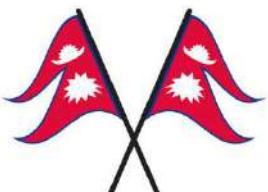


Human Rights News Letter



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Monitoring of HR Situation in the Prisons and Detention Cells



NHRC's Sudurpashchim Province Office, Dhangadhi, has monitored the human rights situation of prisoners and detainees in prisons and detention cells in Achham and Doti districts and juvenile detainees in the Doti district juvenile correctional home from May 16 to 19.

The Commission has monitored the implementation status of the issues mentioned in the Fifth National

Action Plan on Human Rights and the Action Plan for the Implementation of Recommendations received from the Third Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

During the monitoring, it was found that although improvements are being made in the prisons and detention cells of both districts, there is inadequate safe drinking water, inadequate and old physical

infrastructure, and inadequacy of physical, financial and human resources required for office operations. There is a lack of law-related books in the library, lack of knowledge about the legal procedures of cases among prisoners, and lack of budget for the transfer of prisoners. One prisoner was found facing problems in partition of property in family after he could not obtain citizenship, and there is a lack of information among the concerned bodies about the National Action Plan on Human Rights.

During the monitoring, the team conducted on-site monitoring of prisons and detention cells, discussions and interactions with prisoners, detainees, administration and stakeholders, and training on the action plan, etc. The monitoring team included Office Head Prakash Dutta Bhatta, Under Secretary Jhankar Bahadur Rawal, and Human Rights Officer Daibagya Raj Neupane.

Monitoring of Human Rights Situation in Rasuwa



The Bagmati Province Office has monitored the human rights situation in Rasuwa district. The monitoring team visited various local levels of the district and monitored the human rights situation from May 21 to 23. During the monitoring, discussions and interactions were held with the local levels, government bodies, civil society, human rights activists and media persons.

The participants of the interaction program held during the monitoring informed that despite the gradual improvement in the overall human rights situation, the incidents of child marriage and the number of victims of hydropower projects are increasing. The participants were concerned about the economic and social rights of the citizens being at risk due to the non-completion of development works on time and the local developmental works



without proper study. It was also informed that the citizens are being affected by hydropower projects, and they are unable to get proper compensation and indemnity.

Information has been received from the concerned bodies that due to the ineffective implementation of the right to education in the district, there has been an increase in cases of child marriage and polygamy and that out of an average of 10 people coming to the District Administration Office daily to apply for citizenship, four are illiterate.

The team also conducted an on-site monitoring regarding the human rights situation of the prisoners in the district, and the situation was found normal. The monitoring team included the head of the Bagmati Province Office Pawan Kumar Bhatta and Accounts Officer Jitendra Karki.

Monitoring on the Status of Implementation of UPR Recommendations

The NHRC's Lumbini Province Branch Office, Nepalganj, has completed a monitoring on the status of implementation of the recommendations received from the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights, from May 20 to 24.

During the monitoring, the discussion and interaction program was also conducted with the District Administration Office, District Police Office, District Coordination Committee, various government bodies,



human rights defenders and various non-governmental organizations. It has been found that the national action plan for the implementation of the recommendations received from the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights has not been implemented properly in the monitored provinces and local levels. It has been observed that the bodies responsible for implementing the action plan are not sufficiently aware of the action plan. Although programs have been formulated and implemented in most of the 19 topics covered by the action plan, it seems that it has not been implemented effectively. Despite comparative improvements in the areas of health, education, employment and agriculture, especially at the local levels, it has been found that there is insufficient documentation of action plan-related programs, and there is a lack of monitoring and evaluation of the programs being implemented.

The monitoring team was attended by Human Rights Officers Dwarika Kumari Adhikari, Dhanraj Shahi, Dayaram Pathak and Information Technology Officer Sulochan Chaudhary.

Human Rights Orientation for Children

The Koshi Province Office of the Commission, Biratnagar, conducted a human rights orientation program at the Purbanchal Balsewa Ashram, Biratnagar on May 29. Human Rights Officers of the Koshi Province Office, Chiranjivi Koirala, Sudipti Subedi and Tulsha Karki made thematic presentations.

The presentation covered the topics of human rights, human rights violations and child rights, duties of children, corporal punishment against children and child protection, sexual abuse against children and prevention. Similarly, the role being played by the Koshi Province Office of the Commission in the protection and promotion of child rights and overall human rights was also discussed.

