



# राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोग

National Human Rights Commission, Nepal

केन्द्रीय कार्यालय Central Office

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## Press Release

17 July, 2020

### Request to ensure right to employment respecting Journalists' work

National Human Rights Commission draws its attention towards the incident of the mental torture meted out to journalists by various media houses on the pretext of the COVID-19 pandemic as Commission has received a number of complaints from journalists who have been victimised by media houses and denied salary to journalists for no valid reasons and in some cases, Kathmandu-based journalists were transferred to remote districts in a bid to force them to resign.

In addition to this more than 2,000 working journalists were rendered jobless in Kathmandu valley and other district head quarters of the country as per the Commission received the information from the Federation of Nepali Journalists.

Such acts had deprived working journalists of their rights to work, right to appropriate remuneration, facilities and contributory social security as stated in Article 34 (1) and (2) of the Constitution of Nepal and is also the violation of the Article 7 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights-1966, to which Nepal is a party which provides fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value without distinction of any kind with equal pay for equal work.

In addition to this, if an enabling environment is not created for journalists to disseminate factual information, it will cause adverse impacts to the citizen's right to know. Similarly, Section 20 of the existing Working Journalists Act 1993 guarantees that service and facility of journalists shall not be altered or changed in a manner to affect them.

Thus, the Commission requests the concerned media houses and the Government of Nepal to respect the labour of journalists, who have been working on the frontline for dissemination of information to the public amid the adverse situation, created by the COVID-19 pandemic, and guarantees their right to employment. The Commission has also corresponded today to the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology today to resolve the crisis journalists are facing.

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Bed Bhattarai

Secretary/Spokesperson

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