

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. AROUND 70% OF THE WATER SAMPLE IN THE VALLEY FOUND TO BE POLLUTED

As per the Epidemiology and Disease Control Division's study, around 70% of the drinking water samples in Kathmandu valley have been found to be contaminated with E coli and faecal coliform, which is generally found in the human faeces.

As per Kaushal Subedi, an official of the division, the samples were collected from areas where people have tested positive for cholera and it was collected from both jar (bottled) as well as tap water. These water aren't safe to drink.

According to the world health organization, cholera is a global threat to public health and an indicator of inequality and lack of social development.

2. VOTING RIGHTS TO THE PRISONERS

The Supreme Court has ensured voting right to the inmates in proportional representation in the upcoming election of the House of Representative.

The writ was filed by Nishant Pokhrel and Pradiksha KC, students of Kathmandu School of Law and first hearing of the case was held on 24 June, 2022. The order was issued by the single bench of Justice Sapana Pradhan Malla.

Justice Malla issued an order urging the government to collect or update the list of all the prisoners eligible to vote.

3. 17 YEARS, NO JUSTICE

June 6 marks 17th year of tragic Badarmude incident where Maoist cadres detonated an electric ambush in a bus carrying civilians. The detonated electric ambush had resulted in the death of 42 civilians and injured 68 others. Victims of this incident still awaits truth, justice and reparation. Through press release, institutions including INSEC, Advocacy forum and Accountability Watch Committee have demanded justice for the victims.

Despite all the political and governance changes, none have taken initiative to address the demands and need of the victims who are still experiencing physical and emotional trauma.

4. SCHOOL VANDALIZED IN NALGAD

Shree Janakalyan Secondary School of Nalgad Municipality-5, Raghunath Serkhet has been vandalized by the intruders. According to Madan Rawal, a school teacher, the school's infrastructure worth NPR. Eight hundred thousand to one million have been sabotaged in the incident. The intruders destroyed the computer, furniture and different other stuff of the school.

Police have arrested Janak Oli, 20 and Binod Khatri, 21, of Nalgad Municipality-5, on allegedly being involved in the incident. However, reason for the vandalism hasn't been revealed yet.

5. SENTENCED TO 11 DAYS OF IMPRISONMENT IN THE CASE OF SEXUAL ABUSE

Bench of Justice Prem Prasad Neupane has rendered a verdict prescribing 11 days of imprisonment and NPR.10,000 fine to Laxmi Mahhato, 76, from Tanahu Rural Municipality-5, in the charge of sexually abusing a seven-year-old girl child.

A complaint was filed by victim's family on area police office, Kanchanpur on the day of incident. The accused was released on the bail amount of NPR. 25,000 on 8 December 2020.

6. JUSTICE FOR SHAAN, DELIVERED

In 2014, Ninth grader at Sherwood College in Nainital, Shaan Prajapati lost his life after the school authorities failed to provide timely medical assistance when he fell seriously ill. The autopsy report stated 'septicaemia' causing certain bacteria get into the bloodstream as the reason behind his death. Shreewood's college principal, Amandeep Sandhu, his sister Payal Paul and hostel warden Ravi Kumar has been convicted with two years imprisonment and Rs. 50,000 fine (each) by the Nainital Chief Judicial Magistrate Court in the charge of causing death by negligence.

After a long wait, justice has been delivered on this case by Indian judicial system. Mother of the deceased stated that 'I have lost count of how many times I reached out to the Indian embassy. I even wrote to PM Narendra Modu, Maneka Gandhi and the then Minister of Women and Child Development. I didn't lose hope and it finally paid off.' She further added, 'I hope this decision will raise awareness among educational institutions about their role in a child's well-being.'

7. 51 FAMILIES AT HIGH RISK OF LANDSLIDE

Around 51 families of Muktikot's Majhagaun are at high risk of landslides in Bajura. According to Bahadur BK, cracks are seen in the whole

village and the villagers are living in the fear that village would collapse at anytime. He further added that the villagers had gone to nearby Muktikot Basic Level School for shelter after rainfall started.

As many as 300 people from 51 families have also been facing food crisis.