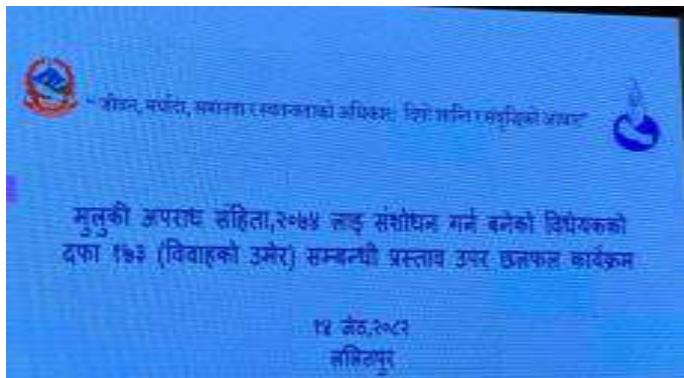


In addition, children and the ashram operators were informed about human rights and its importance, national and international legal systems and the complaint process for human rights violations. Participants stressed the need to continue such

programs as they would be more useful for everyone to be responsible and play an active role in protecting children's rights. The program was attended by 42

children dependent on the ashram, along with the operators of Bal Seva Ashram and representatives of civil society.

Discussion Program on the Age of Marriage



The discussion program on the proposal regarding Section 173 (age of marriage) of the draft bill prepared to amend the National Criminal Code, 2074 BS, was concluded on May 28 in Lalitpur.

In the program, Hon. Member of the Commission, Lily Thapa, highlighted the relevance of the program. Similarly, Hon. Member of the Commission, Manoj Duwadi, made a section-wise analytical presentation on the proposed amendment of Section 173. In the program, facilitated by Joint Secretary and the head of the Promotion Department, Navaraj Sapkota, was attended by representatives of thematic ministries, National Child Rights Council, Nepal Police Women, Children and Senior Citizens Directorate and Nepal Police Human Rights Violation Monitoring Unit,

stakeholders working in the field of child rights as well as the experts in child rights, provided valuable opinions regarding the issues.



Similarly, the Commission had organized a discussion program on 11th June with the objective of obtaining feedback on the scoping paper of the National Inquiry on Child Marriage in Nepal.

The program, chaired by the Hon. Member of the Commission, Lily Thapa, the presentation of expert Milan Dharel was discussed. Suggestions were received from the concerned ministries, the National Women Commission, development partner organizations, organizations working in the field of child rights and experts.

Review of the Human Rights Journal 'Sambahak'



An interactive review program was held in Kathmandu on 9th June with the aim of collecting opinions and suggestions from expert writers to enhance the quality of the human rights journal 'Sambahak', which is regularly being published by the Commission.



In the program, Anish Kumar Paudel, Under Secretary of the Commission and Member of the Editorial Committee, presented the current status, challenges and future plans of 'Sambahak', and the Hon. Judge of the Special Court Tek Narayan Kunwar gave an overall review of 'Sambahak'. Valuable suggestions were received from experts regarding the issues raised in the presentation for further enhancement of the quality and content of 'Sambahak'.

The participants emphasized that the human rights journal should be viewed not only as a format but also as a means of promoting and orienting human rights, and that multidimensional issues of human rights should be included. They emphasized the need to continue publishing the research journal in Nepal Journal Online (Nep Jol) and Digital Online Identifier (DOI), linguistic accuracy, inclusiveness, use of disability-friendly, gender-friendly and human rights-

friendly terminology, expanding access to technology, and expanding the relationship between authors and readers.

Suggestions such as publishing special issues, publishing in one language instead of both Nepali and English alternately, reflecting the originality of the country in the articles, and reviewing thematic books were also received. Hon. Chairperso Top Bahadur Magar, Hon. Member Mihir Thakur, and Secretary Murari Prasad Kharel emphasized on gradually assimilating the suggestions received.



In the program held under the chairpersonship of the Hon. Chairperson of the Commission, Editorial Committee Coordinator Samjhana Sharma, highlighted the welcome note and on the purpose of the program, while Human Rights Officer Durga Pokharel, facilitated the program. The program was attended by the authors, subject experts, editors associated with various research journals, professors of Tribhuvan University and employees of the Commission.

Interaction on Human Rights Education (HRE) in Secondary Level Curriculum

The NHRC conducted an interactive program with stakeholders regarding the inclusion of human rights education in secondary level curriculum, textbooks, teacher guides and other resource materials. The discussion program was organized with the aim of reviewing the topics of human rights currently

included in the secondary level and making the human rights topics relevant in the curriculum.

In the program held in Lalitpur from June 14 to 15, the NHRC's Joint Secretary Navaraj Sapkota made a presentation on the national and international



practices, importance and challenges for human rights education.

