

# 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. POLIO CASES ON RISE IN PAKISTAN

With the first amendment of Senior Citizens Act, 2006, the children who abandon their parents are restricted from claiming the property. The new reform has vested authority upon local government to take care of any senior citizens abandoned by their children or relatives.

If they are abandoned, local government will take their property and use it for their welfare. Further, the law has also given senior citizens with right to file a written complaint at the local authorities against their children if they aren't taken care of. If and when necessary, even relatives and neighbors could file the complaints.

### 2. TOTAL OF 17 AMENDMENT BILL REGISTERED

Around 19 lawmakers have registered 17 separate amendment bills demanding for the amendment of the Enforced Disappearances Enquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act 2014. The bill has been tabled in the House of Representative.

Some provisions of the bill have been widely criticized by the National and International Human Rights Defenders. These provisions include shallow definition of cruel murder. It further has loopholes to give amnesty even in the cases of serious human rights violations. As per the conflict victims, war crime and crime against humanity have not been listed under the serious human rights violation.

### 3. RAPE CASE FILED AGAINST THE CAPTION OF NEPALI CRICKET TEAM

A complaint of rape has been filed against the caption of Nepal's national cricket team, Sandeep Lamichhane. A 17 year old minor has alleged that he had raped her multiple times by taking her to a hotel room.

The complaint has been filed at the Gaushala police circle in the presence of her guardian. As per the Facebook post of District police range Kathmandu, the victim was taken by one door crisis management centre for a medical evaluation. As per the victim, they met on a social media site called snapchat via which he pursued her to meet him.

### 4. ATTACK AGAINST WARD CHAIRPERSON

A complaint has been filed against Manbahadur Pun, 40, in the charge of attacking the ward chairperson of Bareng Rural Municipality-3, Sher Bahadur Khanal, 51. Ward chairperson was allegedly attacked at Batakachaur during the distribution of National ID Card.

According to the DSP Indra Bahadur Rana, Manbahadur kicked the classroom door and injured the Chairperson. The chairperson was treated at Dhaulagiri Hospital. His right ear, hand and leg were injured.

### 5. BIG TAX EVADERS ASKED TO CLEAR THE TAX

After successfully raising NPR. 1.7 million as entertainment tax from Bhrikutimandap based on 24 hour of notice, the Kathmandu Metropolitan City has now set its eyes on the bigger tax evaders in the city.

KMC has written to 17 different business complexes, educational institutions and hospitals urging them to clear the property taxes within 10 days. According to the Chief of the Revenue Department at the KMC, these institutions have not paid their property taxes for nearly two decades and they own around NPR 300 million tax amount to the State.

### 6. PAUL SHAH SENTENCED WITH TWO AND HALF YEAR OF IMPRISONMENT

Actor Paul Shah has been sentenced with two and half years of imprisonment and NPR.25,000 fine on the charge of molesting a minor. The verdict has been rendered by the single bench of Justice Yadya Prasad Acharya of district court in Nawalparasi (East). Court has also ordered Shah to pay NPR. 1 million compensation to the victim.

The actor has however been acquitted from the charge of raping the minor. Verdict from Tanahun is yet to come.

Sources: INSECOOnline, The Himalayan Times, The Kathmandu Post

# INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

## 1. **POLIO CASES ON RISE IN PAKISTAN**

According to the Pakistani health officials, 18 cases of polio victim have been reported in Pakistan this year. National Institute of Health in the country has also reported a where a child was paralyzed by disabilities induced by Wild Poliovirus type 1.

Polio campaigns had largely managed to eradicate the virus across the world, however, Pakistan and Afghanistan still remains as last two countries that is yet to be declared polio-free. For a country to be declared polio-free, it must show an absence of polio transmission for at least three consecutive years.

## 2. **RISING FATALITIES AMID ATTEMPTS TO ENTER USA**

Around eight people have been found dead in the Rio Grande river after their attempt to enter into USA from Mexico near Eagle Pass, Texas. As per the US Customs and Border Protection, US official have recovered six bodies and Mexican teams have recovered two others. The border agency revealed that the crews rescued 37 others from the river and detained 16 more while Mexican officials took 39 into custody. Eagle pass is emerging as the busiest corridor for people attempting to cross into the US.

## 3. **NETFLIX WARNED BY SAUDI FOR VIOLATING ISLAMIC VALUES**

According to the Saudi media report, Gulf Arab states have urged Netflix to remove all the contents that violates Islamic and societal values and principles. No explicit contents have been named however, Saudi state TC showed blurred clips from animated show Jurassic World: Camp Cretaceous where two teenage girls confess their love for each other and kiss. It also featured a footage from the controversial French film cuties. Caption in Al Ekhbariya TV stated that the cinematic cover for immoral messages that threaten the healthy upbringing of children. Netflix has been contacted to remove the contents directed at children and to ensure adherence to the law.

Under the country's interpretation of Islamic law, consensual same-sex sexual conduct is punishable by death or flogging, depending on the perceived seriousness of the case

## 4. **AROUND 35 CIVILIANS KILLED IN BURKINA FASO**

As per the regional governor, around 35 people have been killed and 37 have been injured as a convoy of vehicles carrying supplies in Burniko Faso's restive northern region struck an improvised explosive device.

The tri-border area has been central to a spiralling security crisis in the wider region over the last 10 years, and has seen increasing attacks by groups lined to al-Qaeda and ISIS following military takeovers in Mali and Burkina Faso, in May 2021 and January 2022 respectively.

## 5. **DROUGHT AND SOMALIA**

According to Martin Griffiths, head of UN's office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, some parts of Somalia are at high risk of famine following four failed seasonal rain. He further termed this as a humanitarian catastrophe.

Climate change driven drought has displaces at least 1 million people in Somalia in decades.

World Food Programme have stated that the number of people at the brink of starvation across the region has increased to 22 million. While the same have reached to 7.8 million in Somalia alone.

## 6. **UN REMARKS ON CLIMATE CHANGE'S VIVID IMPACT**

Recent Pakistan's flood has resulted in the death of nearly 1,400 people and has left more than million people homeless. The flood also destroyed the crops in the country while it was already facing high inflation and balance of payment crisis. Noting the same, Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of United Nations stated that he has never seen climate carnage on such a scale and blamed wealthier countries for contributing to the same.

*Sources: Aljazeera, BBC, CNN*

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