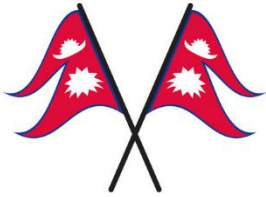


Human Rights News Letter



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Monitoring on Trikune and Bhrikutimandap Demonstrations



NHRC has monitored the General Assembly including demonstrations from human rights perspectives held on 28th March, 2025 in Kathmandu. The Joint People's Movement Committee for the Restoration of Monarchy and the Republican Socialist Front had organized the program separately in Tinkune and in Bhrikutimandap respectively.

A team led by H'ble member Mihir Thakur was deployed for monitoring the demonstration of the Republican Socialist Front held in Bhrikutimandap while another team under the leadership of H'ble member Dr. Lily Thapa was deployed for monitoring the demonstration of The Joint People's Movement

Committee for the Restoration of Monarchy held in Tinkune in Kathmandu.

Although the program of the Socialist Front was found to be peaceful, the organizers set up a stage on the main road and held the program causing traffic chaos from the morning, obstructing the movement of citizens and forcing nearby businessmen to close their shops.

The demonstration in Tinkune, however, turned violent, resulting in human and material damage, according to the monitoring. During the protest, 29-year-old Sabin Maharjan, a resident of Kirtipur, was killed in police firing and Suresh Rajak, a journalist



with Avenues Television, was killed in arson. More than a dozen people were injured in the firing. Tear gas was fired at the meeting venue. Private and government buildings, physical properties and vehicles were damaged by arson, vandalism and looting. In this incident, the NHRC team deployed for on-site monitoring was also misbehaved and physically attacked. No action has been taken so far to identify those involved in the incident, and the concerned parties have not assumed any responsibility.

Based on the facts obtained from the monitoring, the NHRC has formed a high-level investigation team including experts for further investigation. Meanwhile, the Commission has also taken information from the families of the deceased,

injured and relatives and organizers. Similarly, the officials of the security agencies have also been questioned as well as discussed with the experts. The Commission is going to make the report public after completing the investigation work.

In view of the situation that may arise during the day's program, the Commission had also discussed about the security situation with the chief district officers and heads of security bodies of the Kathmandu Valley on the previous day (March 27). In this regard, the commission had issued a press release on March 27, appealing to the organizers to make the public demonstration peaceful and had also directed the government to be serious about peace and security.

Monitoring of the Demonstration Organized by the RPP

The NHRC has monitored through human rights perspectives the massive demonstration organized by the National Democracy Party (RPP), demanding the restoration of monarchy and a Hindu state on April 8 in Balkhu.

The program, including the demonstration, concluded peacefully. The single-lane road from Balkhu to Kalanki was completely closed while

staging the program by building a stage on the road. It was observed that the general public had to suffer due to this and the businessmen around the venue were forced to close their shops. After the program ended, the organizers themselves cleaned the program venue. A team including human rights officers Kalpana Nepal Acharya, Sumitra Rai, Saniksha Bade and Bipul Gautam were involved in the monitoring.

Monitoring on the Teacher's Movement

The teachers' movement, which has been going on in Kathmandu since April 2 demanding a new education

act, is being monitored by the commission from a human rights perspective.

The movement has affected regular teaching learning, enrollment of students, SEE exam answer sheet testing and the board examination of grade 12. Transport services in the New Baneshwor area of Kathmandu have also been affected.

Teachers have stated that they will continue their movement until the Education Act is issued as agreements between the National Teachers'



Federation and the Government of Nepal have not been implemented in the past.

The NHRC has urged the government and the federation to resolve the problem as soon as possible through dialogue after studying the facts obtained

from the monitoring. In this regard, the commission has issued press releases on April 15 requesting an immediate resolution through dialogue and urging not to obstruct the implementation of the right to education on April 21.

Discussion on Transitional Justice



The NHRCN has sent H'ble member Dr. Lily Thapa as a representative to the committee formed by the Government of Nepal for the second time to recommend office bearers for the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons, Nepal (CIEDP) and Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

A discussion program was held in the NHRC on April 11, under the chairmanship of H'ble Member Lily Thapa, among the members of the recommendation committee, victims and other stakeholders, regarding the selection of competent and impartial office bearers for these two commissions and moving forward the transitional justice process.

