

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. ROAD ACCIDENTS AND DEATH TOLL

According to the Bagmati Provincial Traffic Police Office, total of 1,647 road accidents occurred in the year 2078 resulting in death of 360 people and injury of 2,289. Among the injured, 869 were critically injured and 2,530 suffered from minor injuries.

As per SP Sushil Singh Rathore, most of the accidents occurred due to over speed and road conditions. The traffic office have started awareness programs to reduce the accidents.

2. A WOMAN BEATEN TO DEATH BY WITCHDOCTORS

Dharmananda Bhatta of Bhimdatta Municipality-7 along with Narayan Bhatta and seven others of Bhimdatta Municipality-1 have been arrested by the police in the charge of killing Ranchula Saud, 43, of Bedkot Municipality-7 during traditional healing process.

The victim went to Kamala Saud's (neighbour) house following a terrible headache where she was suggested to visit witch-doctor. According to victim's daughter, the victim was beaten by hot iron rod to death.

As per the police officials, the deceased's body had bruises and her skin was also peeled off.

3. SCHOLARSHIP FOR DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW

With the motive of lifting up socio-economic status of the local residents, Raksirang Rural Municipality, Makawanpur, has come up with a scholarship scheme for the daughters-in-law.

Rate of child marriage is 59.7% in Makawanpur district and Raksirang Rural Municipality is one of the bottom 10 local federal units in terms of Education Index and HID values. With the realization that education is the only way to uplift the status of young girls, Municipality has introduced 'Buhari Chattairabritti' scholarships for daughter-in-laws three years ago.

Under the scheme, four female students were awarded with the scholarship of NPR. 30,000 each in the fiscal year 2020-21.

4. OXYGEN PLANT BLAST KILLS TWO

Two have died and six have been injured in a blast at Sagarmatha Oxygen Gas Plant located inside Patan Industrial Estate. According to operator Saroj Singh, the blast took place after the oxygen cylinders were filled at 9:55 am.

Brij Mahato, 45, of West Champakaran, India, died on the spot in the explosion and Raj Kumar Mahato, 25, a resident of India and currently residing in Lalitpur Metropolitan-18 lost his life during the treatment. SP Siddhi Bikram Shah, of Lalitpur Metropolitan Range, informed that Patan hospital has verified their death.

Nepal police has been conducting the initial investigation at incident spot. Detailed investigation is yet to be done.

5. CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF TYPHOID VACCINE

Sixty children of Namkha Rural Municipality-6 have been deprived of Typhoid vaccination. According to Mikmar Tamang, a local, initially it was stated that 1,110 children would be vaccinated however, 60 children in Limi were still deprived of it.

A total of 1,060 children above the age of 15 months and under the age of 15 from Namkha Rural Municipality ward no. 1 to ward no. 5 have already been vaccinated, said Namkha Rural Municipality's Health Branch Coordinator Gyacho Lama. According to him, vaccination has been conducted in other schools and health vaccination centres but could not be launched in Limi yet.

Coordinator Lama further said, "The vaccination campaign has been affected due to the freezing of Nara and Nyalu lakes.

6. 14 INJURED IN THE CLASH BETWEEN CONGRESS AND MAOIST

According to the data prepared by Bajura Health Office, there were 141 children suffering from severe malnutrition as of February and March 2022. This data shows around 50% decrease in the ratio. However, the reality is different.

As per the recent survey conducted by various development organizations (Team from Nutrition Rehabilitation Home, Suaahara Nutrition Programme, Policy and Planning Commission of Sudurpaschim Province, Multi-regional nutrition project and UNICEF) in Mukhtkot Village, 61 children were found being malnourished in ward 1 alone. The study further revealed that the level of malnutrition is severe not just in children but also in new mothers and youths. As per the survey, 100 out of 293 mothers were suffering from malnutrition in the village while 29 of them had severe malnutrition. Similarly, 99 out of 192 girls were found being malnourished while 14 of them had severe malnutrition.

Sources: Sources: INSECOline, The Himalayan Times, The Kathmandu Post, Ratopati

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

1. PALESTINIANS IMPRISONED BY ISRAEL

On the occasion of Palestinian Prisoner's Day, it has been revealed that nearly 8,000 Palestinians along with 1,300 minors and 184 women had been arrested by Israeli military over the course of 2021. According to the Prisoners' rights group Addameer, Israeli authorities have issued more than 1,500 administrative detention orders holding Palestinians without charge on trial. Total of 4,450 Palestinians were held in Israeli jails in Israel and the occupied territory as of April 2022.

2. 20 MILLION IN THE RISK OF STARVATION

According to the United Nations, twenty million people are at risk of starvation this year after delayed rains worsen the brutal drought in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. Extreme drought has left the horn of Africa on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe. It has destroyed the crops and livestock and compelled huge number of people to leave their homes in search of food and water.

As per the UN's World Food Programme, the number of hungry people due to drought could spike from current estimation of 14 million to 20 million by the end of 2022.

3. BLAST IN BOYS SCHOOL

An explosion on the educational institution killed at least six people and injured 17 in the Afghanistan's capital, Kabul. The explosion occurred inside the Abdul Rahim Shaheed High School and near the Mumtaz Education Centre.

According to Ali Jan, one of the injured students, the explosion occurred when they were leaving the school. Saeed Rahmatullah Haidari, another student revealed that some of the students have lost their hands, while some were covered in blood.

4. SIX SENTENCED TO DEATH

Pakistan's court has sentenced six people to death and dozens of others to jail in the charge of killing a Sri Lankan factory manager, Diyawadana, over the suspect of blasphemy. The incident had occurred last year and had outraged many Pakistanis.

As per the local police officials, there was a rumour that Diyawadana torn down a religious poster and threw it in the dustbin.

There were several gruesome video clips circulated on social media that showed a mob beating him and chanting anti blasphemy slogans. One clip even showed Diyawadana's body set ablaze.

5. FREEDOM OF RELIGION IN INDIA : WORSENING

United States panel has said that the state of religious freedom in India significantly worsened last year. US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) upon releasing its annual report has urged the State Department for the third consecutive year to place India as the 'countries of particular concern.'

As per the report, during the year, Indian government escalated its promotion and enforcement of policies, including those promoting a Hindu nationalist agenda, that negatively affect Muslim, Christians, Sikhs, Dalits and other religious minorities. India however, has been rejecting these accusation and calls it a 'biased' finding.

6. HISTORIC CAAR TRIAL BEGINS

After the wait of seven years, the Special Criminal Court of Central African Republic (CAR) is now set to open its first trial. The court was set up in capital Bangui to prosecute the war crimes, genocide and other crime against humanity committed in the country since 2003. First to be prosecuted are three suspects who are accused of killing 46 civilians in two villages near the northwestern town of Paoua in May 2019.

According to Gervais Bodagay, CPS's Spokesperson, the day earned its place in the history of justice and fight against impunity in the Central African Republic.

The court is of hybrid nature comprising 11 International and 10 domestic judges working along with the International Criminal Court.

Sources: Aljazeera, BBC, OHCHR

Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

Nagarjun Municipality-10, Shyuchatar, Kalanki, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977-01-5218770, Fax: +977-01-5218251

Email: insec@insec.org.np

Web site: www.insec.org.np, www.inseconline.org