



e-Newsletter



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100 Days of the New Commissioners made Public



The Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma together with other Commissioners at the press conferences organized to share about 100 days of the work of the Commission after the new set of officials assumed their office.

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

LALITPUR: NHRC Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma said the Commission would soon consult with the Prime Minister Office and the Office of Attorney General over non-implementation of its recommendations.

Addressing a press conference organized on the progress report of 100 Days of the Commission after the new set of Officials assumed office on 20th

October, 2014, Chairperson Sharma said, 'Government has been providing compensation to the victims and their families in most of the cases upon our recommendations but government has remained oblivion in taking action against the perpetrators. Though the Commission has recommended legal action against perpetrators, the cases against them are not at all filed.'

'We would soon consult the PM's

Office and the Office of Attorney General if there are legal obstacles in implementing our recommendations,' he added.

The progress report contains the brief elucidation on the activities carried out on human rights protection activities including monitoring and investigation, transitional justice, NHRC recommendations and backlog cases/complaints, promotional activities including campaign against human trafficking, human rights

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Commissioner Mohna Ansari, Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma and Commissioner Prakash Osti speaking on the occasion of the press conference organized at the NHRC

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

Nationwide Consultation expedited on Universal Periodic Review Report: GOs, NGOs and CSOs provide Inputs



Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal addressing a district level consultation program held on the UPR report

Photo: HRO Shyam Babu Kafle, Central Office

LALITPUR: At a time when the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is all set to finalize its fifth six year Strategic Plan (2015-20), it has also been robustly engaged in preparing the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report by organizing a number of consultations nationwide. The UPR report is scheduled to be submitted in March 2015 to the Human Rights Council, Geneva.

The objective of the consultation was to give ample space to contentious human rights issues commonly raised by the stakeholder agencies including government and semi-government agencies, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations including the victims of human rights violations in various programs organized nationwide.

The consultation also aimed at sharing on the implementation status of UPR recommendations received via last UPR sessions held in Geneva, transitional justice, peace process, impunity together with recently emerged human rights issues and concerns.

Updating on the status of implementation of conclusion and UPR recommendations of the past at the programs held in various districts, the Commission urged the

participants to provide suggestions and inputs based on the truth with special focus on the implementation of 9 core conventions to which Nepal is a party.

In the course of consultation organized in far western districts including Kailali, Achcham, Doti, Dadeldhura, the team comprising Commissioner Govinda Sharma Poudyal, Human Rights Officers Shaym Babu Kafle and Jaya Shor Chapagain collected suggestions and inputs on UPR report from various stakeholders. The inputs included the human rights concerns such as caste based discrimination and untouchability, domestic violence and widespread ill practices such as Choupadi (a culture in which the women undergoing their menstrual cycle are kept in isolation) in far western districts.

During the course of collecting inputs in various consultation programs, the Commission also urged the stakeholders to provide inputs and suggestions with main focus on Economic, Social and Cultural (ESC) rights, indigenous communities, Dalits and backward communities, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, child rights, marginalized women, migrant workers, LGBTI and HIV survivors in the country. The participants, at few consultations held in far western districts, raised

concerns related to the rights of Kamaiya/Kamalri (bonded laborers) and Haliyas (Tillers) including their emancipation and rehabilitation.

Another NHRC team comprising Commissioner Sudip Pathak, Human Rights Officers Shaym Babu Kafle and Mohan Dev Joshi conducted monitoring on the overall human rights situation in Darchula, Baitadi and Kanchanpur districts. Meanwhile, the consultations were organized on pertinent human rights issues to be furnished in the UPR report.

Similarly, a team led by Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma including Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai, NHRC Nepalgunj Officiating Regional Director Murari P. Kharel and Human Rights Officers Ramesh Kumar Thapa and Jaya Shor Chapagain visited Surkhet, Banke and Bardiya districts in connection with the monitoring on the human rights situation and Consultation programs on UPR report.

At the consultation held in those districts, most of the participants underscored the issues related to establishments of transitional justice mechanisms, passage and enactment of laws related to criminalizing torture, protection of victims and witnesses and so on so forth. They also emphasized that the plans and policies promulgated by the state should include all sections of the society.

The participants also urged the NHRC to take the lead in raising awareness among the local level state actors with regard to the human rights treaties and conventions.

The participants also raised the concern that after the court dispensing order, the state together with the NHRIs ought to see whether or not the order is complied with or implemented accordingly.

Meanwhile, the teams also conducted monitoring on the regional, sub-regional and district based hospitals,

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Acting Secretary of Peace and Reconstruction Ministry invited to the Commission, Concern expressed about IDPs



NHRC Officials and the delegation of the Internally displaced persons led Bhoj Raj Timalsina at the memorandum handing over ceremony at the NHRC

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

LALITPUR: A delegation of armed conflict victims led by Bhojraj Timalsina visited the Commission and presented a letter of memorandum to the Commission.

The letter submitted to the Commission reads, 'the Government has turned deaf ear to important human rights concerns raised by us regarding rehabilitation and security for our livelihood. Our genuine demands have remained unfulfilled until today. We also express our grave concern over the non implementation of the Supreme Court Order dispensed on December 17, 2008. We want that demands of the armed conflict victims are meted out with their human rights concerns mentioned in the constitution itself.'

