjoy Human Rights all over the world.

Meanwhile, the participants from each country had the opportunity to present country report during the session. Making a brief presentation on the introductory to Nepal at the outset, Mr. Bhandari, on behalf of the NHRC-Nepal, presented the human rights related country report.

A total of fifteen participants from eight different countries, two each

from Gabon, Honduras, Iraq, Moldova, Mongolia, Nigeria and Nepal and one from Laos participated in the program. Representing Nepal, Ghanashyam Bhandari from National Human Rights Commission of Nepal and Rampyari Sunuwar from Ministry of Law, Justice, Constituent Assembly and Parliamentary Affairs, GoN, took part in the program.

Following the presentation of the country report, the program entailed various sessions including comprehensive learning on International Human Rights System, Regional Human Rights System, Overview of National Human Rights Institution in the World, Protection of the Rights of people with disability, Presentation of Action Plan for group and individuals as well.

Meanwhile, the action plan was presented by Group D comprising Ghanashyam Bhandari from NHRC Nepal, Blanca Jzagurre from Honduras and Valentin Macari from Moldova on – Social inclusion of the persons with disability and bagged the first position among all four groups.

The other program included the Establishment, Management and major activities of NHRIs, National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (NAP), Human Rights Education, International Development Cooperation and Human Rights, Guidelines for Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to Development.

During the program, the courtesy visits for the participants was organized to the National Assembly of Korea, Korea Democracy Foundation (KDF), IoM Migrant Research and Training Center (MRTC), Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation (KCOC) and Ansan, Migrant Community Center, where the Nepalese migrant workers are registered as well as POSCO, one of the largest steel company in the world.

The Program was jointly organized by the NHRCK and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

It can be recalled that NHRC Korea and NHRC Nepal had inked the landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) relating to Cooperation on the Protection and Promotion of the Migrant Rights way back on 31st December 2010.



Human Rights Officer Ghanashyam Bhandari presenting the token of love to Prof. Hyun Byung Chul, the Chairperson of NHRC-Korea at the closing ceremony of the program

Photo courtesy: NHRC-Korea

NHRC-Qatar Efforts lauded for safeguarding the Rights of Nepalese Migrant Workers

LALITPUR: The Commission, commending the NHRC-Q efforts and achievements to safeguard the rights of migrant workers, has sent a letter to the Chairperson of NHRC, Qatar, Dr. Ali Bin Samikh Al Marri on 13th July, 2014.

The letter signed by the Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai reads, 'We, at NHRC-Nepal, are overwhelmed to learn about the recent news of various media about the commendable decision of the Government of Qatar made for the protection and promotion of rights of the migrant workers in Qatar. At the same time, we are extremely pleased to learn that the Government of Qatar is revamping its labour law in accordance with the international human rights standards.'

The decision made in favor of the

migrant workers thereby enabling them to change their company according to their choice, to get back to their home country within 72 hours after the expiry of their employment contract is exceptionally praiseworthy.

The letter further says, 'We are equally happy to know about the provision of the fine/penalty imposed against the company for withholding the passport of the migrant workers stationed in Qatar for their employment.'

Earlier, Acting Secretary had visited Qatar in September-2013 and requested the Chair of APF and NHRC-Q to deviate due priority and attention towards the grievances of Nepalese migrant workers stationed in Qatar. Similarly, he had also requested the latter during the 27th ICC visit to Geneva in March, 2014 to work on the priority basis for the

protection and promotion of human rights of the migrant workers.

The letter further says that NHRC-N and human rights community of Nepal duly commend the continuous lobbying of NHRC-Q inculcated with concerted effort before the Government of Qatar for having this landmark decision dispensed to address the pervasive human rights problems of Nepalese migrant workers in Qatar for years.

Acting Secretary Bhattarai has also expressed his hope that NHRC-Q would take adequate initiatives for the security, working environment of domestic workers standard of living and equal remuneration for the same nature of work in the days to come.

NHRC-Qatar was established in 2002.

Interaction taps Impetus on NHRAP and UPR

BHOJPUR: NHRC Sub-Regional Office (Khotang) has organized an interaction program on National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in Bhojpur.

Speaking at the program, chief guest Kripasur Karki, Justice of District Court (Bhojpur), opined that government officials need to make ample efforts towards the protection and promotion of human rights from their respective fields.

He said that government officials and other service delivery agencies should comply with the national and international treaties and instruments on human rights for the betterment of general public as a whole.

Dilkumar Tamang, Chief District Officer of Bhojpur, said government officials should pursue human rights friendly behavior while dealing with people.

He further said that everybody including government officials should learn to respect human rights of everyone.

Loknath Ghimire, head of NHRC Sub-Regional Office (Khotang), said that the government has much to do for the protection and promotion of human rights in the country. He made this remarks while presenting a working paper on NHRAP and UPR at the program.

In his presentation, Loknath Ghimire shed light on retrospect and prospect of NHRAP. He informed that NHRC has been regularly monitoring on NHRAP.

The program was attended by 33 heads of Khotang based government offices.



Participants, resource person and the guests at an interaction on NHRAP and UPR organized in Bhojpur

Photo: Sub-Regional Office, Khotang

Images related to Godar Exhumation, Janakpur

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office



1. Nepal Police making preparation for handing over the packages containing human remains to the family members of the Godar victims
2. NHRC Acting Secretary paying homage to the deceased
3. Human Rights Officer Regam Maharjan trying to console the family members of the victims
4. Grief-stricken family members of the victims waiting for the last rituals to take place
5. Kin of visiting preparing for the last rites of the victims
6. The pyres of all five victims being burnt as per the culture of the community

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