



e-Newsletter



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The 66th International Human Rights Day-2014

Government committed to Human Rights Friendly Constitution: Prime Minister

LALITPUR: Prime Minister Sushil Koirala has said that the new constitution will fully guarantee the protection and promotion of human rights.

Speaking at a function organized by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on the occasion of the 66th International Human Rights Day on

Prime Minister also added that the government is fully committed to protecting human rights enshrined in international human rights instruments signed by Nepal as well as Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007.

Underscoring the achievement of democratic republic Nepal through the prolonged struggle for human



Prime Minister Sushil Koirala addressing a function organized at NHRC on the occasion of the 66th Int'l Human Rights Day-2014

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

We have solved complex issues like management of Maoist combatants and arms. Things have changed a lot since then and we are optimistic that all odds and disputes will be solved through consensus to draft the chief law of the nation. - Prime Minister

December 10, 2014, PM Koirala said that democratic constitution will be promulgated on the set deadline.

Prime Minister further said that the new constitution will be human rights-friendly and would meet the aspirations of the people from all identities, languages, cultures and religions.

rights, Prime Minister said, 'we have solved complex issues like management of Maoist combatants and arms. Things have changed a lot since then and we are optimistic that all odds and disputes will be solved through consensus to draft the chief law of the nation.'

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Prime Minister Koirala, Chairperson Sharma, Acting UN Resident Coordinator Ziad Seikh and other distinguished invitees at function organized to mark 66th Int'l HRS Day -2014

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

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NHRC Submits Annual Report to the President

Government and Political Parties need to be Committed to Human Rights:NHRC



President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav receiving the NHRC Annual Report from the NHRC Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma amid a program organized at Shital Niwas, Kathmandu

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

KATHMANDU: The NHRC submitted its annual report for the Fiscal Year 2013 (July) -2014 (July) to President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav amidst a program held at the President's Office, Shital Niwas, Kathmandu on December 5, 2014.

Submitting the report before the President, Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma expressed his worries over the uncertainty looming large with regard to constitution making before the set deadline and the prolonged transitional phase.

Pointing out the compensations being provided to the victims of human rights violations on the basis of the NHRC recommendations, Chairperson Sharma said that except for a few exceptional cases, the government and political parties are not fully committed to prosecuting the accused of the incidents of human rights violations.

"The Commission has been successful in retaining 'A' status in the International Coordinating Committee with the continuous efforts made in the monitoring, investigation and promotional activities," he observed.

With regard to perennial problems endured by the NHRC, Chairperson Sharma said, "The NHRC activities

have been left with impact due to ineffective implementation of its recommendations, existing resource crunch and deplorable physical infrastructures."

The report states that the Commission has received 240 complaints on the incidents of various human rights violations in the Fiscal Year 2013 (July) -2014 (July) including torture, abuses, women's rights, administration of justice, child rights, extra judicial detention, killing, intimidation, right to property, social and cultural rights, rights of persons with disabilities, caste based discrimination and rights of migrant workers.

Similarly, the Commission has monitored 216 times on the issues



DR. Ram Baran Yadav along with the NHRC delegation led by Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma At a function organized on the occasion of the NHRC Annual Report submission

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

Major Highlights of the Report

- The President apprised to overall situation of human rights in the country including the non- implementation of the NHRC recommendations made in the past
- 240 Complaints on HRs violations entertained and 216 monitoring missions launched on various incidents of HRs violations in the Fiscal Year 2013 (July) 2014 (July)
- Government and Political Parties called on to be committed to the fulfillment of human rights in the country
- Priority given to Economic, Social and Cultural (ESC) rights in recent years
- Despite existing human resource crunch endured by the Commission, the NHRC Activities lauded by the International Coordinating Committee of NHRIs by re-accrediting its status with 'A' Category

related to the overall human rights situation, civil and political rights (including the human rights situation in the second Constituent Assembly Election-2013) child rights, women's rights, the condition of the prisons and detention centers, rights of senior citizens, rights against caste based discrimination, bandh and strikes organized by the political parties and their party wings, protest programs, general assemblies, rallies and demonstrations, hunger strikes and health rights.

On the occasion, NHRC Commissioners Prakash Osti, Sudip Pathak, Mohna Ansari and Govinda Sharma Paudyal and Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai among others were also present.

Last Rites of Late Nanda Prasad Adhikari urged

LALITPUR: By issuing a press release, the National Human Rights Commission has expressed its serious concern over the last rites of the deceased Nanda Prasad Adhikari being held up till date. Mr. Adhikari died on September 22, 2014 while on a hunger strike at Bir hospital. Late Adhikari of Fujel-7 of Gorkha was demanding legal action against the murderer of his son Krishna Prasad Adhikari.



Ganga Maya Adhikari and late Nanda Prasad Adhikari

File Photo

Nanda Prasad Adhikari died while he was in pursuit of justice for a long time.

The press release reads, 'the uncertainty of the cremation service of deceased Adhikari is very unfortunate from human rights perspectives.'

In this regard, the Commission has drawn the attention of the government to comply with a five-point agreement signed with Ganga Maya, wife of the deceased Adhikari, on October 17 to duly make funeral for Adhikari and immediately take action against those involved in the 2004 murder.

Reminding the agreement, therefore, the Commission has urged the government to manage the funeral of the deceased Adhikari as per the provisions enshrined through religious and cultural rights mentioned in Article 23 of the Interim Constitution and Article 27 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Commission has recommended to the Government on April 5, 2008 to take legal action against the accused involved in criminal offense and provide compensation to the victim's family. The Commission has reminded that it had simultaneously written on 12 August, 2013 issuing a directive to the Office of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers to advance the investigation with regard to the incident of killing.

HRs issues in New Constitution discussed

DHANUSHA: NHRC Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal has said that he and his fellow Commissioners have been trying to make NHRC audible and visible in front of public.

Member Sharma was speaking at an interaction program in Janakpur entitled 'Issues of Human Rights in the Upcoming Constitution'. He said that we have to have collective efforts to draft human rights friendly constitution.

Advocate Binod Sharma stressed on the need that we need to lobby for drafting a human rights friendly constitution guaranteeing rights of people.

Participants of the program univocally said that constitution should be drafted and publicized in the set deadline respecting people's to live a dignified life.

Human rights defenders, journalists, representatives of civil society and NGOs along with general public attended the program. Buddha Narayan Sahani, the head of NHRC Regional Office, facilitated the program.

Drag those involved in Sexual Violence of Conflict-Era to Justice: Chairperson



Chairperson Anup Raj Sharma, Commissioner Mohna Ansari including the Jury comprising national and international activists at a program organized on alleged sexual violence perpetrated in Conflict- era

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

LALITPUR: Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma has said that sexual violence perpetrated on women during the armed conflict era has ashamed all Nepalese.