Meanwhile, the Commission discussed with the team including Acting Secretary Khum Raj Punjali of Peace and Reconstruction Ministry and asked about the concern including the complaints lodged at the Commission about the human rights violations of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) following the non-implementation of the Supreme Court verdict dispensed in favor of them.

A complaint had been registered

at the Commission with regard to human rights situation of the IDPs being jeopardized due to the non-implementation of the Supreme Court decision made in favor of them. Earlier, the directive order was issued to form the committee and to provide relief by finding out the actual IDPs within six months from the date of the commencement of work as per the decision dispensed on December 17, 2007 upon the case filed by Bhoj Raj Timalsina in which the Office of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers was made the defendant.

On the occasion, Commissioner Prakash Osti, expressing his concern about the non-implementation of the

Supreme Court decision, said that Peace and Reconstruction Ministry was invited to know about to what extent and direction the Ministry has stepped up its activities regarding IDPs issue.

Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal unveiled that the human rights monitoring team deployed by the Commission found that the actual conflict victims were deprived of the relief while the others having political access were provided with relief which, he said, should be duly rectified.

Speaking at the discussion program, the team including Acting Secretary Khum Raj Punjali of Peace and Reconstruction Ministry informed that policy wise decision has been made to form the working group to provide relief to those IDPs whose properties have been confiscated.

The Commission has expressed its confidence about the compliance of directive order of the Supreme Court issued to the working group which, by forming the committee, will protect human rights of those who have been internally displaced upon their properties have been seized during the armed conflict period.



Commissioners duo Govinda Sharma Paudyal and Prakash Osti at the discussion held with the delegation including the Acting Secretary of Peace and Reconstruction Ministry.

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

Home Secretary invited, Concerns expressed about Human Rights situation

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission invited Secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs Surya Prasad Silwal, Chief of Nepal Police Upendra Kant Aryal and the Chief of Armed Police Force Kosh Raj Wont and raised the issues about peace and security including overall human rights situation of the country.

On the occasion, the Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma including other Commissioners enquired about peace and security including overall human rights situation of the country at a time when the country is passing through critical circumstances.

The Commission also expressed

their concern about the authorities' failure to provide appropriate relief in appropriate time to the victims of flood and landslide in Banke, Bardiya, Surkhet, Darchula and Sindhupalchok districts.

Apart from this, the NHRC Officials also inquired the reason as to why the customers are still reeling under the shortage of cooking LP Gas and the same being sold at more price than it is prescribed.

Home Secretary Silwal, Chief of Nepal Police Upendra Kant Aryal and the Chief of Armed Police Force Kosh Raj Wont informed that they have been doing their utmost from their own side.



Chairperson Sharma and Commissioner Sudip Pathak at a discussion held with the Home Secretary about the peace and security situation including human rights

Photo: Regional Office, Janakpur

Recommendation made on the Simraungadh Incident

BARA: The National Human Rights Commission has recommended to the Government of Nepal (GoN) to provide compensation to the family members of the deceased Jay Narayan Patel, 42 of Hariharpur VDC, Ward - 7 of Bara district who was killed when the armed police force allegedly opened fire at the demonstration organized by the common people and the students near Simraungadh of Bara district on October 11, 2014. One person was killed and one person was injured in the incident.

The recommendation has been made to provide compensation to the family members of the victim and to make arrangement of free education till higher secondary level for three daughters and one son of the victim.

Similarly, recommendation has been made to compensate the injured Muhammad Sah Hawari of Hariharpur VDC, Ward - 5 with RS one hundred thousand.

The recommendation has also been made to take departmental action against the police officer leading the security force and security personnel in the incident of gunshots as per the Article 132 (2) (e) of the Interim Constitution of Nepal-2007 and to identify the security personnel involved in the gunshots and to take action against him as per the prevalent law.

Stop attacking on Media

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission has expressed serious concern on the recent incident of intimidation posed by Bandh enforcers on media persons and the obstacle caused to the information collection including arson and vandalizing of the vehicles and other equipment belonging to the Kantipur Publications, the press released issued by the Commission says.

Since the citizens' fundamental rights guaranteed by the Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights-1948 (UDHR), Article 19 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights-1966 (ICCPR), Articles 15 and 27 of the Interim Constitution of Nepal-2007 including the Act

on the Right to Information-2008 are violated due to the attack on media, the Commission urges all the stakeholders to be aware and responsible towards this, reads the press release.

The press release further says that the Commission also condemns the recent killing of the French journalists and the attack perpetuated on the newspaper office in France.

'The Commission would like to draw the attention of the stakeholders concerned to stop the activities such as the attack on media that infringe the person's fundamental freedom of expression and the right to information,' says the press release.



A vandalized vehicle belonging to the Kantipur Publications during the Bandh

Photo: Regional Office, Janakpur

Directive issued to Government Agencies to remain Accountable

SURKHET: Issuing a directive to ensure for the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) apart from the civil and political rights (ICCPR), Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma has urged all to remain accountable towards this.

He was speaking at program entitled Human Rights and Accountability organized with the Chiefs of the government and security agencies of mid-western region including Surkhet district.

He added that though national and international commitments with regard to human rights do not come under the jurisdiction of the government bodies, indeed the non implementation of the provisions as such come under the human rights violation.