The participants of the program thanked the National Human Rights Commission Nepal for facilitating the program, suggesting that the committee itself organized a consultation program and collected the statements of the victims. They emphasized that it would be appropriate for the newly formed commissions to be led by a strong facilitator and a strong-willed person, and that the work of the

commission should be victim-friendly and gender-friendly. They said that the Commission should play a guardian role and facilitate the transitional justice process, emphasizing the implementation of past recommendations.

They emphasized that competent and impartial officials should be selected without recommending individuals close to the party or those on the list recommended by the party.

The program was attended by Law and Human Rights Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Government of Nepal, Agni Kharel, members of the selection committee, Khamma Bahadur Khati and Stela Tamang, former Lieutenant General of Nepal army



Bala Nanda Sharma and federal parliamentarian H'ble Maina Karki. Similarly, former minister Devi Khadka, founding chairman of the Conflict Victims' Common Chautari, Suman Adhikari, Chairman of the National Network of Conflict Victims, Gopal Bahadur Shah, Dr. Ram Kumar Bhandari, Surendra Khatri, Lenin Bista were also present.

Monitoring of Election of the ISU



The NHRC has conducted human rights monitoring of the Independent Students Union (ISU) elections held in the constituent and affiliated campuses of Tribhuvan University in March throughout the country.

The Koshi Provincial Office of NHRC has monitored the elections held on March 18 at Mahendra Morang Adarsh Campus in Biratnagar and Mahendra Multiple Campus in Dharan. It has been found that there was enthusiastic participation of students in the monitored campuses, various student organizations volunteered to take the voters to the polling stations and clarify the ambiguity regarding voting and student voters were found to have exercised their voting rights in a peaceful and fearless environment.

Similarly, the Bagmati Provincial Office of the NHRC has monitored the elections held in various campuses of Makawanpur and Chitwan districts. The monitoring found that the elections were held on the scheduled date in a peaceful, free and fearless environment at the Institute of Forest Science Studies in Makawanpur and Chitwan Engineering Campus in Chitwan.

The election was not held on the scheduled date due to the protest program by some student

organizations, claiming that their demands were not addressed, at the Birendra Multiple Campus, Bharatpur in Chitwan district. Similarly, in Rampur Campus, Khairheni, Chitwan, the election was postponed after student organizations locked the election office with various demands during the nomination process on March 11.



The Gandaki Province Office of the Commission, Pokhara, has monitored the registration of candidates at Prithvi Narayan Campus, Institute of Engineering Studies, Western Campus, Pokhara Nursing Campus and Institute of Forest Science Studies Pokhara Campus on March 11 and the voting held on March 18. Although the nomination of candidates was completed peacefully, voting could not be held at the Prithvi Narayan Campus on the scheduled date due to an error in the ballot paper and a re-election was held on March 23. The voting process was stopped for some time at the Western Campus of the Engineering Studies Institute after the election committee cancelled the candidacy of the





Secretary candidate from the Nepali Students' Union, but it later resumed. Voting was conducted

peacefully at the Pokhara Nursing Campus and the Forest Science Study Institute.

The central office of the Commission has also monitored the elections held on various campuses in the valley on various dates. Although voting could not be completed on the scheduled date due to disputes between students in some campuses, it has been found that the elections were conducted peacefully in most campuses.

Tribhuvan University has made provisions in its guidelines for the National Human Rights Commission, Nepal to play the role of observer for the elections of independent students' unions.

Monitoring of Prisons in Koshi Province



The Koshi Province Office of the NHRC has completed the monitoring of prisons in all 11 districts within the province. The monitoring team deployed from Province Office has monitored the prisons of Ilam and Panchthar districts in the month of March in accordance with the annual action plan for the fiscal

year 2024/25. Prior to this, the monitoring of the remaining district prisons within the province was completed.

The monitoring has found that although new physical structures have been constructed in some prisons, most of the prisons are old and dilapidated and prisoners are kept beyond their capacity. Similarly, in most of the prisons, problems have been seen in the lack of air and light, toilets, bathing places and sanitation. Despite the provision of regular health check-ups inside the prison, it has been found that there is a shortage of necessary medicines. There are problems like non-filling of posts according to the demand of health workers, keeping people with contagious diseases with the general prisoners and lack of special management for the mentally retarded prisoners.