Chairperson Sharma made this statement after hearing personal accounts from those women victimized from sexual assault during the armed conflict. The victims shared their personal experiences of sexual

violence during the armed conflict-era before the Commission including a jury comprising of national and international activists and experts at a program organized at the National Human Rights Commission, Lalitpur.

Potraying sexual violence during the armed conflict as an inhumane and brutal act, Chairperson Sharma strongly stressed that the persons involved in sexual violence must not be exempted from legal actions under any pretext.

Furthermore, the jury recommended the state to provide the victims with psychosocial support and also create job opportunities for them. The jury also recommended the NHRC to research and identify such cases and help remove barriers in taking legal action against those involved in the incidents of sexual violence.

Government urged to ensure Children's Right to Health

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission has expressed serious concern over the media report on the shortage of MR (Measles-rubella Vaccine) and BCG (Bacille Calmette-Guérin (Tuberculosis)) vaccines meant for children in various parts of the country.

Since the vaccines are learned to have run out of stock in central and regional stores as per the monitoring conducted by the Commission, it has urged the Government to ensure right to health of the children by making the vaccines adequately available all over the country.

The Commission has asked the Government to respect the children's right to health guaranteed through the Articles 21(a) and 21(b) of the UN Convention on Rights of the Child-1989(CRC) and Article 22(2) of the Interim Constitution of Nepal-2007.

NHRC Sub Regional Office Khotang has monitored the district hospital

of Khotang on 23rd November, 2014. The monitoring team comprising the Sub Regional Chief Lok Nath Ghimire and Intern Sanjita Rai found that the hospital was lacking the MR and BCG vaccines meant for the children.

'The hospital needed 225 vaccines each month but only 130 vile were available at the time of monitoring,' the monitoring team quoted Chief of the Khotang district hospital Dr. Pujan Balla as saying.

'Despite the fact that the demand was placed time and again, the much needed vaccines were not supplied to the hospital which has resulted in the lack of immune in children to fight the disease, he added.

As per the report, the health department hasn't supplied the Vaccines given against the disease Rubella as well. Only 225 vile vaccines were available which was to be vaccinated to the children for the first time.

The Commission has asked the district health office at the request of the Khotang district hospital to make necessary initiative to make the vaccines available as soon as possible.

The Commission has, therefore, asked the government to make the necessary vaccines available well in time to ensure the children's right to health.

Meanwhile, the NHRC Regional Office Nepalgunj has sought the information from the regional health directorate, Birendranagar and the chief of the medical stores responsible for the distribution of the vaccines and its availability including the problems endured by the consumers.

The Commission has commenced the necessary update on BCG vaccines and the vaccinations for Rubella with the enquiry of the vital vaccinations at the concerned health centers and hospital in Banke district.

NHRC Sensitive towards Human Trafficking: Chairperson

LALITPUR: The Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma has said that the Commission is absolutely sensitive towards the issues of human trafficking.

He made this statement while addressing a program at NHRC organized with the stakeholder Non-Governmental Organizations working against human trafficking.

Chairperson said that the NHRC is all set to formulate the strategic plan incorporating the concern raised against human trafficking with the consultation of partner agencies.

On the occasion, Commissioner Mohna Ansari said that since there lie a number of problems in combating human trafficking in the region, coordination and collaboration between the stakeholder organizations is a must to contemplate existing challenges.

Commissioner Ansari opined that the feedbacks and comments received from the stakeholder agencies would

help guide towards the prevention and control of human trafficking.

She urged the government to effectively initiate to rescue the women who have fallen the victims of cross-border trafficking.

The participants at the consultation program allege that the government attorneys and the police do not adopt human rights friendly investigation style with the victims. Also, the media is not adequately sensitive towards such persons. They also said that the women victimized though the cross border trafficking are simply abandoned at the border area in the name of rescue without being properly rehabilitated.

During the program, they forwarded a number of grievances such as

the lack of rehabilitation and inadequate infrastructures for livelihood of the rescued trafficking survivors and widespread exploitation in dance bars, massage centers and restaurants.

They expressed their lamentation and anguish that the accused persons involved in trafficking easily go scot-free due to existing laws being acutely feeble.

The participants at the consultation unanimously pointed out the need for necessary review of existing laws for the prevention and control of human trafficking.



NHRC Officials and the participants at a program organized on cross-border human trafficking

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

Baitadi Folks bring up Human Rights related Problems



Resource person and the participants at a program on UPR organized in Baitadi district

Photo: Regional Office, Dhangadhi

BAITADI: The NHRC Regional Office, Dhangadhi organized a workshop on Universal Periodic Review report at Gothalapani, Baitadi. The workshop was chaired by Officiating Director of the NHRC Dhangadhi Mohandev Joshi while the guests were Chief District Officer Sagarmani Pathak, Local Development Officer Mani Kumar Gyawali and Deputy Chief of the District Police Office Anil Kumar Upreti. There were more than 35 participants representing the NGOs, civil society organizations, human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists. The workshop discussed on the perennial problems and challenges in relation to human rights.

The State report of UPR is scheduled to undergo the review session sometime in 2015 in the UN. In this regard, the workshop widely discussed the issues and matter to be raised during the review session on UPR report. The workshop prioritizes the local issues and problems to be incorporated in UPR report. Mainly the workshop has facilitated the advisory to the Commission to provide inputs with main focus on issues related to caste based discrimination, violence against women, women trafficking, child abuses and harmful traditions. The workshop also paid serious attention to deteriorating human rights condition of Baitadi district.

The workshop collected the feedbacks and suggestions from the participants divided into five different groups.

District Prison monitored, Inmates express their Desolation

PARSA: A monitoring team consisting of Commissioner Sudip Pathak, Investigation and Planning Division Head Yagya Prasad Adhikari and Personal Assistant Bhuban Nath from the central office monitored the Parsa district prison at Birgunj on December 14, 2014 as part of the series of monitoring missions in the field.



NHRC Officials including Com. Sudip Pathak monitoring the Parsa district Prison

Photo: Regional Office, Janakpur

The objective of the monitoring was to obtain the information of overall human rights situation of the inmates serving their terms, basic amenities provided to them and the physical infrastructures of the prison cells.

During the course of monitoring, the monitoring team met with the concerned jailor, inmates, Chief District Officer of Parsa district, rights activists and media persons.

During the monitoring, the team found that the prison cells were overcrowded with the inmates accommodated more than their capacities. In total, 1136 inmates including 1058 male and 78 female inmates were found accommodated in the prison that could hold only 550 inmates. 7 miners were found living with their parents serving their terms on various criminal charges. The team has also monitored the deplorable physical condition of the prison.