The Chairperson also made it clear that the NHRC will adopt policies to take departmental action against the person or the authority displaying negligence in terms of the protection of human rights in near future.

At the program, Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai said that the service providing authorities often tend to thrust aside persons' dignity, equality, justice and freedom while



Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai addressing a program held with the regional and district level Heads of Government agencies in Surkhet district

Photo: Regional Office, Nepalgunj

they remain dormant to fulfill their professional responsibilities. He further said that the Commission is all set to do the groundwork to take departmental action against those failing to fulfill such responsibilities.

He also made it clear that a public post holding person becomes responsible for violating human rights provided he /she fails to fulfill his/her responsibility. He urged all the state bodies to be serious about the fulfillment of right to education, health, transportation, food supply including social security under ESCR.

Murari Prasad Kharel, Chief of NHRC Regional Office Nepalgunj presented on the monitoring details regarding the overall human rights situation of

Mid-western region specially peace and security, education, health, problems endured by the victims due to circumstances invited by the natural disaster, gender based violence, child abuse including ineffective accountability of the authorities concerned in the region.

On the occasion, Chief of the Government Offices enumerated the details of the work accomplished through their respective offices.

Officiating Regional Administrator Narayan Thapa, Chief District Officer Yagya Raj Bohra, Director of National Investigation Bureau Etiram Pangeni, Superintendent of Police Subodh Adhikari also spoke on the occasion.

End the Violence against Women and Children: NHRC

LALITPUR: Issuing a press release, the National Human rights Commission has expressed its serious concern towards the growing cases of violent behavior perpetrated against women and children in the country.

The press release says, 'the incidents of violence against women and children have been on the rise as per the on-the-spot monitoring conducted by the Commission and the media report. The documentation maintained through the comparative study conducted by

Nepal Police has also unveiled that the incidents of violence against women and children have increased in recent years.'

In the context of Nepal being the party to the 'Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women-1979'

(CEDAW) and 'Convention on the Rights of Child-1989' (CRC), the Commission has drawn the attention of the Government to end all forms of abuses perpetrated against women and children and to initiate for the immediate justice delivery to the victims, the press release reads.

Fiscal Year	Enforced Sexual Assault	Human Trafficking	Child Marriage	Domestic Violence	Polygamy
2010/011	376	161	7	983	146
2012/013	912	185	17	6835	421

Source: Nepal Police

Health Condition of Ganga Maya Adhikari monitored



Commissioner Mohna Ansari, Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai including Director Subarna Karmacharya monitoring the health condition of Ganga Maya Adhikari, the survivor of the fast unto death at Bir Hospital

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

KATHMANDU: NHRC has been regularly monitoring the health condition of Ganga Maya Adhikari, who had been staging fast-onto-death demanding the legal action against the murderer of her son Krishna Prasad Adhikari of

Gorkha. Both Nanda Prasad Adhikari and Gangamaya Adhikari had been demanding for justice for more than one year. Nanda Prasad Adhikari passed away a couple of months ago while fasting onto death in his tireless pursuit of justice delivery.

On 18th January 2015, NHRC Commissioner Mohna Ansari, Secretary Bed Bhattarai, Director Subarna Karmacharya, HRO Nitu Gartaula and HRA Janak Raj Bhatta visited her at Bir Hospital and collected the details about the health condition of Ganga Maya Adhikari.

Earlier, the Commission had 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.

Recommendations made on the Incidents of Armed Conflict Period

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission has recommended to the Government of Nepal to investigate on the complaints lodged with regard to four incidents of human rights violation during the armed conflict period and to provide compensations to the victims and to take legal action against the accused.

The recommendation has been made following the complaint received on the basis of Sou Muto to provide compensation RS three hundred thousand each to the kin of victims who suffered the loss of people and property in the incident of attack executed by the then CPN (Maoists) in the district headquarter Beni of Myagdi district on March 20, 2004.

The recommendation has been made to provide compensation to the concerned persons as per the data made available by the working group formed to find out the number of

injured persons and physical loss in the same incident.

Similarly, saying that the conflicting parties have been found violating the international humanitarian law in the incident, the Commission has made the recommendation to identify the accused and to take legal action against them.

In another incident, Tek Raj Ghishing of Salu VDC, Ward – 6 of Ramechhap district was allegedly killed by the security forces on January 11, 2004. The recommendation has been made to compensate the family members of the victim with RS three hundred thousand as compensation, to identify the accused security personnel and to take legal action against him.

In yet another incident, Badri Tiwari of Pokhrichauri VDC of Kavrepalanchok district was allegedly killed by the security forces on January, 2003.

The recommendation has been made to compensate the family members of the victim with RS three hundred thousand as compensation, to identify the accused security personnel and to take legal action against him.

The recommendation has been made to take or cause to take legal action against the cadres of the then rebellion party CPN (Maoists) by documenting them as the violators of the international humanitarian law in the same incident.

Also, Rudra Chapagain of Biratnagar Sub- Metropolitan then residing in Kathmandu was allegedly killed by the security forces on April 20, 2005. The recommendation has been made to compensate the family members of the victim with RS three hundred thousand as compensation, to identify the accused security personnel and to take legal action against him.

