



National Human Rights Commission

Central Office
HariharBhawan, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal



Press Note

January 31, 2013

NHRC Corresponds to the Prime Minister: Concerns Expressed on the Security of Journos and Rights Activists

The National Human Rights commission has written to Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai expressing concerns over recent attacks on journalists and rights activists in various parts of the country.

In the letter dispatched on Thursday, the Commission has said that although the Prime Minister has been reiterating that the government is fully committed to providing security for media persons and human rights workers, reports of violence against journalists have been pouring in from various parts of the country. Following this, the complaints relating to the threatening perpetuated on the media persons and human rights activities have been registered at the Commission resulting in to rouse concern over such a worrisome situation, the letter says.

Citing the reports regarding the displacement of journalists of Dailekh district and thrashing of journalists in Kavre district, the letter has mentioned that the organization working in the field of human rights has registered the complaints at the Commission stating that their lives are amidst growing insecurity due to the intimidation and threatening hurled to them. It has further cited a report from 'Reporters without Borders' that ranked Nepal very low on a list of countries where media persons and human rights activists are often at high risk.

The letter further says that it is shameful and downright deplorable that if such a situation should arise despite guarantees of the fundamental right to speech and freedom of expression enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) -1948, International Covenant on the Civil and Political Rights – 1966 and the Interim Constitution of Nepal - 2007.

The Commission has, therefore, warned that the current situation could see the country sliding into anarchy and urged the government to create an environment conducive for overall improvement of human rights situation in the country, says the letter.

Bishal Khanal
Secretary