

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 INSECOnline 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. INSEC DOCUMENTED MORE THAN 6000 VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION AND ABUSES IN 2021

INSEC documented 6,285 victims of Human Rights Violation and Abuses in 2021. Among the documented victims of Human Rights violation, 52 were females and 510 were males. There were, 5,163 female and 560 male victims of Human Rights abuses.

Among the documented victims of Human rights violation, six were killed, 74 died in jail, five died in detention, three were victims of torture, six were victims of threatening, 363 were deprived of their right to assembly, expression and association, 30 were injured, seven were victims of inhumane behavior, 32 were victims of beating and 35 were arrested.

2. MCC COMPACT HAS BEEN RATIFIED BY THE PARLIAMENT

Amid all the clashes and protests, Parliament of Nepal has approved a \$500m US grant on 27th February, 2022. Nepal had signed the US government's Millennium Challenge Corporation pact in 2017 to fund infrastructure projects but its ratification had been in limbo since then.

To address the concerns regarding pact, an 'interpretive declaration' was released stating that Nepal will not become part of any strategic military or security alliance including the 'Indo-Pacific Strategy' of the USA. The government has declared that MCC compact is exclusively an economic project.

3. WORRYING NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH HEART DISEASE IN DOLAKHA

A health camp set up targeting children between five to 15 years in Dolakha has shown heart problems in six children out of 106 checked. Similarly, other six children were diagnosed with rheumatic heart disease during three-day health camp. Dr. Anish Joshi, a senior cardiologist at Dhulikhel Hospital stated that the rate of heart patients among children is quite high. According to him, usually, one in 1000 children are found with heart problem, but this time the number was astounding.

As per the experts, heart diseases in children are increasing in recent years mostly due to unhealthy food habits and environmental pollution. Other reason includes lack of regular health check-up and lack of nutritious food during pregnancy.

4. NUMBER OF MALNOURISHED CHILDREN ON RISE

Malnutrition has become a silent crisis in Nepal. Out of 186 children screened, 25 were diagnosed as severely acute malnourished and 39 were moderately malnourished. According to Lila Bikram Thapa, chief of Nutrition Section at the Family Welfare Division, parents of around 30% of the malnourished children are yet to seek treatment for their children.

According to the doctors, problem of malnutrition have been rising as a major health issue in Nepal amid pandemic.

5. THIRTEEN SETTLEMENTS IN KALIGANDAKI AT HIGH RISK

As per the study conducted in coordination with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, 13 settlements in Mustang are at high risk due to erosion cause by the Kaligandaki River. Preliminary report of the study also warns about the possibility of glacial lake outburst, floods and landslides with the rise in global temperature.

According to Sahadev Sigdel, an Environmentalist, several rivers in the districts including Lupra, Kagbeni, Thini, Tamo and Thapa Khola have started diverting their regular course keeping human settlements at risk.

6. CASE FILED AGAINST A LAB IN-CHARGE FOR MAKING FAKE PCR REPORT

A case has been file by the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authorities (CIAA) against Binod Kumar Yadav, then lab in-charge at Ganglal National Heart Centre for making a fake PCR report. A forensic test of the computer Yadav used revealed that he was using the hospital's seal arbitrarily and making a fake PCR report.

According to CIAA, yadav had been accused of collecting swabs in an unauthorized manner and preparing PCR report without conducting any test upon taking money.

7. LAW MAKERS EXPRESS THEIR COMMITMENT IN MAKING LAWS FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHT DEFENDERS

INSEC organized a discussion program on Dhulikhel on February 26, 2022, where legislators expressed their commitment in formulating law for the protection of human rights defenders. Krishna Bhakta Pokhrel, Chairperson of the committee on Law, Justice and Human Rights, stated that we need a clear legal framework for the protection of Human rights defenders and he is willing to support civil society on this regard. Dr. Surya Dhungel, Member of National Human Rights Commission, said that all the stakeholders should play their part for the protection of the human rights defenders.

Sources: INSECONline, The Himalayan Times, The Kathmandu Post and Online Khabar

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

1. ROHNIGYA GENOCIDE CASE TO RESUME

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is beginning proceedings to hear Myanmar's preliminary objections to a genocide case brought against it following a brutal 2017 crackdown by the military primarily on the Muslim Rohingya.

Gambia, in support of Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) filed the case after more than 700,000 Rohingya fled into neighbouring Bangladesh. Reports also revealed that the Myanmar military burned entire villages and carried out large-scale killings, gang rape, and other abuses against the group.

2. RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Following Russian invasion on Ukraine, hundreds of people have reportedly been killed so far in Russia. Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia had ordered wide-ranging attacks on Ukraine on February 24, 2022, hitting multiple cities and bases with air strikes or shelling, and attacking by land and sea.

The United Nations confirmed at least 240 civilian casualties including at least 64 people killed.

3. HIGH PROFILE CASE OF NOOR MUKADAM : KILLER SENTENCED TO DEATH

Zahir Jaffer, a man who had been arrested in the charge of murdering, raping and beheading 27-year-old Noor Mukadam has been convicted and sentenced to death by Pakistani court. Killing of Noor triggered nation wide protest calling for greater rights for women in the country where violence against them is described as 'endemic'.

The court also sentenced two members of Jaffer's household staff to 10 years of imprisonment for abetting the murder while Jaffer's parents were acquitted.

Body of the deceased was found in Jaffer's residence. According to victim's father, Noor was brutally murdered with a sharp-edged weapon and beheaded.

4. INMATES FORCED TO WORK FOR SOME PRIVATE COMPANIES

Some inmates at Thai prison are being forced to make fishnet for some private companies. Including the ones imported by USA. The inmates are under threat of punishment including beatings and delayed release. Many labour right organizations have submitted a petition to US custom and border protection urging US to ban import from two major Thai suppliers.

5. INVESTIGATION TO BE INITIATED IN POTENTIAL WAR CRIME AND CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY COMMITTED BY RUSSIA

According to the foreign minister of Canada, the Country will petition the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate possible crime against humanity and war crime committed by Russia in Ukraine. Canada has already joined USA and other allies who are imposing a economic sanctions against Russia.

According to UN, around 6,77,000 people have been forced from their homes in Ukraine since the Russian invasion. Reportedly, half of them are displaced in neighbouring Poland.

6. ONE HUNDRED SIXTY NINE POTENTIAL GRAVES SPOTTED AT THE FORMER RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

169 potential graves has been uncovered in another first Nation community in Canada at a former residential school that indigenous children were forced to attend for decades. As per the community, the search was conducted using ground penetrating radar and drones. Between 1800s and 1990s, Canada forced more than 150,000 First Nations, Inuit and Metis children to attend the residential schools. The Children were separated from their siblings, subjected to physical, psychological and sexual abuses, and were stripped to their languages and culture. The schools were believed to be run by various churches, most notably, the Roman Catholic Church.

Sources: Aljazeera, BBC, The Sunday Times

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