Seti Zonal Hospital and District Public Health Office monitored in Kailali, Improvement in Quality Service urged

KAILALI: The team deployed by the NHRC Regional office Dhangadhi has monitored Seti Zonal Hospital and District Public Health Office in Kailali district.

The objective of monitoring was to obtain the information about whether or not the service seekers have received regular and qualitative health services at Seti Zonal Hospital and District Public Health Office in Kailali district. The monitoring also aimed at finding out the actual number of staff prescribed by the government, free treatment made available to the patients and to make necessary recommendations.

As per the monitoring, the hospital had adequate number of staff comprising 19 staff members including 4 specialist doctors to give service to the 175 bedded hospital.

The hospital has the vacancies of 11 specialists, however.

Old building is in a very pitiable condition and the format of annexing of additional building including renovation has already been sent to the department of health, as per the Medical Superintendent Dr. Ganesh Bahadur Singh.



NHRC from NHRC Regional Office Dhangadhi during the course of monitoring at Seti Zonal Hospital, Kailali district

Photo: Regional Office, Dhangadhi

It is learnt that Seti Zonal Hospital being the referral hospital since the very beginning, there is huge pressure of the patients from the hill districts of far west including Mahendranagar. The report says that owing to physical resource crunch and lack of human resources, the health service tend to be ineffective.

The report further says that the District Public Health offices, however, have been providing commendable service. Kailali district alone has 3 hospitals and 41 public health posts including

sub health post and primary health posts.

The recommendations need to be made immediately with regard fulfillment of the posts lying vacant since long, free distribution of qualitative medicines, instilling of human rights friendly behavior among the hospital management including doctors and nurses, proper sanitation and smooth and regular supply of very essential vaccines, the report states.

Smooth Supply of Petroleum Product including LP Gas urged

LALITPUR: The NHRC has expressed serious concern on the sudden crisis of the petroleum products including LP Gas in the market.

By issuing a press release, the Commission has reminded about the transportation and supply of petroleum products including LP Gas, storage including selling and distribution listed under very essential service in the Monitoring Guidelines on the Protection and Promotion of Consumers Rights – 2012.

The Commission has drawn the attention of all concerned stakeholder

authorities to take effective steps for the regular and adequate supply of such essential commodities as per the press release issued following the prevalent shortage of LPG in market.

The press release further says, 'It is clear that such a crisis of petroleum product has left impact on the people's daily life including their right to freedom of movement.

The Commission, therefore, would like to draw the attention of the Government of Nepal (GoN) to regularly conduct monitoring on unethical practice such as artificial shortage created by the sellers

and distributors and drag them to legal justice in order to make the arrangement for easy supply of very essential commodities.



Empty LP Gas cylinders piled outside a local retailer in Kathmandu

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

In-house Workshop on the fifth Strategic Plan (2015 – 20) and Annual Work Plan for Fiscal year 2015/16

Suggestions and Feedbacks provided



The NHRC Officials and the office staff from the central, regional and sub regional offices during the in house workshop organized on the fifth Strategic Plan (2015-20) and the Annual Work Plan (2015/16)

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission engaged itself in robust discussion on the stipulated fifth Six Year Strategic Plan (2015 – 20) at a workshop organized from 3-5 Jan, 2015.

Chaired by the Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma, the program was attended by all Commissioners, Acting Secretary, Directors, all Regional and Sub-Regional Office Heads, all department heads, other planning related officers including the support staffs.

Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai, delivering the welcome remarks, threw light on the core objectives of the program. He congratulated all for having retained 'A' status of the Commission in the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) of the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs). He also briefed about the annual report submitted to the President.

Secretary Bhattarai further said that the workshop also aimed at having special review on the past activities of the Commission in order to explore good practices, lapses and lessons to ponder on prior to formulating the stipulated plan.

Set forth by the Commission for forthcoming six year term, the Commission is to internalize the slogan, 'Human Rights for all in Every Household, a Base for Peace and Development' at the pinnacle, he stated.

Meanwhile, Jayashor Chapagain of Policy Research and Planning Division shared the program highlights

for three day program and called for the expectation from the participants.

Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma, in his closing remarks, appreciated all staff members for accomplishing all NHRC endeavors at the dynamic leadership of Secretary Bhattarai despite the prolonged vacuum existed in the Commission without the Commissioners.

Expressing commitment to work on the perennial staffing problem endured by the Commission for so long, Chairperson called on all to work with selfless propensity to make the Commission audible and visible in all facets.

At the outset, as per the program schedule, the Consultant Dr. Shree Krishna Shrestha made presentation on 'Fundamentals of Strategic Plan Formulation.' He shared briefly on the major elements and basic principles of the strategic plan. Similarly, Head of Policy Research and Planning Division Yagya Prasad Adhikari made presentation inclusive of the SWOT analysis of the Commission mainly focusing on achievements, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

Meanwhile, Human Rights Officer Jaya Shor Chapagain shared on progress made towards the development of the NHRC's fifth Strategic Plan. He highlighted on the major strategic objectives which were incorporated in the second draft of the Strategic Plan.

Following the presentations, the participants were divided into three groups to discuss and provide inputs on the four major objectives and their corresponding strategies of the draft Strategic Plan. After having comprehensive discussion among the respective groups, representative from each group made presentation upon their findings and provided inputs to give better shape to the content and context of the Strategic Plan.