Consultation on the HR Situation of the Chepang Community

The consultation program on the human rights situation of the Chepang community, which is on the list of highly marginalized indigenous nationalities, was held on March 23 in Hetauda. The program was focused on discussions with the stakeholders on the draft study report-2025 prepared by the NHRC after studying the human rights situation of the Chepang community.





Various suggestions were received from the participants focusing on the draft presentation presented by Human Rights Officer Kirankumar Baram, a member of the study team. Addressing the program, the Province Chief, members of the Provincial Assembly and the Chief District Officer expressed their commitment to implement the recommendations made by the commission and solve the problems of the Chepang community.

Chairman of the Chepang Association Nepal and member of the Constituent Assembly, Govinda Ram Chepang, emphasized that the state should not ignore the Chepangs for their upliftment, should not be deprived of basic rights like shelter and food, and that Chepangs should have access to every decision

and program of the state. The Secretary of the Commission, Murari Prasad Kharel, clarified the functions, duties and powers of the Commission and thanked the participants for the suggestions and commitments made.

The consultation program, chaired by the Secretary of the Commission, and hosted by the Chief of Bagmati Province, Mr. Deepak Prasad Devkota, was attended by members of the Bagmati Province Assembly, members of the Constituent Assembly, Chief District Officer, Chiefs of the Province Police and District Police Offices, stakeholders, heads/representatives of government and non-government organizations, media persons, civil society and leaders of the Chepang community.

Discussion on the Periodic Report of Human Trafficking



The NHRC has completed the suggestion and feedback collection program with the stakeholders

on March 20 for the publication of the Periodic Report on Human Trafficking.

Prof. Dr. Govinda Poudel made a presentation on the outlines of the report and the head of the Collective Rights Division, Mr. Loknath Bastola, made a topic-oriented presentation in the program. Participants of the event emphasized the need for all bodies to be accountable for the control of human trafficking and to develop an informed plan to ensure human rights. Similarly, despite the high number of human trafficking incidents, the number of cases registered with the police is decreasing, problems arising due to inadequate safe houses, internal trafficking, tendency to go abroad through illegal routes, use of brown sugar and so on, and they said that attention should be paid to addressing these issues. The event was attended by the Secretary of the Commission, the Joint Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, development partners and representatives of various organizations.

Monitoring on HR Situation of HIV-infected Persons

The NHRC has monitored the human rights situation of HIV-infected persons in Kaski and Tanahun

districts of Gandaki Province. The monitoring team conducted on-site monitoring in the said districts



from March 18 to 23 and collected information about the condition of the infected persons, the services being provided through ART centers and the availability of medicines.

According to the information received during the monitoring, 1,528 infected persons in Gandaki Province are receiving regular services from ART centers. Despite the easy availability of medicines, the victims have complained to the Commission's team that during the treatment of serious diseases, the practice of delaying the operation of patients in hospitals and sending them elsewhere without any basis, stigmatization and discrimination continues.

Although the right to health is enshrined in the constitution as a fundamental right of citizens, it has been found that health care for HIV-infected persons has not been included in the policies and plans of the

provincial government of Nepal. After the monitoring, the Commission has recommended the Government of Nepal and the provincial governments to make special arrangements for education and employment for infected adolescents, and to make appropriate arrangements for the beneficiaries of the grant-based programs in the event of their closure. In addition, the recommendations also call for making arrangements for the operation of closed viral load machines as soon as possible, providing sustainable resources, internalizing the Sustainable Development Goals, and managing health manpower.

The commission has already published a study report on the human rights situation of people infected with H.I.V. in Bagmati, Lumbini, Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces.

Monitoring on Juvenile Correction Home

The Lumbini Province Branch Office of the NHRC, Nepalgunj has monitored the situation of the clashes, arson and looting that occurred after a dispute between juvenile inmates of the Jayandu Juvenile Correction Home in Banke.

The monitoring found that the correction home became tense after one group of juvenile inmates attacked another group with khukuri while they were sleeping, dragged them out of the correction home and set the correction home on fire on March 15 and 16. It has been reported that the incident occurred in an attempt to control the correction home in accordance with their own interests due to the large number of juveniles over the age of 18 in the correction home. Before the incident, the security personnel stated that they had taken control of the correction home by taking control of the main door and creating fear and threats. It is understood that the security personnel were stoned and not allowed to enter the correctional home, looted goods from

nearby village shops and set fire to the first floor of the correction home.