On being asked about the grievances of the inmates, they expressed their woes over the allowance RS 45 per day which, they said, was meager to support them. Above all, they came up with the grievance that the infants were provided with just RS 10 which cannot buy even a glass of milk. The alleged incidents of inflicting torture on inmates and detainees was reported to be none, however. Meanwhile, they unanimously urged the Commission to evoke the alertness of the prison management department for improving the facilities including life skill training provision, physical condition of the prison cells and above all the human rights of the inmates.

The Commission has been conducting nationwide inspection of prisons to help bring about drastic improvement in the prisons across the country.

Incident of Security Lapses monitored

BANKE: The Commission has monitored the incident of the escape of three detainees from the Detention Center of Banke district police office on December 2, 2014.

During the monitoring, the team NHRC met with the District Police Office Chief Shekhar Koirala and obtained information about the incident and the security management

in the detention center. Upon the re-arrest of the fugitive Rashid Ahmed Shekh, the team met with him and interrogated about his condition and the reason for getting away from the custody.

The monitoring team also met with the detainees and inspected the detention centre at the district police office.

Alertness evoked against Child Marriage in Mid-West

BARDIYA: A joint team comprising the representatives from the NHRC Regional Office, Nepalgunj, District Administration Office and Office of the Women and children conducted monitoring on the pervasive practice of child marriage on November 26, 2014 in the district.

The objective of the monitoring was to explore the situation of the children in child marriage, the challenges endured by them and to minimize the incidents of child marriage.

The monitoring team focused mainly on the reason related to economic, social and cultural status of the

Madhesi and Dalit communities to opt for the child marriage and the challenges they had to surmount over.

During the course of monitoring, the team met with the guardians of the children involved in child marriage, persons familiar with the incidents of child marriage and the children attending the schools and interacted with them to get to know the situation of child marriage.

The monitoring team underscoring the importance of awareness on the legal implications and the negative



NHRC Officiating Regional Director and Human Rights Officer Ramesh Kumar Thapa at a program on the practice of child marriage in Bardiya district

Photo: Regional Office, Nepalgunj

impact of the child marriage called on all to prevent and control the child marriage.

Disabled Friendly Infrastructures stressed



NHRC Officiating Regional Director addressing a program organized on the disabled friendly infrastructures in public and private places

Photo: Regional Office, Nepalgunj

BANKE: The NHRC Regional Office, Nepalgunj organized an interaction program on the rights of the persons with disability held in Nepalgunj on the occasion of 23rd International Disabled Day on 3rd December 2014. The program was organized in collaboration between NHRC Regional Office, Nepalgunj, Office of Women and Children, Banke, and National Federation of the Persons with Disability.

Participants representing various stakeholder agencies raised their voice on the lack of implementation of policies and programs laid out by the government for the persons with disability. They came up with the deep concern that the government agencies providing the public services and other institutions to have the disabled friendly infrastructures.

They also laid strong emphasis before the government bodies and owners of public transportation to be more responsible and active to ensure the rights of persons with disability.

Program on HRBA to Development organized



NHRC Officers including the resource persons and the participants at a program held on HRBA to Development in Kavre district

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

KAVRE: NHRC conducted a Two Day Programme on Basic Human Rights and Human Rights based Approach to Development (HRBA) in Kavre district on November 20-21, 2014. The program was conducted in coordination with District Development Committee, Kavrepalanchowk.

Thirty Social Mobilizers from different Village Development Committees attended the program. The training consisted various sessions on human rights principles, human rights based approach to development, National Human Rights Commission as well as policies and programmes by Government of Nepal for the protection and promotion of human rights.

Inagurated by Commissioner Govinda Sharma Poudyal, the program was participated by Chief District Officer, Local Development Officer, Chief of the Kavre District Police, Women and Children Officer, representative of Nepal BAR, Kavre, District Representatives of NGO Federation, Journalist from Kavre district had attended the inagural programme. Speaking as Chief Guest, NHRC Commissioner Govinda Sharma Poudyal shared that NHRC leadership has been developing its six years strategic plan with an aim of bringing human rights for all at every household.

NHRC Commissioner Mohna Ansari moderated the panel discussion and responded queries posed by the participants during the programme.

Acting Secretary Mr. Bed Bhattarai, Deputy Director Yagya Prasad Adhikari, Head of the Promotion and Advocacy Division Surya Deuja and Human Rights Officers Samjhana Sharma and Suresh malla had facilitated training session.

Stakeholders discuss on Human Rights Concerns, Action urged

DADEL DHURA: The stakeholder representatives in far west have univocally urged action on the caste based discrimination, gender based violence, effect of alcoholism on the local youths and society, rights of the persons displaced due to the abrasion of Rangon and Pantura river, child rights and other locally pervasive human rights issues at an interaction organized by NHRC Regional Office, Dhangadhi at Jogbuda of Dadeldhura district on December 15, 2014.

The program was chaired by the chairperson of the management committee of Jana Jyoti Secondary School. Altogether 45 participants representing from government offices, NGOs, CSOs, human rights workers of Jogbuda took part in the program. Human Rights Officers duo Jhankar Bahadur Rawal and Pawan Kumar Bhatta.

Monitoring conducted on the Rights of Landless Squatters, Slum Dwellers and Flood Victims

BANKE: The NHRC Regional Office, Nepalgunj has monitored the human rights situation upon receiving the complaints from 31 families of landless and slum dwellers of Ganapur - 6 of Pharambasti, Banke district. The complaint was about the protection of their basic human rights violated due to the recent policy of the government to build

an open air temporary makeshift by forcefully evicting those living in the area for a long time.

During the monitoring, NHRC also met with those landless people and slum dwellers and interacted with them to collect their grievances in order to lobby for their human rights.

Photo: Regional Office, Nepalgunj



The flood victims along with small children taking shelter in temporary makeshift under very pitiable condition in Banke district

Right to Health of Mentally ill Persons urged

MORANG: A monitoring team led by Commissioner Mohna Ansari launched a follow up monitoring of a mentally ill youth of Mrigoliya, Biratnagar who was rescued and rehabilitated at the initiative of NHRC Biratnagar. The youth underwent treatment at B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences. The youth was tied with a chain around a tree for 15 years.

The team met with the youth and his family members on December 24, 2014 who is taking medicine for over two years. He is now able to do the household chores all by himself and can regularly visit the doctor for necessary counseling.

After visiting the youth, Commissioner Ansari urged the Government to introduce plans and programs that would enhance access of the mentally ill persons to right to health. NHRC Regional Director Kosh Raj Neupane was also present at the occasion.