Dinanath Gautam, Director of the Social Studies division of the Curriculum Development Center, emphasized the need for human rights-related topics in social subjects from grades 9 to 12, and informed that discussions are being held to include human rights topics in the social studies curriculum to make students more comfortable. He said that secondary



education in Nepal could be implemented as a human rights-based education by adding human rights topics to human rights-related content textbooks, teacher guides, and resource materials. Since its inception, the Commission has been engaging with stakeholders to implement human rights education from the school level.

Workshop for Collecting Suggestions on the Draft Regulations



A workshop has been held in Gurase, Dailekh to collect suggestions on the draft of the regulations related to the monitoring of human rights prepared by the Legal Affairs Division of the Commission.

At the program, Shyam Babu Kafle, the Head of the Division, made a presentation on the provisions mentioned in the draft of the regulations. Discussions were held on issues such as the procedures to be followed before the monitoring, monitoring period and after the monitoring mentioned in the draft.

Important suggestions were received from the participants to complete the proposed regulations. The draft prepared taking into account the suggestions received in the discussion will be implemented after it is approved by the Commission. The program was attended by the NHRC's Hon. Member Manoj Duwadi, along with the office heads of Sudurpaschim, Karnali and Lumbini Province Offices and Lumbini Province Branch Office.

Capacity Building Program for NHRC Staffs

A one-day capacity building program for employees (Office Helpers, Drivers and Security Guards) of the Central Office of the Commission was concluded. With the aim of enhancing the efficiency of

employees and stimulating them in the workplace, an orientation was held at Alpha House, New Baneshwor on June 7.



The program included a motivational presentation by Krishnahari Baskota, former Secretary to the Government of Nepal and former Chief Information Commissioner. The program was chaired by the Secretary of the NHRC, Murari Prasad Kharel, and Joint Secretary Dr. Tikaram Pokharel highlighted the objectives of the program. Similarly, Joint Secretary

NHRC's 25th Anniversary Celebration

Central Office



On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the NHRC, the Central Office of the Commission and the Provincial and Provincial Branch



Samjhana Sharma and Under Secretary Subodh Pokharel facilitated the group work session. 45 employees were participated in the program.

The Commission has been conducting knowledge exchange programs from time to time with the aim of managing stress among employees in the workplace and motivating them to perform their duties in a result-oriented manner. As a continuation of this, the program was conducted at the initiative of the Coordination Department and in coordination with the Administration Planning and Finance Department. perform their duties in a result-oriented manner.

NHRC's 25th Anniversary Celebration

Offices have celebrated the Silver Jubilee by organizing various programs. The Commission has been celebrating the establishment day of the Commission on 13th Jesta every year.

On the occasion, the Central Office has organized the Silver Jubilee Day program in the office premises. The speakers in the program stated the role of the Commission during the conflicting period and expressed their best wishes for the Commission to move forward with more strength in the protection and promotion of human rights in the coming days.

Four employees working in the Commission have been honored with this year's Human Rights Awards at the program. Under Secretary Pawan Kumar Bhatta was honored with the Best Performer Human Rights Award, Human Rights Officers Khimananda Basyal and Mandira Shrestha were honored with the Excellent Human Rights Award, and Security Guard Khagendra Thapa Magar was honored with the Human Rights Award.

Similarly, 15 employees who have been serving the Commission continuously for the past 15 years were honored with the Long Service Award. The awardees included human rights officers Rajendra Prasad Neupane, Kiran Prasad Ghimire and Bhupendra Bahadur Dhami, security guard Khagendra Thapa Magar, drivers Hari Tamang and Nar Bahadur Gharti, office assistants Ramnandan Sah and Tilu Thapa.

The program, chaired by the Commission's Hon. Chairperson Top Bahadur Magar, was attended by heads of constitutional bodies, heads and representatives of diplomatic missions, high-ranking civil servants from the civil service, security agencies and other government services, resident representatives of the United Nations Development Program, heads and representatives of non-governmental organizations, human rights activists and media persons. At the program, Hon. Member Lily Thapa delivered a welcome speech and Human Rights Officer Dipendra Bahadur Singh conducted the proceedings.

Bagmati Province Office



The Bagmati Province Office of the Commission celebrated the establishment and anniversary day of the Commission by organizing a program to exchange greetings in Hetauda.



In the program, the speakers expressed their concern that although the NHRC has been contributing to the respect, protection and promotion of human rights, impunity is being encouraged due to the government's inattention to the implementation of the recommendations. They also emphasized that the government should be sensitive to the fact that the victims have not been able to effectively experience justice due to the indifference of the Government of Nepal in the implementation of the recommendations made by the Commission.

