

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. 2021 CENSUS REPORTS NEPAL'S NEW POPULATION

According to the preliminary results of National Census 2021, new population of Nepal is 29 million 192 thousand 480. Nepal's population was 26 million 940 thousand and 540, ten years ago. Central Bureau Statistics (CBS) mentioned that this data might be changed slightly in the final results.

Based on the report, Bhaktapur experienced highest population growth rate while Ramechhap experienced most declining rate of population. Province wise, Madhes Province has the largest population and Karnali province has the least.

2. FOOD SUPPLY DISRUPTED BY SNOWFALL IN BAJHANG

Continuous snowfall in Saipal Rural Municipality, Bajhang has disrupted all the road connectivity along with the food and essentials supply in the local unit since December 2021. According to the villagers, they have run out of rice stock brought from Food Management Company depot and new stock is yet to reach the village.

Bam Bahadur Stated that the local shops have run out of rice grains and other essentials and if supplies aren't resumed soon, people will starve to death.

3. A CALL CENTRE TO HEAR THE COMPLAINTS FROM MIGRANT WORKERS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security has established a 'call centre' to hear the complaints and address the difficulties faced by labourer in the course of Foreign employment.

Labourers or their families who have been the victim of fraud, those who are stranded in the foreign land and those who are willing to return home due to their health conditions can call in one of these numbers (01-597008, Toll free number: 1141, 16600150005, Viber/Whatsapp number: +977-9801800013, IMO: +977-9801300033) and seek help.

4. FOUR WILDLIFE KILLINGS IN BANKE GOES UNCHECKED

In last three months, four people have been killed in Banke district in separate tiger attacks. All the victims are from Raptisonari Rural Municipality, a place that shares border with Banke National Park.

Despite four killings, only one family so far has received the compensation amount of Rs. 1 million pursuant to the legal provision. Somati Chaudhary of Phatampur mentioned that the concerned authorities shall protect the locals from wildlife attacks and shall provide reasonable compensation as soon as possible or else the locals will protest against this.

According to the tiger census of 2018, out of 235 tigers in Nepal, 21 of them are in the Banke National Park.

5. NHRC CONDEMNS USE OF FORCE AGAINST UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

NHRC has issued a press statement condemning the use of force against the students of Purbanchal University who were beaten up by the police while protesting in the gate of KIC College, Buddhanagar. Police brutality resulted in the injury of one and arrest of 11 students. According to the students, Purbanchal University is not taking any precaution while conducting a physical examination and keeping the COVID infected and non-infected students in the same room. Further, students were demanding for an alternative form of examination yet their demands were unheard and they were compelled to appear in the examination risking their health. The exams are halted at the moment following government's decision.

6. NEPAL REMAINS AS ONE OF THE MOST CORRUPT COUNTRIES

The guardians and student union have demanded action against Yogbahadur Rai, 27, a teacher accused of beating and injuring Sagar Thing. According to the latest Corruption Perception Index released by Transparency International, Nepal stands as one of the most corrupt countries ranking 117th out of 180 countries in the list.

Transparency International uses a scale zero to 100 to measure the rate of corruption, where zero indicates most corrupt and 100 indicates least corrupt and score below 50 is considered as having higher level of corruption. Nepal, gained a score 33 for two consecutive years which makes it the country with widespread corruption. In South Asia, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are the only countries behind Nepal in corruption index.

7. LEPROSY DAY AND PREVAILING DISCRIMINATION

World Leprosy Day has been celebrated on January 30, honouring the dignity of people who have experienced leprosy. 'United for Dignity' has been stated as the theme for the day.

According to the Ministry of Health and Population, 2,173 new cases of leprosy were recorded in Nepal in the year 2020-21 (63% males and 37% females) and at least 35,000 people have been affected by this diseases in the country over the period of last 11 years.

Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Singh, regional director for South-East Asia, WHO stated that, globally, around 50% of the leprosy patients face discrimination and psychiatric morbidity such as depression, anxiety disorder and suicide attempts. In this light, WHO have urged all the countries to adopt the UN Principles and Guidelines for elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and implement the same.

Sources: INSECOOnline, The Himalayan Times, Kathmandu Post, Setopati

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

1. 2000 CHILDREN IN YEMEN DIED FIGHTING

According to the United Nations, around 2,000 children between the age of 10 and 17 recruited by Yemen's Houthi rebels have lost their lives on the battlefield. UN experts, stated that they have found evidence which reveals that Houthis used several summer camps and a mosque to indoctrinate their ideology and recruit children to fight Yemen's government.

According to the four-member panel of experts, in one camp, children at the age of 7 were taught to clean weapon and evade rockets.

2. INEQUALITY THRIVES AMID PANDEMIC

In two years of pandemic, the world has witnessed biggest increase in billionaires' wealth with creation of a billionaire in every 26 hours. Wealth of the world's 10 richest person is estimated to be doubled with the increase rate of \$15,000 per second while the same pandemic has left 99% of the humanity worse off.

According to Nabil Ahmed, Head of Executive Strategy and Communication at Oxfam International, everything aside, vaccine apartheid is fueling all other inequality.

3. MEN IN INDIA BOYCOTTS PLAN TO CRIMINALIZE MARITAL RAPE

Supreme Court of India is hearing petitions from civil society groups challenging the law that gives men impunity from prosecution if they have non-consensual sex with their wife. Meanwhile, men's rights groups in India are challenging the court proceeding contending that the rape laws have no place in marriage.

They are further prompted by Save Indian Family Foundation, an organization who helps men who are subjected to false dowry demands to promote the hashtag movement naming it '#marriagestrike'.

4. BOYS IN SYRIA AT RISK

According to Fionnuala Ni Aolain, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism, boys as young as 12 are living in fear for their lives amid the chaos and carnage in the jail. Aolain further added that these children are being neglected by their own country without any fault of their own and just because they were born to individuals allegedly linked with terrorist groups.

As per the reports from prison, around 300 people (mostly detainees) have lost their lives in days of fighting in the prison run by Kurdish forces. UN human rights experts have expressed grave concerns for welfare of around 700 children held in the prison and urged State authorities to repatriate the children as soon as possible.

5. PAKISTAN INTRODUCED LAW FOR THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN IN WORKPLACE

Michelle Bachete, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights have urged all, including protesters, security forces and others to seek a Parliament in Pakistan passed the 'Protection against harassment of women at the workplace 2022' bill that strengthens the protection of women in the workplace against violence and harassment. In line with the definition set out in 2019 ILO violence and harassment convention (C190), the new law expands the definition of workplace to encompass both formal and informal workplaces along with harassment and violence to students.

Sources: Aljazeera, BBC, The Sunday Times

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