Commissioner Mohna Ansari and NHRC Officiating Regional Director Kosh Raj Neupane talking to the person recovered from mental illness in Morang

Photo: Regional Office, Biratnagar

Statement by Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma on the Occasion of the 66th International Human Rights Day

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights has completed its 66th year since it was adopted and enforced in 1948. Indeed, December 10 has a historical importance worldwide in the context of human rights. Like past year, therefore, we have gathered here today to mark the occasion. I would like to extend my best wishes and hope this auspicious occasion encourages us to develop human rights culture and foster awareness on the human rights of all the people.

It has been eight years since the overall situation of the country transcended from the armed conflict towards peace. It is, therefore, inevitable that our utmost effort and self-sacrificing spirit should be focused on mitigating the scars of armed conflict that should lead to transitional justice delivery from human rights perspectives and advance towards the direction of drafting a sustainable and democratic constitution. In this regard, I would like to hereby remind that the Commission had conducted monitoring on the Constituent Assembly (CA) election from human rights perspectives in all 75 districts

In today's context, it won't be appropriate to analyze the human rights situation across the country merely on the basis of complaints related to the rights violation registered at the Commission or other organizations. The need of the hour is that we study the provision of a person's fundamental rights such as independence, equality and right to live with dignity from all angles and outlook.

Indeed, the perseverance of peace, security and sustainable development is inevitable indicator of a prosperous human rights situation in any country. Therefore, the main objective of the human rights movement in the country has been to alleviate extreme poverty and create employment opportunities by making widespread development in the country and also by putting an end to the existing discrimination in the society. We need to learn from the pages of history that civil and political rights cannot be fulfilled unless the economic, social and cultural rights are fully guaranteed. Therefore, the Commission is in view of encompassing all spheres of economic, social and cultural rights including the rights of women at risk, children, persons with disabilities,

third gender, journalists, human rights defenders, minority communities, indigenous people and tribes, inmates serving their terms and survivors with special priority given to them in the soon-to-be formulated six year strategic plan of the Commission. In order to give the final shape to the future action plan of the Commission, efforts have been made to incorporate the voices and concerns of the general denizens in the form of inputs collected through the consultative meetings organized in all nook and corner from east to west of the country including Baglung, Parvat, Kaski, Gorkha, Myagdi and Solukkhumbu districts. Similarly, the prototype consultative programs are going to be organized in Taplejung from east to Bajura and Baitadi of far west in the near future. On this occasion, I would like to call upon all stakeholders including the people of all walks of life, state bodies, donor agencies, civil society, intellectual circle and the survivors for special collaboration.

The United Nations has set 'Human Rights 365' as the theme for the 66th International Human Rights Day this year while the Commission has conceived its own slogan 'Human rights for all in every household, a base of peace and development,' for the occasion. In reality, human right is something that each individual and community should feel and the attention of all stakeholder parties must be drawn towards this. This should not be seen just the slogan of the Commission alone, but needs to be the collective slogan of all civil societies including the state bodies. In this regard, the Commission will inculcate its concerted effort to materialize the slogan through the soon-to-be drafted six year strategic plan. By and large, all spheres of development of the country should be automatically linked with the subject of human rights which indeed makes sustainable development possible.

Since human rights and democracy are the synonym of each other, each state body needs to be effectively active in sustaining rule of law and good governance thereby putting an end to the state of impunity in the country. The situation is such that a movement needs to be launched against gender inequality, violence against women and abuses, torture and human trafficking.

Statement of National Human Rights Commission-Nepal on 66th International Human Rights Day - 2014

Also, effective steps must be taken to ensure easy access of all communities to the basic rights including the right to education, health and shelter.

Similarly, the consumers are facing deprivation of dignified behavior due to prejudicial circumstances and thus they need to be treated in dignified manner on the basis of their basic rights. Likewise, all should pay heed towards the implementation of the fourth five year National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) of the government beginning July, 2014 for timely improvement of existing human rights situation in the country. All state authorities ought to take collective ownership and extend necessary contribution from their own level for the implementation of the NHRAP. In this regard, the Commission will indeed fulfill the responsibility to monitor the implementation of the plan pursuant to the mandates bestowed upon it. I firmly believe that the Government of Nepal (GoN) will pay its serious attention towards implementing all NHRC recommendations sent in the past. Similarly, the implementation of the recommendations made via human rights related UPR session remain unsatisfactory as opposed to the commitment made by the government. Also, it is high time that the government paid heed to the submission of periodic reports on international human rights conventions to evade undue delay.

Rt. Honorable Prime Minister and distinguished guests,

The Commission, bearing the constitutional mandates for ensuring the protection and promotion of human rights and their effective implementation status has been facing challenges such as the lack of various physical infrastructures including longstanding resource crunch. I would like to mention that the accreditation of category 'A' status retained by the Commission in international level indicates the overall human rights situation of the country. The issue of independence and autonomy of the Commission, on the other hand, has often been the matter of discussion in international forum. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the staff members and newly appointed



NHRC Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma addressing a function organized at NHRC to mark the 66th International Human Rights Day-2014

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

Officials of the Commission for being able to retain 'A' status in International Coordinating Committee's (ICC) accreditation despite the fact that they had to overcome very critical situation to sustain effectiveness of the Commission during 13 months period when it functioned without officials. I would also like to express my honor to the international community for their contribution and wishes extended for retaining 'A' status of the Commission in International Coordinating Committee.

Indeed, the Commission was incepted with the concerted efforts made through vibrant civil society movement and I expect the same kind of support and collaboration from all stakeholders including civil society, human rights workers and the entire media world as the supporting pillar of the Commission for the protection and promotion of human rights like past years. I firmly believe that all security agencies, government bodies and authorities, professional organizations and intellectual circle will uphold human dignity high thereby extending maximum support from their side to develop human rights culture in the country.

Last but not the least; I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to chief guest, Rt. Hon Prime Minister Sushil Koirala and all the guests for accepting our invitation to become a part of celebration despite your busy schedule.

Thank you
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Major activities organized across the country on the occasion of the 66th International Human Rights Day – 2014



NHRC Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma inaugurating the morning rally during the Human Rights Magna Meet-2014 organized to mark the 66th Int'l Human Rights Day - 2014

Photo: Umesh Ranamagar, Central Office

Human Rights Magna Meet-2014

KATHMANDU: On the occasion of the 66th International Human Rights Day, the Human Rights Magna Meet-2014 was inaugurated by Honorable Speaker of Constituent Assembly Subash Nembang on 9th December 2014 at Academy Hall, Kamaladi. Coordinated under the convener ship of Krishna Subedi, Chairperson of Child Nepal, a series of events including the speeches, rallies and corner assemblies were organized with the active participation of National Human Rights Commission and a number of other organizations working in the field of human rights effecting from December 9-13, 2014.

On the occasion, CA speaker Nembang as the chief guest, Chair

of NGO Federation Sharmila Karki including the other forerunners of civil society addressed the mass gathered at the Magana Meet-2014 to mark International Human Rights Day. The international slogan for this year was 'Human Rights-365.'

