



# राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोग

National Human Rights Commission

केन्द्रिय कार्यालय, Central Office

हरिहर भवन, पुल्चोक, ललितपुर, HariharBhawan, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal



## Press Not

November 20, 2014

### Human rights situation monitored in four districts

LALITPUR: The preliminary report on human rights situation in four different districts viz. Khotang, Solukhumbu, Okhaldhunga and Ramechhap by the high level NHRC team has been made public.

It has been mentioned in the preliminary report that the NHRC had decided on July 19, 2013 and submitted to the Government to take action against the accused police personnel following the death of Bhudev Rai of Khotang due to torture inflicted on him while in custody. Also, since the FIR in connection with the incident has not yet been registered, the NHRC monitoring team has stressed on a probe into the incident with serious concern.

The team has also made a conclusion that the investigation on the incident and the motive of the persons involved in crime investigation must be seriously studied since the person, who's said to have been killed by convicted Gyan Bahadur Majhi of Okhaldhunga, has returned alive. Dil Bahadur Rai of Solukhumbu has been missing since 2002 as per the complaint lodged by his family at the Commission but his name hasn't been enlisted in the list of disappeared persons. The Commission has also taken this as the issue of investigation.

The report has mentioned that the NHRC team found the hospitals in those districts, except for Phaplu Hospital in Solukhumbu and community hospital in Ramechhap, lacked human and physical resources and had poor management. The hospitals had low stock of medicines which were provided by the government free of cost and that the medicines available in the hospital were with the dates almost expired and did not meet the requirement of the district. The medicines were substandard and did not cure the disease. As a result, the commoners were compelled to buy the medicines from outside, the report states.

The prisons and the detention centers were found over-crowded with inmates. In Ramechhap prison, there were 246 inmates where it had the capacity to hold 50, in Solukhumbu with capacity of 50 inmates had 77, in Okhaldhunga, it was 48 where it should have been 25 and in Khotang, it was 119 where it should have been 99. The team also found child dependents living with their inmate parents.

Determined in the year 2006, the daily allowance entitled to the inmates was fixed at the rate of RS 45 which is meager as compared to increasing dearness, the report reveals. The report also says that of the total 83 inmates, the cases of 36 inmates were finalized and the rest were kept in detention centers for hearing in Khotang.

Similarly, 17 cases were found waiting the final hearing in Solukhumbu, 16 in Ramechhap and 7 in Okhaldhunga. The report has it that 'the inmates waiting for the final decision were found unaware about the free legal service. However, no inmate was found inflicted with torture in custody.'



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In the districts, the team found that violence against women and the incidents of suicide by women had increased. Main reason for the suicide among women were said to be husbands accusing them of financial irregularities and alleged loose character.

The report also unveils the fact that the text books were never made available in time and the children's right to education was often violated due to the engagement of teachers in the activities other than teaching. The report says that the teaching and learning process was hampered due to the delay in the distribution of text books. The children's right to education was often obstructed due to the reason that the teachers very often took part in trainings like workshops and seminars.

Regarding the government services, the preliminary report says that hardly 40 per cent of the human resources allotted in the government offices were at work. The others, exercising their access to power centers, were taking transfer or being on duty in places with relatively better facilities. In Okhaldhunga Prison, in the place of an officer, a non-gazetted staff was running the place.

The report has pointed out that the commuters are facing problems as the fare hasn't decreased even when the standard of the roads has been improved. Rs 65 has been charged covering the distance of 13 kilometers from Manthali to Khurkut where the foundation of the road is almost completed. The travelers are enduring a lot of problems as there is no bridge built between Ghurmi and Jayramghat for a long time. The government should take it seriously, the reports further say.

Meanwhile, the NHRC team also organized consultation program in those districts in connection with the formulation of strategic plan (2015 -20). Expressing commitment for the respect to the senior citizens, the program was inaugurated by 107 year old woman of Khotang. As a chief guest, eldest woman of the district was honored with the offering of a shawl.

Respecting the cultural rights , the folks of Khotang also performed Sakela, a cultural dance. Likewise, paying respect to the Right of Child, Rights of Dalits and Women's' rights including right to equality, three children bemoaning to Dalit community and one child from indigenous community were given the opportunity to inaugurate the program on Ramechhap. Similarly, three boys and three girls each inaugurated the program in Solukhumbu district.

The NHRC team comprising of the Commissioner Prakash Osti, Director Subarna Karmacharya, Human Rights Officer Jayashor Chapagain and NHRC Khotang Sub Regional Head Loknath Ghimire had monitored the prisons, detention centers and hospitals.

Bed Prasad Bhattarai

Acting Secretary