Sources: INSECOline, The Himalayan Times, The Kathmandu Post

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

1. OVER 18 PEOPLE DIED IN A REBEL ATTACK

At least 18 people have been killed in a village raid in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Fighters were allegedly from Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). As per the witnesses, they reportedly killed the residents and burned down the houses in the village of Otomabere, in Irumu territory, Ituri province.

As per Aljazeera, Uganda had sent at least 1,700 troops to its neighbour the DRC to assist them in fighting ADF. Last week, two countries extended their joint operation launched last year.

2. DALITS SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN INDIA

Crimes of sexual violence disproportionately impact women and girls from India's less privileged castes, mainly Dalits. As per the latest data of National Crime Bureau, India, there was a 45% increase in reported cases of rapes against Dalit women between 2015 to 2020. Report further stated that, on average, 10 rapes of Dalit women and girls were reported every day in India.

As per the National Family Health Survey (2015-2016), rates of sexual violence were highest among the women from Scheduled Tribes (Adivasi or Indigenous Indians) at 7.8% followed by Scheduled Castes (Dalits) at 7.3%.

3. EXISTING CHILD LABOUR

According to the United Nations, there are at least 160 million children (including 63 million girls and 97 million boys) above the age of five forced into child labour across the world. The largest share of child labour around the world is in the agricultural sector (accounting to 70% of children aged 5 to 17 in work.)

UN states, minimum of 79 million children around the world are involved in hazardous work, which often poses a risk to health and safety of the child.

4. EXPLOITATION IN MALYSIAN FOOD INDUSTRY

According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugee, Malaysia had more than 182,000 refugees and asylum seekers as of April 2022. 136,000 amongst the total number of refugee were over the age of 18. Despite being host of so many refugees, Malaysia lacks an effective legal framework to legitimize their position in the country. Further, local laws in Malaysia doesn't distinguish between refugee, asylum seekers and undocumented migrants.

This legal vacuum in the country has left the refugees without the right to work or send their children to schools. Many refugees end up working in restaurants cleaning the tables and handling the washing ups for 16 hours a day. As per Sivaranjani Manickam, the community outreach manager at refugee rights organization Asylum Access Malaysia, 70% of the employment dispute they receive come from food industry and 90% of them involve unpaid salaries.

5. 30 SOLDIERS CHARGED OVER KILLING OF TRIBAL PEOPLE

30 Soldiers have been charged with killing of six tribal people (labourers returning from work) by police in India's restive northeastern state of Nagaland. The tribal people were supposedly mistaken for armed rebels during an anti-insurgency operation last year. According to the chief of Police TJ Longkumer, soldiers resorted to 'disproportionate firing' and violated the standard operating procedure and rules of engagement.

As per the police chief, even though the chargesheet has been filed against the soldiers, sanction for prosecution is still awaited.

6. GUN LAW IN USA

Tens of thousands of protesters took over the streets of US calling for stricter gun laws in the wake of two mass shootings. The campaigners have welcomed a potential cross-party deal on gun safety reforms yet stressed that the proposal isn't enough. The plan includes tougher check for buyers under the age of 21 and cracking down on illegal gun purchases.

Ms.Giffords, writing her remark on twitted stated that this could be the first time in 30 years that congress has taken major action on gun safety.

7. Roe v Wade Overturned

Supreme court has overturned the landmark judgment of Roe v Wade, 1973 which guaranteed right to terminate a pregnancy to the women in USA. This move of the court will allow more than half states to ban abortion with an immediate and enduring impact on tens of millions of Americans.

The top court pronounced that there is no constitutional right to abortion in a case called Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization.

8. DEADLY CASE OF HUMAN SMUGGLING, 51 DEAD

An abandoned truck with 51 dead migrants was discovered in San Antonio, Texas. This is reportedly one of the most deadly recent incidents of human smuggling along the US-Mexico border.

According to the official of Fire Department of San Antonio, stack of bodies were found inside the truck with no sign of water inside. Chief Charles Hood stated that the patients they saw were hot to touch and were suffering from heat stroke.

A criminal investigation has been opened by US authorities into the deaths of 51. The driver of the truck and other two people tied to the smuggling incident have been taken into custody.

Sources: Aljazeera, BBC, the Guardian

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