At the program, broad discussion was also held on the forthcoming annual plan for the fiscal year 2015-16 and the inputs were collected from the participants from the regional, sub-regional and central offices for early implementation.

On the occasion, Chairperson and the Commissioners, making their remarks and observations on both short term and long term planning with main focus on the six year strategic plan, facilitated their inputs on the plan formulation.

Above all, emphasis was laid to conceive the implementation part of the strategic plan by keeping the slogan 'Human Rights for all in Every Household, a Base for Peace and Development' at the center of the plan. Not to mention, various issues were duly touched upon which included human resource management,

benefits and services of the staff, recruitment process on the basis of inclusive principle and pluralism, job permanency, financial regulations, promotion and transfer of staff members, institutional capacity development, transparency, network building among the NHRIs, SAARC level conference, regional basis workshop, including hosting of next APF meeting in Nepal,

On the third day of the program, as enlisted in the program list, the participants in tensely engaged in discussion on perennial problems and the possible solutions to the problems endured by them for years.

On the occasion, Acting National Project Manager Aarati Bista urged to plan the NHRC's activities balancing the program cost and administrative cost. Elaborating further on the three management approaches as human resource management, financial management and program management, she suggested having the human resource division with the training facilitation to the staff relevant to their posts.

Representing the support staff including drivers, Yadav Poudel put forward grievances including the incentives provision while in fields to have the set forth slogan materialized.



NHRC Officials and the staff members from Central, Regional and Sub-Regional Offices during the In-house Workshop held on Strategic Plan 2015-2020.

Photo: Nawin Gurung, Central Office

Rebels surrender Arms in East, vow to engage in Peaceful Politics

KHOTANG: Following the talk with the government, the Kirant Janabadi Workers Party (Rebel Group) has surrendered their arms and ammunition before the district administration of Khotang district on January 6th 2015 as per the monitoring team deployed by the NHRC Sub Regional Office Khotang.

The team leader Biru Kiranti affiliated to Kirant Janabadi Workers Party coordinated the program in which the rebels surrendered the arms before the Chief District Officer of Khotang district Govinda Sapkota to join the mainstream peaceful politics,

the report sent from the NHRC Sub Regional Office says.

During the ceremony, journalist Krishna Acharya delivered the welcome address while the team Coordinator Biru Kiranti made his remarks on behalf of his party Kirant Janabadi Workers Party. Surrendering the three numbers of 303 rifles, Coordinator Rai demanded the unconditional release of his party cadres detained in various prisons across the country.

On the occasion, the local level political party representatives, media

persons, chiefs of the district level security agency including the NHRC sub regional Office, Khotang attended the program.

Representing the Kirant Janabadi Workers Party, the team coordinator Biru Kiranti (Maheswari, Khotang), Dhruva Kiranti (Jhapa) Dhilung Kiranti (Bhojpur) and Prem Kiranti (Jhapa) participated in the program.

Human Rights Assistant Lal Bahadur Rai and Intern Sanjita Rai had monitored the program organized at the premises of the District Administration Office, Khotang.

A number of armed outfits are still in operation in the name of various rebellion parties in eastern hill districts and terai region of the country.

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situation and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report, soon-to-be formulated strategic plan, publication including press releases and press notes, internal inspection, meetings and discussions, concerns related to human rights friendly constitution, NHRC's office building, human resource management including the financial regulations of the Commission.

The report reads, 'the Commission is serious about the implementation status of the recommendations made in the past. In this regard, the Commission has organized discussion with the former NHRC members, representatives of Civil Society and Human Rights Defenders

in this regard. At the discussion, the invitee speakers stressed on the implementation of the NHRC recommendations by the Government and also asked the Commission to ceaselessly mount pressure on the government in this concern.'

'The Commission has decided to hold a serious discussion with the concerned officials of the Government agencies soon. Recently, the decision has been dispensed on 130 complaints and the remaining complaints have also been classified accordingly,' the progress report further says.

The report further says that the Commission has inspected 29 district based prisons and detention centers with the holistic objective to convert these places of solitary into the rehabilitation centre.

On the occasion, Commissioner Mohana Ansari said that the Commission is engaged in formulating its fifth six year strategic plan including all the pertinent human rights issues with main focus on economic, social and cultural rights.

'We have completed interactions in 20 different districts,' she added.

In order to facilitate the final shape to the fifth six year strategic plan, a national level consultation is scheduled on February 6th, 2015, according to Commissioner Ansari.

For full text of the report (both Nepali and English) visit the link below:

http://www.nhrcnepal.org/nhrc_activities_details-96.html

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Nationwide Consultation on Universal...

prisons and detention centers and made necessary recommendation on the overall human rights of service seekers related to the rights to health, provision of the amenities in prisons and detention centers including the improvement of physical condition of the prison cells and custodies in districts.

Earlier, after the comprehensive discussion on the Human Rights Situation Report of Nepal, fifty-five states had provided a range of (135) recommendations to Nepal. The GoN accepted 56 of these recommendations with a commitment to implement them accordingly. The GoN mentioned that 28 recommendations had already been implemented or were in the process of implementation; 15 recommendations were rejected by the Government.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process which was introduced in 2006. It involves a review of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States once every four and half years. It provides an opportunity for all States to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to overcome challenges for the enjoyment of human rights.