Prior to the inauguration of HR Magna Meet, many NGOs, CSOs and Human Rights Organizations and agencies participated in a rally organized by the National Women's Commission on the occasion of 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women (VAW).

Addressing the concluding session of National Human Rights Magna Meet-2014 on December 13, Deputy Prime

Minister and Minister for Home Affairs Bamdev Gautam pledged timely promulgation of a human rights-friendly constitution.

Adding that the government being committed towards the protection of human rights of its citizens, DPM Gautam said that the government has been consistently inculcating efforts to ensure justice to the victims of human rights violations.

At the program, NHRC Commissioner and Spokesperson Mohna Ansari expressed her concern over the non-implementation of the NHRC recommendations made in the past for early action by the government.

On the occasion, Inspector General of Nepal Police Upendra Kant Aryal expressed general perspectives on human rights on behalf of the Nepal Police.

Underscoring the event focused mainly on the protection of child rights this year, the Event Coordinator and the Chair of Child Nepal Krishna Subedi stressed on a child friendly new constitution.

The mega event held from December 9-13 ended with the adoption of '20-point Kathmandu Declaration.'



A human rights rally comprising the participants representing the NHRC Officials with other participants advancing to Basantpur in the morning of 10 December, 2014

Photo: Umesh Ranamagar, Central Office

66th Int'l Human Rights Rallies



NHRC Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma addressing the program at Basantapur



A mass gathered at the Basantapur Square to participants in the corner assembly organized following the human rights rally held early in the morning

Photo: Umesh Ranamagar, Central Office

Photo: Umesh Ranamagar, Central Office

KATHMANDU: Inaugurated by the NHRC Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma, a Human Rights Rally was organized to mark 66th International Human Rights Day as a part of Magna Meet.

Internalizing the global theme 'Human Rights 365, the rally was coordinated by NGO Federation of Nepal.

The rally started from Bhrikuti Mandap went to thoroughfares of downtown Kathmandu and converged into an assembly at Basantapur, Kathmandu.

The Closing function of the rally

was addressed by Chairperson Sharma as the chief guest and other different Human Rights Activists in a representative way

Addressing the concluding part of the rally, Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma remarked that new constitution should ensure human rights of all Nepalese citizens. He stressed on the collaborative effort of all stakeholder agencies including the state bodies, political parties, NGOs and CSOs for building an environment for the enjoyment of human rights for all.

The NHRC being given the completeness with the new set of

Officials appointed will do its best for the protection and promotion of human rights, he added.

Citing the act of 'First arrest, then listen,' Chairperson said that such an attitudinal approach must be changed to enhance human rights in the country.

On the occasion, Chair of NGO Federation Sharmila Karki, Senior Human Rights Activist Charan Prasai, Blue Diamond Society Representative Bhumika Shrestha, Chair of Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC) Subodh Pyakurel also expressed their views of the pertinent issues and concerns of human rights.

KASKI: The NHRC Regional Office Pokhara, Western Regional Administrative Office, and the Regional Magna Meet Coordination Committee observed the 66th International Human Rights Day by jointly organizing the human rights Magna Meet-2014 in Pokhara, Kaski district.

At the program, the working papers on overall human rights situation were presented. The Chief of the Western Regional Administrative Office Dinesh Thapaliya presented the paper on good governance and human right whereas the NHRC Officiating Regional Director Dr. Tika Ram Pokharel presented a paper on the implementation status of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP).



NHRC Western Regional Office and Pokhara based human rights activists participating in the Human Rights Rally organized to mark the Int'l Human Right Day - 2014

Photo: Regional Office Pokhara

The program was chaired by NHRC Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal in which the Chief Guest of the program was Minister for General Administration Lal Babu Pandit.

At the program 126 participants comprising Chief District Officers, Assistant CDOs, Local Development Officers, Chiefs of District Health Offices from 16 different districts took part.

BANKE (NEPALGUNJ): Coinciding the 16 Day of Activism against Violence against Women, a human rights rally was organized in the morning of the 10th December 2014.

Representatives of the government offices, Nepal Police, non-governmental organizations, media, and the cross cultural section of society participated in the event. The rally started from BP Chok and went to the thoroughfares of main town and converged into an assembly at Triveni Marg, New Road.

Internalizing the national theme ‘Human Rights for all in every Household, a Base of Peace and Development,’ the rally was organized in collaboration with the NHRC- RO Nepalgunj, Women and Children Office, Banke and other organizations working in the field of human rights.

At the program, the Officiating Regional Director Murari Prasad Kharel threw light on the objective and rationale of



A human rights rally comprising the participants representing the NHRC Officials with other participants advancing to Basantapur in the morning of 10 December, 2014

Photo: Regional Office, Nepalgunj

observing the human rights day, its historical background and role of the state and other stakeholder agencies for the protection of human rights.



Photo: Sub Regional Office, Jumla

Human rights rally organized in Jumla district on the occasion of the Int'l Human Right Day – 2014

JUMLA: On the occasion of the International Human Rights Day -2014, the NHRC Sub Regional Office Jumla organized a human rights morning rally/‘Pravat Pheri’ on 10 Dec, 2014. The rally started at 10:45 am from District Council and went to the thoroughfares of the area including Tudikhel ground, Bazar, Chandanath Temple, District

Office, and Bijaanagar and converged into an assembly where a seminar was held at District Council with the participation of the cross-cultural section of the residents.

On the occasion, speakers representing from various government offices, NGOs, CSOs, district level political parties, media persons expressed their views on pertinent human rights issues and concerns in the country.

The Speakers included Anita Gyawali, women Development Officer (women and children office), Laxmikanya Bhudha, President, (Ganatantrik Mahila Sanjal), Durga Prasad Pandey, President NGO Federation, Jumla, Bir Bahadur Kunwar, President (Unified Nepal Communist Party, Maoist, Jumla), Kali Bahadur Rokaya, Representative, CPN UML Party, Dayadant Hamal, Secretary, Nepali Congress, Jumla Dipendra Raj Paudel, CDO, Jumla Ram Prasad Sharma, District Judge, District Court, Jumla including Rajendra Prasad Neupane, NHRC Jumla, Program Coordinator for 66 International Human Rights Day, Jumla.



Human rights rally organized in Khotang district on the occasion of the Int'l Human Right Day – 2014

KHOTANG: To mark the 66th Human Rights day-2014, as per the laid out program, fruits were distributed to the patients at the district hospital Khotang on 9th December, 2014. Meanwhile, a massive human rights rally was organized next day on 10th December, 2014 which started at 8 AM from Hatdanda of Diktel Municipality which took to various thoroughfares of the area including Bhanuchok, Bank Chok, Triveni Chok, Sangampark and arrived at Ratnapark of Diktel Municipality where it converged into a corner assembly.