The program, chaired by Human Rights Officer Pabitra Bhandari and the Chief of Bagmati Province, Hon. Deepak Prasad Devkota attended as a Chief Guest. Other attendees included Chief Secretary of Bagmati Province Government Mahadev Panta, Chief of district Coordination Committee, Lalit Bahadur Ghalan, Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law Krishna Bahadur Shahi, Assistant Chief District Officer Rajendra Prasad Kandel and heads and representatives of various other government bodies and non-governmental organizations. Human Rights Officer Krishna Prasad Mishra delivered the welcome speech, while Human Rights Officer Rabina Ghimire facilitated the program.

Karnali Province Office

The Karnali Province Office of the Commission, Surkhet, celebrated the silver jubilee of the Commission by exchanging greetings with representatives of civil society, human rights defenders and media persons.

At the program, High Court Bar Association President Durga Prasad Sapkota, Nepal Lawyers Council Councilor Matrika Prasad Khanal, NGO Federation Surkhet President Prakash Sharu, INSEC Karnali Province Office Coordinator Narayan Subedi, Madhya Paschim University Former Dean and Human Rights Defenders Network Coordinator Pitambar Dhakal, Dalit NGO Narayan B.K, Ekal Mahila Network President Mamta Nagal, Karnali Indreni Awaaz President Anjali B.C., related to gender and sexual minority communities, expressed their greetings and provided suggestions to the Commission.

In the program, the head of the Karnali Provincial Office Ramesh Kumar Thapa highlighted the important work done by the Commission since its establishment.

The speakers of the program mentioned that the Karnali Provincial Office of the Commission has played an important role in the promotion and protection of human rights and suggested to be more active in the coming days in the promotion and protection of human rights.

The program was chaired by the head of the Karnali Provincial Office, Ramesh Kumar Thapa, and Human Rights Officer Man Bahadur Karki welcomed the invitees and the program was facilitated by Human Rights Officer Ram Prasad Upadhyaya.

Sudurpaschim Provincial Office

The Sudurpaschim Province Office of the Commission, in collaboration with Sudurpaschim University, has conducted the 25th anniversary

program of the Commission in Kanchanpur by



organizing an interaction program on “Human Rights, NHRCN and the Role of Law Students in the Promotion of Human Rights”.

In the program, Head of the Sudurpachim province office NHRC, Joint Secretary of the Commission, Prakash Dutta Bhatta, presented a working paper, while Under Secretary of the Commission, Jhankar Bahadur Rawal, gave a welcome speech. The program was facilitated by Pooja Sonari, a student of Sudurpaschim University.

The chief guest of the program, Hon. Justice Dinesh Prasad Yadav, stated that human rights are the matter of concern to all citizens, so if all individuals are regular and transparent in their conduct and



behavior, no one's rights will be violated, and appealed to the participating students to cooperate by reporting information about human rights violations to the Commission.

Addressing the program, Kanchanpur Chief District Officer Laxman Dhakal emphasized that since human



rights are a legal and moral issue, everyone should be legally and morally responsible to develop a human rights culture.

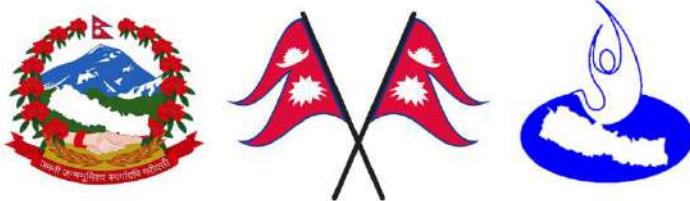
Acting Vice Chancellor of Sudurpaschim University Bhawani Chand Thakuri stated that the interaction program had motivated the university students to become aware of human rights violations and expressed his commitment to continuous



coordination and cooperation with the Commission in the coming days. At the program, heads and

representatives of the Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations and the Federation of Journalists wished the Commission to be effective in its work.

The program was held under the chairpersonship of Prakash Dutta Bhatta, joint Secretary of the Commission, and under the chief hospitality of Hon. Justice Dinesh Prasad Yadav of the Dipayal Bench of the High Court, Mahendranagar. Acting Vice President Dr. Bhabani Chand Thakuri, Chief District Officer of Kanchanpur, Laxman Dhakal, President of the NGOs Federation, Lakshmi Bohora, President of the Federation of Nepali Journalists Kanchanpur, Suresh Dhami, and other employees of the Commission, employees of the University of Far-Western Region and students of law schools were also present.



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