

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. MINISTRY CONSIDERS FREE CHECKUP FOR NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

As per Dr. Roshan Pokhrel, Secretary of Health Ministry, the Ministry of Health and Population is planning to provide free screening for certain non-communicable diseases including hypertension, diabetes, renal function, liver function, heart problems and cervical cancer among others to the people above the age of 40-years, starting from next fiscal year.

A study conducted on 2019 on the prevalence of non-communicable diseases revealed that 71% of the deaths in Nepal is accounted to non-communicable diseases

2. COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST THE ACCUSED OF MAJHI'S MURDER

A complaint has been filed against Ram Chandra Majhi, 40, of Khairahani Municipality-10 of Kathar, Musahar Settlement on the charge of torturing and killing his wife Gita Majhi, 35, on May 31st 2022. The accused has been charged with the offence of beating, sexually abusing and torturing the deceased. According to Dr. Dipendra Neupane, the victim died on May 30 while undergoing treatment.

The accused was arrested by the police in the night of May 26 on the charge of attempt to murder.

3. MURDER OF A FATHER AND A SON

Chandeshwor, a 60-year-old man and Santa Kumar Pal, 19-year-old son was killed with sharp domestic weapons by an unidentified group in Arnama Rural Municipality. Siraha on May 21. As per the locals, as Santa's wedding was fixed for May 25, women gathered around their home and celebrated singing songs. They went to sleep at midnight and the deceased were reportedly killed at around 2:00 am in the morning.

Father and son has slept on separate room. While father slept alone, son Santa slept with a 10-12 year old minor who later informed the family members and the villagers about the incident. As per the villagers, Santa was a hardworking and honest person and used to run a hardware shop.

4. PNEUMONIA AND DIARRHOEA INCREASING IN HUMLA

Number of pneumonia and diarrhoea patients are increasing in the district hospital of Humla. Most of the patients are reportedly children. As per Sarita Bohora, Senior Auxiliary Nurse Midwife, the number of children coming for daily treatment has hiked since the second week of may. She further added that 13 children with pneumonia and diarrhoea have been admitted to the 15-bedded hospital. Seven of the sick children are getting treatment under the assistance of oxygen due to respiratory problems.

According to Bohora, more than 30 children from Simikot Rural Municipality has been coming daily for treatment of pneumonia and diarrhoea.

5. SUPREME COURT QUASHED THE DECISION TO RELEASE FORMER DIG RANJAN KOIRALA

Supreme court of Nepal has quashed the decision to reduce life time imprisonment of former Deputy Inspector General Ranjan Koirala on May 26. Koirala was proven guilty of killing his wife and more than 11 and half years of his sentence was reduced by a joint bench after which Koirala was released on July 23, 2020.

The Office of the Attorney General had filed a review writ in the Supreme Court on July 23, 2020, saying that the decision was flawed. A joint bench of Justices Bam Kumar Shrestha, Prakash Kumar Dhungana and Kumar Regmi had ordered to review of the verdict on August 1, 2020. With the decision of the full bench of the Supreme Court, Koirala will now have to complete the remaining 11 and a half years of imprisonment. Koirala had killed his wife Gita Dhakal on January 12, 2012, and had taken her to a forest in Tistung, Makwanpur in a plastic bag and set her on fire by sprinkling petrol on the corpse.

6. SOCIAL SECURITY TO RAUTE COMMUNITY

Gurans Rural Municipality-8 has distributed the social security allowance (NPR. 4,000 per month) of three months of the Raute community living in Chhedagad Municipality-5 Bankathalah of Jajarkot.

The federal government has been distributing social security allowances through the ward office of Gurans Rural Municipality 8 after the rural municipality gave them identity cards as the locals of the area. The identity cards were distributed five years ago. The Rautes have a nomadic life and they do not have a fixed habitat. As per the data collected by Gurans Rural Municipality, the population of Rautes were 160 in 2058 BS and 166 in 2068 BS. Reportedly, the increasing mortality is due to poor health, eating habit and life style of the group.

Sources: INSECOline, The Himalayan Times, The Kathmandu Post

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

1. COAL POWER PLANT AND LOCALS' DEATH & SICKNESS

As per the report released by Centre for Research Clean Energy and Air on February 2022, 1,300 people have prematurely died in the year 2020 alone across Maharashtra and its neighbouring states due to the air pollution caused by the CSTPS power plant (owned by the state-run Maharashtra State Power Generation Company). Further, approximately 800,000 people called sick in and around the state that same year.

According to Sunil Dahiya, a CREA researcher and co-author of the report, 157 people died and 64,000 people took sick leave in Chandrapur and Nagpur.

Dr. Gopal Mundhada, who runs a non-profit organization working to reduce air pollution, inter alia, informed that people with asthma and other respiratory diseases like bronchitis, skin and eye allergies, pneumonia, has doubled in last 15 years and more than 50% of the babies below the age of five have asthma.

2. MASS EVICTION OF PALESTINIANS

According to UN Human rights experts, decision of Israel to evict more than 1,200 Palestinians from their homes in Masafer Yatta in the occupied west bank may qualify as a war crime.

UN Special rapporteurs stated that, by upholding the policy driving Palestinians out of Masafer Yatta, the Israeli judicial system has given carte blanche to the Israeli Government to perpetuate the practice of systematic oppression against Palestinians.

Estimated 500 children and 1,200 Palestinian residents are found to be at the risk of forcible transfer following the high court's judgment.

3. FOOD SHORTAGE WORSENS IN SRI LANKA

The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka has warned of a food shortage amid devastating economic crisis and promised to buy enough fertilizer for next planting season to boost harvests.

APD Sumanavathi, a 60-year-old woman selling fruits and vegetables in the Pettah market in Colombo stated that 'I can predict how things will be in two months, at this rate, we might not even be here.'

4. FEMALE MUST COVER FACES

As per the government official, authorities of Taliban have told television broadcasters to make sure that the female TV presenters working in local stations cover their faces when on air. This is seen as the latest sign of possible return to the Taliban's ultraconservative rule of past.

As per Akif Muhajir, a spokesperson for the Taliban's Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, hijab or headscarf is required for Muslim women and female television presenters with covered faces. This would serve as a good role models for all women in Afghanistan.

5. SEVERE HUNGER IN SAHEL MARCH FOR JUSTICE IN MEXICO

United Nations has warned that 18 million people in Sahel region of Africa will face severe hunger in next three months. This has been deemed as one of the effects of Russia-Ukraine conflict, Corona-virus pandemic, climate-induced shock and rising costs.

UN has revealed that four countries, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Niger are facing alarming risk with nearly 1.7 million people facing emergency levels of food shortages there.

Marting Griffiths, the head of OCHA, stated that 'a combination of violence, insecurity, deep poverty and record-high food prices is exacerbating malnutrition and driving millions to the fringes of survival.

6. TEXAS SHOOTING : DEATH OF AT LEAST 21

Nineteen children along with two adults have lost their lives in a shooting at a primary school in south Texas. A 18-year-old gunman was involved in the open fire at Robb Elementary School in the city of Uvalde. According to the officials, he was later killed by law enforcement.

As per the investigators, the suspect was armed with a handgun, and AR-15 semi-automatic rifle and high-capacity magazine. Crish Murthy, Connecticut Democratic Senator begged his colleagues to pass gun control legislation speaking on the flood of the US Senate in Washington DC. He added, 'these kids weren't unlucky, this happens in this country only, nowhere else do little kids go to school thinking that they might be shot that day.'

Sources: Aljazeera, CNN, The Guardian

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