Photo: Sub Regional Office, Khotang

White Ribbon Ceremony

KHOTANG: On the occasion of the 66th International Human Rights Day-2014, NHRC Sub-Regional Office distributed white ribbon at Lichkiramche VDC as the sign of calling for solidarity against violence against women (VAW) on November 26, 2014. On the occasion, Integrated mobile health camp was organized by the district administration office, Khotang in the same VDC. Similarly, the Disable Service Association organized a program on December 3, 2014. The program was attended by the people of all walks of life in the district

Human Rights Radio Quiz Contest

JUMLA: Like past year, the NHRC Jumla Office in coordination with Karnali F.M. organized a Radio Quiz program on 9 Dec, 2014 to mark the 66th UDHR Day -2014. The objective of the program was to familiarize the residents of Karnali region with the knowledge of human rights in community level.

Sanitation Campaign



Photo: Sub-Regional Office, Jumla

JUMLA: A sanitation campaign was organized 6 Dec, 2014 on the occasion of the 66th International Human Rights Day, 2014. The campaigns was launched starting from Krishna temple to the NHRC office, Bharatiwada with the proactive participation of cross-cultural section of society.

Human Rights Open Quiz Competition

JUMLA: On the occasion, an open quiz competition was held among 20 groups divided at the premises of Sarswasti Secondary School. On the same day, a lighting program was organized at the government offices and bazaar area in the eve of 10 December to mark the occasion to express solidarity for human rights.

The participants of the program comprised the chiefs and representatives of the district level political parties, non-governmental organizations, chiefs of the security agencies. Human rights defenders, local residents and media persons among others.



Photo: Sub-Regional Office, Jumla

Human Rights Promotion through Sports

MORANG: Internalizing the slogan 'Human Rights for all in every Household, a Base of Peace and Development,' NHRC Regional Office Biratnagar organized a friendly football match between Human Rights Defenders and Journalists on the Occasion of 66th International Human Rights Day. The match Concluded with HR Activists winning 3-1 against the journalists. Officiating Regional Director Koshraj Neupane and other NHRC staffs participated in the tournament held on 9th December 2014.



Photo: Regional Office, Biratnagar

BANKE: On the occasion of the 66th International Human Rights Day, a friendly football match was organized between the human rights workers and the journalists on December 9, 2014 in Banke district.

The match was coordinated and organized by the Nepal Sports Journalists Club and the local human rights organizations coinciding the 16 days of activism against gender based violence. The match conducted with the sole objective to promote human rights became draw with four goals each form the contesting teams. Representing the National Human Rights Commission Officiating Regional Director Murari Prasad Kharel and Human Rights Officer Ramesh Kumar Thapa took part in the match. The participating players from both the teams were awarded with the certificates at the end of the match.



Photo: Regional Office, Biratnagar

Human Rights for all in every Household,
a Base of Peace and Development

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Service Seekers interact on Common Human Rights Problems

DHANUSHA: By internalizing the national slogan, ‘human rights for all in every Household, a Base of Peace and Development,’ National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Regional Office (Janakpur) marked the 66th International Human Rights Day by organizing an interaction program between general public and service providing organizations in the remote village Lacker of Dhanusa district on December 12, 2014.

At the program, the participants raised a series of questions on problems faced by general public in a day to day life. The questions were related to problems caused due to the absence of VDC secretaries in VDC offices, misuse of social security allowances, sorry state of rural roads even if budgets are being allocated for



Representatives from the state actors and other service providing stakeholders at an interaction program organized to mark the Int'l Human Right Day – 2014

Photo: Regional Office, Janakpur

it, no progress in water borne natural disaster management process, absence of doctors in the hospital, pathetic condition of community schools and above all, the human rights friendly new constitution.

The questions were responded by different government officials including Chief District Officer of Dhanusha Krishna Prasad Dhungana. 2500 participants comprising the representatives from Locker, Hathmunda, Yodukoha and Khajuri village Development Committees, local level political parties took part in the program. Buddha Narayan

Sahani, the head of NHRC Regional Office, facilitated the program.

In this context, like past years, the Regional Office Janakpur organized various programs on the occasion of the 66th International Human Rights Day–2014 in coordination and collaboration with the National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities (NFDIN), Network for Terai Human Rights Defenders, Dhanusha and Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC), Civil Society Members, Media, local level political parties and the populace of all walks of life.

Sanitation Campaign

JUMLA: The NHRC Sub Regional Office, Jumla marked the UDHR Day by organizing various programs such as interaction on gender based violence, seminars and cleanliness campaign.

Coinciding the 66th International Human Rights Day-2014, the NHRC Sub-Regional Office Jumla organized an interaction entitled “The Role of Stakeholders against Gender Based Violence” on 4 Dec, 2014 in Jumla. Expressing concern on the government’s action on the gender based violence on the occasion of 16 days of activism against Violence against Women.



Photo: Sub-Regional Office, Jumla

Recent NHRC Publications



Human Rights Manual for School Teachers



NHRC Annual Report, July 2013 to July 2014

Human Rights Situation needs drastic Improvement: NHRC

KAILALI: A high level monitoring team of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) led by NHRC Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal recently monitored human rights situation of Far Western Nepal.

The team monitored human rights situation of Dadeldhura, Doti, Kailali and Achham districts. According to preliminary monitoring report submitted by the team, most of the government offices in Dadeldhura, Achham and Doti are not only understaffed, but also they are running out of office-in-changes.

In the same way, the health services in those districts seem to be pathetic. The report says, 'Hospitals in those districts lack doctors; free-of-cost medicines- announced by the government-are out of stock, hospitals lack medical equipments including x-ray machines. Sadly, there is no Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in the entire Far Western Development Region.'

According to the report, the region has been still suffering from social evils like Chhaupadi, child marriage, polygamy and excessive use of



Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal and other NHRC staff members during the monitoring human in rights situation and prison cells in the hill districts of far western region

Photo: Regional Office, Dhangadhi

alcoholic products. It further notes, 'The issues of freed agrarian bonded labors, land tillers, Kamlaharis are yet to be settled well.'

The monitoring team notes that jails in Kailali, Achham and Dandeldhura are overcrowded. The report suggests that jailbirds lack basic facilities such as sanitation, safe drinking water and

medical facilities.

The high level monitoring team organized consultation with different stakeholders regarding strategic plan of NHRC (2015-20) and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Report. Journalists, human rights defenders, government officials were among the participants.

Discussion held on Diverse Human Rights Issues

RUPANDEHI: National Human Rights (NHRC) Regional Office (Butwal) marked the 66th International Human Rights Day with various programs including morning rally, talk program, press conference and the like.