During the monitoring, it was found that 2 hundred and 55 child inmates were in the Correction Home and 12 security personnel were deployed for security, and the security personnel had taken control of the correction home and investigations were ongoing under those involved in the incident. It was reported that 47 juvenile inmates and three police officers were injured in the clash. Last year alone, one person died in a similar clash in the Correction Home. The administration says that the reason for the occurrence of incidents of this nature is mainly due to the high number of people over 18 years of age and the low number of security personnel deployed.

Human Rights Officers Dwarika Kumari Adhikari and Dhanraj Shahi, and IT Officer Sulochan Chaudhary were deployed for monitoring.

Action Plan Formulation Workshop



NHRC Nepal, in collaboration with UNDP-SPSP, has conducted a three-day workshop in Nagarkot from 30th March to 2nd April with the objective of formulating action plan to implement the recommendations of the Commission's Capacity Assessment Report (CAPR).

The Capacity Assessment of NHRC Nepal was held in 2024 to review the capacity strengths and gaps of NHRC Nepal, which proposes strategic priorities and actions for strengthening capacity and filling capacity gaps.

In the opening session of the program, Secretary Murari Prasad Kharel highlighted the constraints

related to resources and emphasized the need for a realistic approach to address the CA recommendations. The program was facilitated by an international expert and member of the CA Team, Dr. Ahmed Shahid, who guided participants in transforming key recommendations into practical and strategic actions. The Implementation Action Plan aims to fulfill the capacity gaps of NHRC Nepal and respond to the emerging human rights issues.

In the closing session, H'ble Chairperson of the Commission, Tap Bahadur Magar emphasized on the practical implementation of the action plans. H'ble Members Manoj Duwadi and Dr. Lily Thapa also mentioned the need to strengthen the capacity of the Commission by implementing the recommendations.

The workshop was attended by the Secretary of the Commission, Departmental Heads, Provincial Office Heads, Division Heads and officers from the concerned division.

Orientation to NHRC Staffs on Stress Management



Coordination Department of NHRC has conducted one-day orientation program on stress management on March 27 for the employees working in the Commission.

In the program held in the commission hall, Dr. Narmata Pandey and Sangita Laudari served as trainers. During this orientation program, the trainers discussed mental health conditions, the

theoretical aspects of stress management and its practical applications.

In the program, it was discussed that stress management is important for employees as the work environment of the office is not always favorable to the employee and the work pressure, service facilities, transfer, career development, conflicts among colleagues, etc. automatically increase the stresses to the employees.

The program, which was attended by the H'ble chairman, H'ble members and the staffs of the central office, was welcomed by the head of the Collective Rights Division Loknath Bastola and facilitated by Human Rights Officer Kalpana Nepal Acharya.



The head of the coordination department, Samjhana Sharma, emphasized on regular orientation programs for employees in stress management. The program was attended by 110 employees of the

Central Office of the Commission. Provincial and branch officials were participated through virtual platforms.

MoU Between NHRC Nepal and ILO Nepal

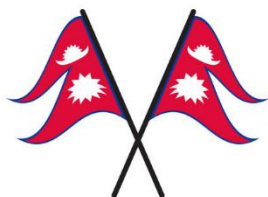


National Human Rights Commission Nepal (NHRC) and ILO Nepal have officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 26th March, 2025 with the objective of promoting and facilitating the implementation of fundamental labour rights, the rights of migrant workers and the rights of other vulnerable workers in Nepal.

The MOU was signed by the secretary, Murari Prasad Kharel on behalf of the Commission and Numan

Ozcan, Country Director for ILO Nepal. Addressing the event after the signing, H'ble Chairperson mentioned that the MoU will play an important role in supporting the repatriation process, protecting labour rights and promoting overall human rights. The Secretary emphasized that a collective commitment is needed to ensure safety, dignity and justice for all workers and that the MoU will help to play the role in protecting and promoting the human rights of workers who cannot raise their voices and working in unsafe conditions. The ILO Country Director of Nepal, Numan Ozcan, expressed his commitment to work together to implement the shared commitment to recognize labor rights as fundamental rights and to address the challenges that arise in this regard.

The ceremony, chaired by the H'ble Chairperson of the Commission, H'ble Members, NHRC staffs and ILO Nepal staff were present.



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