



राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोग

National Human Rights Commission, Nepal

केन्द्रीय कार्यालय Central Office

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Press Release

26 August 2020

NHRC concerns over the COVID transmission in the Prisons

Ensure right to health and right to life in prisons

National Human Rights Commission expresses its concern about the coronavirus infection risk in prisons across the country as Covid-19 cases have been detected to the the inmates, security personnel and the prison officials of the prisons in the Central Jail in Kathmandu, Banke, Sunsari, Siraha, Parsa including others. The commission also asked the Department of Prison Management to report about the situation of the coronavirus spread in prison. There are over 21,000 inmates in 71 prisons across the country.

Most of the prisons are at high risk as most of them host inmates beyond their capacity as the Commission received the fact in its earlier monitoring. Some prisoners had requested to the Commission that their right to health and life is guaranteed amid the Covid-19 pandemic as the inmates are beyond their capacity in the prisons. The security personnel and the prison officials are also frightened. The risk of coronavirus spread in prisons is particularly high from those inmates who need to visit hospitals for various health conditions and the new comers in the prisons.

Thus, the Commission requests to the Government of Nepal to adopt high attentiveness in the health and safety of the inmates, security personnel, prison officials being sensitive towards coronavirus infection risk in prisons where the inmates are huge than the capacity of the prison. Similarly, the Commission requests to the government of Nepal to keep the new inmates in quarantines for a certain period before mixing them with the oldtimers as there is possibility of transmitting the COVID even if the PCR tested.

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Bed Bhattarai
Secretary/ Spokesperson

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