

# 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 INSECOOnline 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. INCREASE IN RISK OF TRAFFICKING AND TRANSPORTATION: 556 INDIVIDUALS RESCUED OVER PAST FOUR YEARS

There has been an increase in trafficking cases through the border of Kailali and Kanchanpur in Sudurpaschim Province. According to statistics released by Maiti Nepal, 556 individuals including 380 women and 176 girls have been rescued over the past four years. Shivacharan Chaudhary, the Coordinator of Maiti Nepal in Kailali, stated that these incidents are rising because the state has not adequately addressed human trafficking and its control. He explained that women and girls are being trafficked to countries like India and the Gulf due to economic pressures, and lack of job opportunities in our country. This trend is increasing each year. In the financial year 2020/2021, two women and two children were rescued from India. In 2021/2022, 114 women and 53 girls were rescued, in 2022/2023, 96 women and 45 girls were rescued, and in 2023/2024, 104 women and 42 girls were rescued.

### 2. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PASSES TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE BILL UNANIMOUSLY

The National Assembly has passed the Bill for the Amendment of the Investigation of Enforced Disappeared Persons, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act (Third Amendment), 2022. Chairperson Narayan Prasad Dahal announced that the bill was unanimously approved during the meeting held on August 22, 2022. Ajay Kumar Chaurasiya, the Minister for Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, presented the bill on behalf of the Government. Chairperson Dahal announced that the Assembly passed the proposal of Minister Chaurasiya unanimously. The Bill was initially passed by the House of Representatives on August 14. During the meeting on that day, the proposal presented by the Minister of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, Ajay Kumar Chaurasiya, to pass the Investigation, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (Third Amendment) Bill, 2022, was approved unanimously.

### 3. THIRTY-ONE PERCENT OF CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF PROPER BREASTFEEDING IN SALYAN

In Salyan, 31% of children are not receiving full breastfeeding due to factors like modern lifestyles, social media use, and concerns about body changes, leading to a decline in breastfeeding mothers. According to Hari Gharti, a statistics officer at the Health Service Office, the exclusive breastfeeding rate for six months improved from 50.2% in 2022/23 to 71.1% in 2023/24. However, this still falls short of the government's goal of 90% breastfeeding mothers by 2030, posing challenges in meeting sustainable development targets. Breastfeeding is vital for the physical and cognitive development of infants, providing essential nutrients and strengthening their immune systems. Under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), every child has the right to the highest attainable standard of health, which includes access to proper nutrition in early childhood.

### 4. AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN INSEC AND CTEVT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

An agreement has been signed between the Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC) and the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) to develop a human rights curriculum. This follows an earlier memorandum of understanding signed on August 4, 2023, for training on human rights. The new agreement, formalized on August 27, 2024, was signed by INSEC Chairperson Dr. Kundan Aryal and CTEVT Director Binod Badal, further advancing efforts to integrate human rights into educational programs.

### 5. EXPLOSION IN PANCHTHAR CAUSED DEATH OF TWO MINORS OF SAME FAMILY

An explosion in Dandagaun, Phalelung Rural Municipality-5, Panchthar, on August 29 claimed the lives of two

minors from the same family. Out of the four people injured, a 12-year-old boy succumbed to his injuries during treatment at B&C Hospital in Birtamod, Jhapa, while his two-and-a-half-year-old sister died on the way to the hospital. The explosion is suspected to have been caused by a homemade grenade, but this has yet to be confirmed by authorities.

## INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

### 1. ESCALATING CONFLICT AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN MYANMAR

In Myanmar, the humanitarian and political crisis continues to escalate, with severe consequences for civilians. As of August 30, 2024, at least 36,943 armed clashes and attacks against civilians have been recorded since the military coup on February 1, 2021. By September 2, the number of displaced people had risen to over 3 million. The illegal junta clings onto power despite suffering major losses as evidenced by the imposition of forced conscription laws, efforts to manipulate upcoming sham elections, and continued military offensives in various regions. Notably, violent clashes in areas such as Lashio and Sagaing highlight the inner turmoil within the junta's ranks, further destabilizing the region. Women face specific hardships, including menstrual poverty and documented instances of rape encouraged by junta militias. Meanwhile, international responses remain divided, with Thailand forcibly returning Burmese migrants and China asserting influence, but progress in resistance movements like the Kachin Independence Army and joint operations continue. The economic situation is dire, with junta incompetence worsening inflation characterized by fresh fuel crises, further exacerbating the conflict and displacement.

*Source: ALTSEAN Burma*

### 2. TALIBAN'S NEW VICE LAWS RESTRICT FEMALE VOICES

August 21- Afghanistan's Taliban government has issued new "Vice and Virtue Laws" through its Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice. These regulations mandate strict veiling for women, ban their voices in public, prohibit music and mixed-gender interactions, and restrict media content. The 114-page document gives the ministry power to enforce these rules, raising concerns about human rights and individual freedoms, especially for women and girls in Afghanistan.

### 3. SHEIKH HASINA FORCED TO RESIGN AS BANGLADESH'S PRIME MINISTER

August 5 - Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has resigned after 15 years in power, following weeks of intense anti government protests. The unrest, which began over government job quotas, escalated into nationwide demonstrations resulting in at least 280 deaths and thousands of injuries. Hasina reportedly fled to India as protesters stormed her residence. Hasina's resignation marks the end of what opposition groups termed "authoritarian rule" and has sparked celebrations across Bangladesh.

*Source: BBC News*

### 4. CHRONIC CRISIS IN PAPUA: SEVERE DISPLACEMENT AND ACUTE VULNERABILITY AMONG IDPS

Displacement in Papua has become a serious and ongoing issue. Many people have been displaced for over three years, including 16 months living in the jungle. The living conditions are extremely poor: 97% of displaced individuals report not having enough food, and only about 10% have access to education. This situation causes significant emotional distress, with 66% of people feeling unsafe in their current locations. These factors highlight the acute vulnerability of the displaced population in Papua.

*Source: Rapid Independent Assessment*

### 5. PRESIDENT LOURENÇO SIGNS RESTRICTIVE LAWS, JEOPARDIZING MEDIA AND CIVIL LIBERTIES IN ANGOLA

Angolan President João Lourenço has signed two new laws that significantly limit freedoms of the media, expression, and association. The first law, enacted on July 18, 2024, imposes prison sentences of up to 25 years for vandalism during protests. The second, signed on August 29, 2024, grants the government extensive control over media and civil society organizations. Human Rights Watch has criticized these laws for failing to meet international human rights standards and warns that they will severely restrict media and civil society operations in Angola.

*Source : Human Rights Watch*

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