

# SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THIS FORTNIGHT



In this fast-paced world, people seldom have time to read the news every day. Fortnight Human rights update is a new INSECOline series aimed at disseminating a brief overview of National and International Human rights situation once in every two weeks. The series will be covering severe cases of Human rights violations Nationally and Internationally.

Human rights violations noted this fortnight have been enlisted below:

## NATIONAL UPDATES

### 1. NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS URGES TO BE SENSITIVE TOWARDS CASTE BASED DISCRIMINATION AND UNTOUCHABILITY

The National Human Rights Commission urged sensitivity and legal action against caste-based discrimination and untouchability, citing ongoing issues with complaint registrations, investigations, and awareness efforts. Commission has requested all three levels of government, political parties, civil society, all religious organizations, human rights activists and citizens to end caste based discrimination and untouchability. In the release by Dr. Tikaram Pokharel, Joint Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission, it was noted that the commission has received numerous complaints about caste-based discrimination and untouchability not being registered, inadequate investigations, and pressure for reconciliation.

### 2. GOVERNMENT VEHICLES VANDALIZED

An unidentified group vandalized and set fire to six government vehicles from the Province Planning Commission and Nepal Electricity Authority on June 8-9. Police suspect retaliation against the arrest of students protesting against high fees charged by private schools. The estimated damage is Nrs 1,500,000.

### 3. MINOR RAPED IN CHAUGOTH (MENSTRUAL SHED)

A 16-year-old girl was while staying in a Chhaugoth (menstrual shed) in Achham, a district in Surdurpaschim Province. The girl was found unconscious and rescued by the police team. The law prohibits staying in a menstrual shed during menstruation, but in recent years, 14 women in Achham have died from various causes while in Chhaugoth. The Chhaupadi system isolates girls and women during menstruation, forcing them to stay in mud huts or sheds due to beliefs that they bring bad luck or ill health to their families.

### 4. PYAKUREL REJECTS AMBASSADOR POSITION

Sushil Pyakurel, founding Chairperson of the Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC) and former commissioner of the National Human Rights Commission, declined the Nepalese government's nomination for Ambassador to South Korea. Pyakurel emphasized his commitment to victims' rights, rejecting the position due to a lack of procedural transparency and it being outside his expertise.

# INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

## 1. **UNITED NATIONS TO INCLUDE ISRAEL ON "LIST OF SHAME" FOR VIOLATING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN CONFLICTS**

The United Nations is set to include Israel on its "List of Shame" for violations of children's rights in conflict zones. This decision follows a comprehensive UN report attributing 5,698 violations to Israeli forces. These violations include the killing and maiming of children, as well as attacks on schools and hospitals in the Gaza Strip. The report highlights specific incidents, such as airstrikes on civilian infrastructure, which have exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in the region. The inclusion of Israel on this list is expected to draw significant international attention and may influence future diplomatic relations and humanitarian aid efforts.

## 2. **US SUPREME COURT REJECTS LEGAL CHALLENGE TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO THE ABORTION MEDICATION MIFEPRISTONE**

The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously rejected a legal challenge to restrict access to the abortion medication mifepristone. The Court found that the plaintiffs lacked the necessary legal standing to pursue the case, as they failed to demonstrate any actual injury from the drug's availability. However, it does not preclude future legal challenges to use mifepristone. This ruling has become a significant victory for abortion rights activists protecting women's reproductive freedom.

## 3. **DEATH OF HUNDREDS OF HAJJ PILGRIMS AS TEMPERATURE OF MECCA HITS 120 FAHRENHEIT**

Due to the extreme temperatures up to 49 degrees Celsius more than 300 people have died and thousands are being treated while they were performing the annual Muslim hajj pilgrimage to Mecca. There is only the death record of pilgrims who have registered their travel to Mecca and more deaths are assumed amongst unregistered pilgrims.

## 4. **SOUTHEAST ASIA EXPERIENCES HIGHEST HEAT IN DECADES**

Southeast Asia is experiencing an extreme heatwave with temperatures reaching record highs. This has led to health warnings being issued, schools being temporarily closed, and increased strain on electrical systems. Cambodia is facing its hottest weather in nearly two centuries, while parts of Thailand are seeing temperatures soar above 44°C (111°F). The intense heat is affecting multiple countries in the region, causing widespread concern and disruption to daily life.

## 5. **WOMAN BECOMES MAYOR OF FLORENCE, ITALY FOR THE FIRST TIME**

Sara Funaro has made history by becoming the first woman to be elected mayor of Florence, Italy on 24 June. She won the election with more than 60% of the votes, representing the Democratic Party. This election marks a significant change for Florence, as the city will now have a woman leading it for the first time in its long history.

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