Situation of Flood and Landslide Victims monitored

SURKHET: A high level monitoring team including the Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma has carried out on-the-spot monitoring on human rights situation of the flood and landslide victims sheltering in Surkhet based Kalagaon camp, Women Training Center camp and Chinchu health post.

The monitoring team has found that the victims displaced due to the natural catastrophe haven't been identified and nor have they been issued any identification document even after five months have passed. The victims taking shelter in temporary makeshifts are learned to have been suffering from the lack of food stuff for the last two months, lack of adequate tent materials, necessary bed kit including firewood for cooking, as per the monitoring report. Above all, the sick persons in the camp haven't been provided with necessary health check up facility while the health condition of mother



Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma and the Deputy Director Murari Prasad Kharel from the Regional Office, Nepalgunj during the monitoring on the flood victims in Surkhet district

Photo: Regional Office, Nepalgunj

undergoing the natal period and the senior citizens is found deteriorating due to pricking chillness, the report says.

In the process of monitoring, the Chief District Officer of Surkhet has been issued directive to make the arrangement for necessary food supply to the victims within seven days. Simultaneously, high level officers from the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers including the Ministry of Home Affairs have been corresponded with

the directive issued to them to make necessary arrangement in this regard.

As per the information received on data assimilation so far, there are 4500 displaced victims taking shelter in various camps in Surkhet.

Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai, Chief of NHRC Regional Office, Nepalgunj Murari P. Kharel, Human Rights Officers Ramesh Kumar Thapa and Jayshor Chapagain were also in the monitoring team.

Commission is an Advisory Institution besides being Human Rights Watchdog: Chairperson

BARDIYA: The Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma has claimed that the Commission is the watchdog for safeguarding human rights of the people.

Speaking at the consultative program on the Commission's six year Strategic Plan of the Commission held in Guleriya of Bardiya district on January 14, 2015, the Chairperson said that the Commission is not only the watchdog of the human rights but also an advisory institution. The Commission has been collecting the information on the district level human rights concerns amidst a process for formulating the six year Strategic Plan (2015-2020) of the Commission.

At the program, the participants urged in unison the direct presence of the Commission in the district including the mandatory legal provisions to implement the recommendations forwarded by the Commission after the accomplishment of the investigation and monitoring on the human rights violation cases.

The participants appealed to the Commission to monitor the gender based violence in the district, increasing rate of the crime like rape and sexual assault, lack of identity faced by the marginalized Sonaha community, the lack of the right to education, health including right to food faced by the detract level people despite the commitment expressed by

the government to fulfill these rights.

On the occasion, Commissioner and Spokesperson Mohna Ansari said that there was a longstanding vacuum without the appointment of the Officials made for 13 months including the pervasive human resource crunch at the Commission which caused stagnation to the NHRC activities.

She expressed her commitment that the Commission will incorporate the feedbacks and suggestions provided at the program in the strategic plan and advance the activities of the Commission accordingly.

Stakeholders in West urge early Formation of TJ Mechanisms

MYAGDI: The NHRC Regional Office, Pokhara organized an interaction entitled ‘The Role of Stakeholders in the Protection of Human Rights’ in Myagdi district.

The participants at the program debated on the endorsement of the Act related to Transitional Mechanism and dilly dallying in forming the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission on the Inquiry of the Disappeared (CID) to address the armed conflict related cases.

They also univocally expressed their anxiety as to how the TJ mechanisms will address the incidents of human rights violations upon which the National Rights Body has already recommended to the government.

Thirty five participants comprising the civil society representatives, media, human rights workers

including victims of the decade long armed conflict participated in the program. The chiefs of district level political party, central member of Federation of Nepalese Journalists participated in the program as guests.

The participants strongly stressed on the fact that the violators of human rights of conflict period should be dragged to justice through the TRC and the victims must be provided with compensation by the state without any obliviousness.

At the program, the conflict victims unanimously demanded to end the pervasive state of impunity to sustain

Rule of Law and human rights culture in society by forming the TRC as early as possible. They also put forward their suggestions to thrust aside the practice of criminalization in politics and vice versa and also to immediately distribute compensation and reparation to the victims of armed conflict.

At the program the regional Chief Dr. Tikaram Pokhrel responded to the queries and concerns raised by the participants.



Human Right Officer Jyoti Ghimire of NHRC Regional Office Pokhara addressing an interaction held on TJ Mechanisms in Myagdi district

Photo: Regional Office, Pokhara

Human Rights Situation monitored in Far West

Directives issued for the Protection of Human Rights

KAILALI: A high level monitoring team led by Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal has issued the directive to improve the human rights situation in the districts of Achcham, Doti, Dadeldhura and Kailali in far west region of the country following the monitoring conducted on human rights situation in those districts.

During the monitoring, the team found that most of the government offices in Dadeldhura, Achcham and Doti districts were suffering from staff crunch, longstanding vacuum in the Regional Administrative Office and the lack of communication on the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) of the Government of Nepal.

The team also found the lack of doctors in the hospitals in this region for a long time, lack of medicines despite

the Government’s announcement of free distribution of medicines, lack of installation of essential apparatus like X-Ray machine, lack of BCG and other important vaccines for measles for months including the lack of Intensive Care Unit.