During whole cycle of these programs,

diverse issues of human rights were discussed and essential way-outs were suggested. The issues discussed were frequent road accidents, violence against women, access to justice; hindrances caused to the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, torture and inhuman behavior

practiced in detention centers, caste based discriminations and so on.

The participants of the program stressed on timely release of human rights friendly new constitution within the set deadline.

Various organizations including Butwal Jaycees, INSEC, Jagaran Media Center, Third Alliance, Advocacy Forum, CAHURAST, Amnesty International, NGO Federation, and Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) participated the program with much gaiety and enthusiasm.

Dipak Jung Dhoj Karki, the Head of NHRC Regional Office (Butwal) and Chandra Kanta Chapagain facilitated all of the events.



NHRC Sub Regional Head Dipak Jung Dhoj Karki addressing a program entitled Divers Human Rights Issues organized in Rupandehi district

Photo: Regional Office, Butwal

Consultative Programs held in Eastern Districts, Prisons and Detention Centers monitored



Commissioner Prakash Osti, Director Subarna Karmacharya and Personal Assistant Khimananda Basyal during the consultative program, inspection on prisons and detention centers including hospitals in eastern hill districts

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

Commissioner Prakash Osti has said that since the country is heading towards safe landing of peace process, media persons and rights activists could help to establish citizens' socio-economic and cultural rights.

According the Commissioner Osti, the strategic plan includes four broad strategic objectives which include 34 sub-headings. Some agenda included in the strategic plan are- process to file application in the NHRC, method to get the past agreements on peace process implemented and above all to materialize the slogan 'Human rights for all in every Household, a Base of Peace and Development' with the pertinent issues of human rights of marginalized, ethnicities, displaced and destitute are duly addressed.

Team took to the districts of Taplejung and Jhapa where it held workshop on strategic plan (2015-20) with the stakeholder representatives while focus groups discussions were held with the representatives of government agencies, NGOs and CSOs on the six year strategic plan in Panchthar and Ilam under NHRC Office, Biatnagar.

On the occasion of the focus group discussion held in Ilam, Chairperson

of Human Rights Alliance in the district, Mohan Singh Thebe, said the NHRC needs to focus on socio-economic and cultural rights of the people of interior parts of the country.

Meanwhile, the team monitored the district based hospitals, prison and detention centers in all four districts.

The team comprising Commissioner Prakash Osti, Director Subarna Kumar Karnmacharya and Officiating Regional Director Kosh Raj Neupane including other officials of NHRC Eastern Regional Office held discussions with the representatives of the Government agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations and other human rights organizations to collect the feedbacks and comments on the six-year strategic plan.

On the way back to Kathmandu, the team carried out monitoring on district hospital and prison in Sindhuli district.

The team found that remarkable improvements were made in Sindhuli prison with regard to building maintenance with the new block annexed, sanitation and cleanliness in toilets under the surveillance of

new jailor Rabi Nepali.

The Commission had suggested the improvement during the first phase of monitoring in the district prison.

Earlier, the NHRC organized workshops and focus groups discussions on its six year strategic plan (2015 – 2020) in hilly region including Khotang and Solukhmobu districts in from 12 – 19 November, 2014. The monitoring team conducted monitoring on the prisons, custodies and hospitals in Khotang, Okhaldhunga and Solukhombu.

Meanwhile, the team also monitored the police custodies in all four districts in the east. In the process of monitoring, the team held meeting with the security officers in Okhaldhunga, Solukhombu, and Khotang districts.

The team thereafter visited Ramechhap district under NHRC Central Office where it held workshop on the soon-to-be formulated strategic plan. In the mean time, the team monitored Tamakoshi Community Cooperative Hospital and government hospital including detention centers and prison cells.

The government and community hospitals in Solukhombu district and community hospital in Ramechhap district were in good shape from all human rights perspective with well maintained infrastructures and the daily service provided to the patients under the supervision and surveillance of medical superintendent. However, the hospitals were found unhygienic with inadequate attention given to overall sanitation in some of the districts.



The NHRC Officials talking to the Rabi Nepali, the jailor of district prison of Sindhuli district

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

State Agency and International Communities on a Courtesy Visit to NHRC



Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

Chief of Army Staff, Gaurav Shamser Rana along with a team of high ranking army officials of Nepal Army visited and interacted with newly appointed NHRC Chairperson and Commissioners at the NHRC Central office on 30th November 2014. Mr. Rana shared the efforts of Nepal Army made for the protection, promotion and respect of Human rights and expressed commitment on behalf of the Nepal Army amidst a meeting held during their goodwill visit to the NHRC. NHRC Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma, Commissioners Prakash Osti, Sudip Pathak, Mohna Ansari and Gobinda Sharma Paudel along with NHRC Acting Secretary Bed Bhattarai were present at the program.

Mr. Haoliang Xu, UNDP Assistant Secretary General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau of Asia and Pacific along with Mr. Jemie McGoldrick, UN Resident Coordinator and Ms. Sophie Kemkhadze, Deputy Country Director (Program) called on the NHRC on 17th December 2014. During their visit, discussions were held on the contentious human rights issues and concern together with the UN support in enhancing human rights system meeting in the country. In the meeting, NHRC Chairperson Anup Raj Sharma and Hon. NHRC Commissioner Gobinda Sharma Paudel were present.



Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office



Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

Ambassador of Finland to Nepal Asko Luukkainen and Counselor (Development) Mrs. Marianne Kujala Garcia visited NHRC for a brief meeting with the Chairperson and Commissioners. On the Occasion, the discussions were held on the bilateral relations between the Finnish Government and the NHRC pertaining to the cooperation pledged for enhancing human rights system in Nepal. Chairperson Anup Raj Sharma, Commissioners Prakash Osti and Sudip Pathak and Acting Secretary Bed Bhattarai were present.

A delegation comprising Alfredo Mallet, Deputy Head of ICRC delegation of Nepal and Dragana Kojic Head of Regional Delegation ICRC paid a courtesy visit to the NHRC on 3rd December 2014. During the visit, the delegates had discussion with the Commission. Chairperson Anup Raj Sharma, NHRC Commissioner Sudip Pathak and Acting Secretary Bed Bhattarai were present at the occasion.



Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

SAARC level Conference held in Bangladesh, 'Dhaka Resolution- 2014' adopted

Photo Courtesy: NHRC Bangladesh

DHAKA: The NHRC Commissioner and Spokesperson Mohna Ansari has said that NHRC-Nepal is willing to work in developing regional mechanism and having global alliances to tackle the cross-border Human Rights violation cases in the SAARC region.

Addressing the regional conference entitled 'Towards a South Asian Mechanism: Prospects and Challenges' organized by NHRC-Bangladesh in Dhaka from 17th to 18th November 2014, Commissioner Ansari as the guest of the program said that the situation of trafficking in persons especially on women and children as well as the overall human rights situation requires an urgent attention.

Stressing on the collaboration to combat the pervasive transnational problem of trafficking, she suggested that the elimination of poverty and a system of free and compulsory education to young girls are some of the key tools to fight against child labor and trafficking in the region.

Expressing solidarity to the program on behalf of the NHRC – Nepal, she underscored the need for regional mechanism to combat the existing challenges. She envisaged that the program should be able to design a regional framework for wider protection and promotion of human rights.

The objective of the program was to build a common platform to combat the cross-border and



Commissioner Mohna Ansari addressing a SAARC level conference entitled 'Towards a South Asian Mechanism: Prospects and Challenges' held in Dhaka, Bangladesh

domestic human rights violations as rationalized by all the participating NHRC representatives of SAARC region during the inaugural function of the program.

Chairing the program NHRC-Bangladesh Chairperson Prof. Dr. Mizanur Rahaman opined that regionalism was sometimes put forward as an alternative to globalism to make it easier to address similar national problems.

He urged to collectively deal with contentious human rights issues in SAARC countries as a common concern.

Chairperson of NHRC India, Justice KG Balakrishna expressed that although economy in the SAARC region has grown over the last few decades, the major questions that remain are whether we have advanced in human development or not. He shared his disappointments over the regions' position at the bottom of the global human development index.

Addressing as the chief guest of the program Jatiya Sangsad and Speaker Shirin Sharm Chaudhary said South

said Ahamad Zia Langari, Commissioner of Independent Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan.

Common problems through the regional mechanism and model of regional mechanism, trafficking in women and children: situation on the ground and role of mechanism, protecting child rights and child labour were the major topics discussed during the seminar.

Commissioner Mohna Ansari co-chaired the protection of child rights and focused on the eradication of child labor as the major problem in this region. Deputy Director of NHRC Nepal, Yagya Prasad Adhikari also presented paper on the situation of trafficking in women and children in Nepal.

Concluding the seminar, 'Dhaka Declaration-2014' was passed focusing on enhancing cooperation in finding the issues of human rights violations in the SAARC region and working together to resolve those issues of human rights violation.

Speaking as the chief guest of closing session, Justice ABM Khairul Haque, Law Commission of Bangladesh said that South Asian people needed ample access to neighboring countries to know each other better, to know others' culture and to understand the human rights issues.

Over 100 human rights activists from Nepal, India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan participated at the seminar divided into seven sessions.



Com. Mohna Ansari along with the Panelists including the Chairs of NHRs of South Asia including India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and the Maldives at a SAARC level conference held in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Photo Courtesy: NHRC Bangladesh

... continued from page 1

On the occasion, NHRC Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma has said that utmost effort and self-sacrificing spirit of all should be focused on mitigating the scars of armed conflict which should lead to transitional justice delivery from human rights perspectives.

“It is equally important to focus our direction towards drafting a sustainable and democratic constitution,” he said.

Underscoring the national slogan ‘Human Rights for all in every Household, a Base of Peace and Development,’ for the occasion, Chairperson urged that human rights is something that each individual and community should feel and the attention of all stakeholder parties must be drawn towards this.

The Chairperson also said, “We need to learn from the pages of history that civil and political rights cannot be fulfilled unless economic, social and cultural rights are fully guaranteed.”

He further added that the Commission is in view of encompassing all spheres of economic, social and cultural rights including the rights of women at risk, children, persons with disability, third gender, journalists, human rights defenders, minority communities, indigenous people and tribes, inmates serving their terms and survivors with special priority given to them in the soon-to-be formulated six year strategic plan of the Commission.

He called on each state body to be effectively active in sustaining rule of law and good governance thereby putting an end to the state of impunity in the country.

He also urged all to pay heed towards the implementation of the fourth five year National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) of the government beginning July, 2014 for timely improvement of existing human rights situation in the country.

Expressing heartfelt thanks to the staff members and newly appointed Officials of the Commission for being able to retain ‘A’ status in International Coordinating

Committee’s (ICC) accreditation, he urged the Government of Nepal (GoN) to pay its serious attention towards implementing all NHRC recommendations made in the past.

At the program, welcoming the guests to the program, Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal urged all political parties to be more sensitive towards the remaining tasks of peace process.

‘Since the decade-long armed conflict and prolonged transitional phase have added challenges to protection and promotion of human rights, political parties ought to be more sensitive toward constitution writing, justice delivery to the conflict-victims and safe landing of the peace process,’ Commissioner Paudyal said.

Adding that Nepal being the party to 24 human rights instruments including 7 core conventions, he expressed his hope for the support from all in national level for the accomplishment of NHRC endeavors including the soon-to-be formulated Strategic Plan.

The 66th International Human Rights Day - 2014

On the occasion, Chairperson of the National Women Commission, Sheikh Chand Tara said the gender-based discrimination was rampant in the country.

She also drew the attention of the Government towards the misery and plight of migrant workers in foreign land and back home.

Similarly, Chairperson of the National Dalit Commission, Man Bahadur Nepali, demanded the government and the NHRC to work actively for the protection of everyone’s human rights.

Chairperson of NGO Federation, Sharmila Karki strongly urged the government to take steps with special concern for the protection and promotion of rights of all classes and communities in the country. She also reiterated that the Government should not be oblivion in implementing the NHRC recommendations of the past.

On the occasion, Acting UN Resident Coordinator, Ziad Sheikh, said Nepal, at present, is in need of a constitution that will pave ways for guaranteeing the provisions related to human rights of all groups’ regardless of caste, gender, social, economic and all fundamental rights of Nepalese people, especially women.

He also underlined that the cases of grave human rights abuses committed by all sides during the conflict should be promptly, thoroughly, independently and impartially addressed, and a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission on the Inquiry of the Enforced Disappearance (CID) should be established, in full compliance with both Nepali and international Law.

He also confirmed that the UN remains committed to strengthening the capacities of the National Human Rights Commission, and national institutions including the National Women’s Commission and the National Dalit Commission, Civil society and human rights.

“We would like to encourage the government and express our commitment to support the government to follow up on the recommendations made by the committees and to link these recommendations in the UPR next cycle, 2015,” he concluded.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as a global statement was drawn on December 10, 1948 with virtuous lines on inherent dignity and equality of all human descendants and remains as the source of inspiration ever since. Facilitating the feeling of significance to be born as a human being bearing the characteristics of inherent human dignity, this auspicious day is observed on 10 December every year all around the world including the United Nations and the UN member states. This year, the theme for international human rights days was ‘**Human Rights 365.**’

Glimpses of the 66th International Human Rights Day-2014



Human Rights for all in every Household,
a Base of Peace and Development

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