The region sporadically suffered from social taboo such as Chaupadi culture, bonded laborers such as Kamalari, practice of child marriage and polygamy, lack of text books in the schools as well as HIV AIDS.

More inmates were found accommodated than their capacity in the district prisons of Kailali, Achcham and Dadeldhura. The prisons also suffered from pitiable physical condition, lack of basic amenities such as sleeping facility, lack of clean drinking water supply and health services.

During the process of monitoring, the interactions were held separately with the chiefs of the district based government offices, chiefs of security agencies, media persons, legal professionals, representatives of the professional organizations, human rights defenders, armed conflict victims, and local residents to collect feedbacks and suggestions on the NHRC’s six year Strategic Plan and Universal Periodic Review report.

Meanwhile, The Commission summoned the Chief District Officer of Dhanusha district at the NHRC Regional Office, Janakpur through the Ministry of Home Affairs for not supporting by remaining absent despite being invited in written in connection with the Godar incident and human rights situation in the area.

Law Scholars of Sydney University and KSL visit the NHRC



Students and faculty members of Kathmandu School of Law and Sydney University at a program held during their visit to NHRC

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

LAITPUR: A group of 30 students accompanied by the law faculty of University of Sydney and Kathmandu School of Law (KSL) visited the Commission on 13th January 2015. A program was organized during their courtesy visit to the Commission.

At the outset, welcoming the group of law scholars, Promotion and Advocacy Division Head Surya Deuja made the presentation with brief elucidation on the mandates, functions of the Commission including the major activities accomplished in the recent past.

After the presentation, the law scholars posed their queries on the NHRC and various contentious human rights issues. The questions also included on the compliance of the legislation by the Government and the state accountability to implement the NHRC recommendations, NHRC outreach and the resource crunch such as the shortage of staff.

The Division Head Deuja, responding to a dozen of queries and concerns raised by the visiting law scholars, threw light on the diverse areas

of NHRC intervention including complaint management policy to mitigate backlogs and avoid delays.

Regarding the outreach of the NHRC, he said that the Commission has expanded its offices in different parts of the country accessible for the grass root level people.

Human Rights Officer Samjhana Sharma and Human Rights Assistant Janak Raj Bhatta were also present at the program.

Law Scholars of NLC familiarized with Human Rights

LALITPUR: A delegation comprising the scholars of BA/LLB from National Law College, Kathmandu visited the Commission on January 2, 2015 as part of their educational tour. The delegation led by Academic Director Alok Pokharel was welcomed by Surya Bahdur Deuja, the Promotion and Advocacy Division Head

At the program, Human Rights Officer Suresh Malla made a presentation on the duties, functions and the mandates of the Commission. He informed that the Commission complies ethically with the Paris Principles.

Elucidating on historical background of the Commission, he also shared that that the Commission has retained its 'A' status in the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) of the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs).

He said that, in general, the state is responsible for violating the human rights and the NHRC as an independent rights watchdog has surveillance over the occurrences of such incidents. He also threw light on the paradigm shift of the NHRC endeavors from International covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights (IESCR) in the post conflict period.

Mr. Malla also shared about the mandates bestowed upon the Commission to monitor the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) and National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) of the Government of Nepal (GoN).

Mr. Deuja responded to the queries and concerns raised by 35 visiting scholars amid a program held at the NHRC conference hall.



Human Rights Officer Suresh Malla and Promotion and Advocacy Division Head Surya Deuja with the students from National Law College during their visit to NHRC

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

Students of West familiarized with Human Rights



Human Right Officer Jyoti Ghimire and the students of Pokhara based schools at a program held on human rights

Photo: Regional Office, Pokhara

KASKI: NHRC Regional Office Pokhara organized a Human Rights Orientation Program for the students of Grade X, XI, and XII studying at Sainik Awasiya Mahavidhyalaya Pokhara.

At the program, Human Rights Officer Jyoti Ghimire made a presentation on the duties, functions and the mandates of the Commission. Enumerating on the historical background of the commission since its inception period, he shared about the broad mandates provided to the commission to conduct monitoring on the implementation of Comprehensive Peace Accord and

the National Human rights Action Plan (NHRAP) introduced by the government of Nepal.

At the program, HRO Ghimire also shed light on the importance of the fulfillment of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights (ICESCR) in the post conflict period.

Following the presentation, the students posed various queries and concerns to which HRO Ghimire responded.

65 participating comprising mostly girl students were present at the program.

Pokhara Folks discard Racism

KASKI: The participants at an interaction program raised their voice for the elimination of the practice of caste based discrimination in West. They have decried the discriminatory practice perpetuated on them by the so called upper caste Brahmin and Chhetri of Lahachok VDC. The local Dalits are found debarred to enter into the sacred places and also deprived of benefits as consumer groups of the community forests.

At the program the Chief of the NHRC Regional Office Pokhara Dr. Tikaram Pokharel threw light on the prevalent laws and provisions including the international human rights provisions with regard to caste based discrimination. Quoting the provisions laid out in the Interim Constitution of Nepal – 2007, Dr. Pokharel said that if anyone is found debarring a person on the basis of his caste, such a practice will be a crime against racial discrimination and such a person will be dragged to justice as per law of land.

Fifty two participants representing the Human Rights Journalists Association (HURJA), Management Committee of the Shree Jagaran Primary School, Banabihi Samittee, Members of the A-Cap including the Lahachok based President of Forest Protection participated in the program.

IB&MS Students familiarized with HRs

LALITPUR: A groups of students of BBA III semester from the Institute of Business and & Management Studies (IB&MS) visited the NHRC as part of their syllabus to visit the human rights institution in the country. They were familiarized with basic human rights knowledge and skills amid a program held at NHRC during their visit.

Promotion and Advocacy Division Head Surya Deuja welcomed the visiting students while Human Rights Officer Suresh Malla made a presentation on the duties, functions and the mandates of the Commission.

Describing about the historical background of the Commission, HRO



Human Rights Officers Samjhana Sharma, Suresh Malla and Promotion and Advocacy Division head Surya Deuja at a program held on human rights with the students from IB&MS, Lalitpur

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

Malla shared that that the Commission as an independent constitutional responsible to have surveillance over the occurrences of the incidents of human rights violations.

Mr. Malla also shared about the mandates bestowed upon the Commission to monitor the

Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) and National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) of the Government of Nepal (GoN). Policy, Research and Planning Division Head Yagya Prasad Adhiakri, on the other hand, responded to the queries and concerns raised by the students.

News in Brief

Restrain Violence

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission has expressed serious concern on the incidents of attack and arson perpetuated by the bandh enforcer on media, vandalizing of the public vehicles and the violation of freedom of movement of the people as per the press release issued.

The press release reads, 'though it is democratic right of the people to organize protest programs to express discontentment, the Commission would like to draw the attention of the stakeholders to be aware and responsible towards negative impact of such programs on the general citizens.

The Commission has, therefore, drawn the attention of all stakeholders to advance their protest programs in peaceful, restrained and dignified manner, the press release says.

Solve the Problem of the Senior Citizens

LALITPUR: Issuing a press release, the National Human Rights Commission has expressed concern about the issues related to the senior citizens including their sit-in program placing various demands before the government for the last 23 months and the dispirited notion of the government shown towards this.

The Commission has, therefore, drawn the attention of the Government to immediately ensure for the fulfillment of the prevalent international provisions with regard to the rights of senior citizens, Senior Citizens Act-2007 and the decision of the Supreme Court dispensed on April 7, 2011 in favor of the rights of senior citizens and also their right to dignified life, as per the press release.

Commission writes to the District Security Authority about Child Rights Concern

MORANG: The NHRC Regional Office, Biratnagar has found a child aged 15 of Baijnathpur Village Development Committee of Ghinagat being kept with adult detainees in the detention center of the District Police Office of Morang district.

The NHRC RO Biratnagar had monitored the District Police Office on January 22, 2015.

Upon monitoring, the Commission has written to the concerned District Police Office inquiring about the

reason for keeping the miner in the detention including whether or not the prevalent standard with regard to justice delivery to the children within five days from the receipt of the letter.

The NHRC Regional Office Biratnagar had found the children specially belonging to the marginalized communities in the detention center of the district police office, as per the monitoring conducted earlier.

Journalists of Baglung trained on Human Rights

BAGLUNG: On 27th December 2014, NHRC regional Office Pokhara organized Human Rights Orientation Program for the Journalists in Baglung District. Regional Director Dr. Tikaram Pokharel and HRO Jyoti Ghimire represented NHRC at the Program. The Program was organized to discuss about human rights friendly reporting for the journalists. The Program was organized in collaboration with Federation of Nepali Journalists, Baglung.



NHRC Officials from Regional Office Pokhara along with the invitee resource persons at a training held on human rights among the journalists

Photo: Regional Office, Pokhara

UNESCO Nepal Office Representatives visit NHRC

LALITPUR: Mr. Christian Manhart, Head of office and UNESCO Representative UNESCO Office in Kathmandu visited NHRC and met with Commissioner Sudip Pathak and shared about UNESCO activities on 9th January 2015. Laxman Dutta Panta Coordinator of the Safety of Journalist project under UNESCO briefed about project activities. Director Subarna Karmacharya and HRO Surya Deuja were also present in the meeting.



Commissioners Prakash Osti and Sudip Pathak among other Officials with the UNESCO Nepal Office representatives during the latter's courtesy visit to the NHRC

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

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

Human Rights in 2014...

Tenants submit Memorandum: NHRC Initiative sought for Land Ownership

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

NHRC Nepal attends the Human Rights Committee Session and ICC Meeting

Stakeholders present Inputs on the GoN's Draft NHRAP (2014-2017)

No Amnesty for Rights Violators of War Era: OPM Gautam

Nepal makes Strides in the Implementation of Int'l HRs Treaties: NHRC

Human Remains of Godar Victims handed over: Last Rites performed

Workshop on HRs Protection through the Use of Writ Jurisdiction concluded

Newly appointed NHRC Office-Bearers Assume Office
Commitment expressed for the Protection & Promotion of Human Rights

NHRC Retains its 'A' Status

The 66th International Human Rights Day-2014
Government committed to Human Friendly Constitution: Prime Minister

... the year that was!

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