

Views of Political Parties on Human Rights Situation in 2019

Communist Party of Nepal (CPN)

1. Introduction

It has become our main task to institutionalize federal democratic republic obtained through disavowal and sacrifice of Nepalese People and establish social justice, rule of law and desire of prosperity in reality. Nepali People have handed this privilege to CPN through local, provincial and federal elections. Our party is devoted to ascertain equality, respect, identity and opportunities promotion for Nepali people at any situation and Government has made it their main ideology. Party is focused in eradicating all sorts of prevailing discrimination and violation and establishing multi-racial, multilingual, multi-cultural and diversified society. In the process of following international practices of Human Rights, 16 Acts regarding fundamental rights have been made and they are on implementation phase. This also proves the intention of Government to work for the favor of Nepalese people respecting their rights at most. Our party is also focused on identification and implementation of subjects that are directly related to social law.

2. Civil and Political Rights

Elected in all three levels of Government, by the active participation of people, CPN is devoted to safeguard citizen and political rights in the country.

Struggling for the rights and freedom of people, our party can never allow to shrink its aim. Our party wants to assure all to carry peaceful political activities. We were serious to solve even the minor cases of armed activities through discussions similar to previous years. Our whole concern is towards utilization of citizen rights by the people. Use of small weapons, explosives, abduction, and murder attempts that occur at times are matters of concern and these should be controlled and ascertain the citizen rights.

2.1 Right to Freedom and Security

Our party is concerned to standardize Constitution given Right to Freedom and implement provisions of freedom in reality. We are focused on implementing these provisions through counselling and discussions with concerned stakeholders. There is need for all to help in Government's work to assure peace for all. Similarly, party is devoted to implement notion that guarantees exclusion of all kinds of violence and helps to establish peaceful society.

2.2 Transitional Justice

It has not been long since we have escaped terrifying and lengthy process of conflict. It is true, we have successfully managed conflict but it takes time for assuring all aspects and parties about various issues of conflict management. And for this, our Party alone cannot manage

and it needs help and collaborations from all concerned sectors. As per the mandate of Comprehensive Peace Accord, Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons and Truth and Reconciliation Commission are reinstated. Party expects these Commissions to work successfully for the management of transitional justice fulfilling the international ethics in solving the issues of war.

2.3 Right to Organization

Important aspect of Democracy for citizens is right to organize, write, read, protest or support and form organizations accordingly. Political Parties had struggled and helped in establishment of republic nation for assuring above mentioned rights of the people. There is need to watch over provisions of registration of organizations in Nepal. Our Party believes in management of roles of organizations as per the need of time and provide them with required environment to work.

3. State of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

3.1 Poverty and Inequality

Nepal faces poverty as the biggest challenge at present. There is increasing trend of gap between poor and rich. Our Party has realized it and has actively working to bring this gap to minimum. Party believes, end to poverty and inequality is the minimum requirement for development. We also focus on involvement of all three tiers of Government to bring poverty and inequality to minimum possible. Realizing the state of one fourth of population still wandering for basic amenities of life, our Party keeping this mind has been constantly working specially focusing on marginalized class, vulnerable communities, backward classes and poor of Sudurpaschim and Karnali region.

3.2 Education and Health

Party is committed to bring all people to the access of education and health. We are focused on implementing recommendations mentioned in report given by Education Commission. We are working to fill the gap between private and public schools, has and has not, in assess to education. We are also working to strengthen capacity of local bodies to increase the quality of community schools.

Party is concerned to provide health facilities up to one lakh to people with serious diseases implementing Treatment and Economic Assistance Act 2012. It's commendable for Government prioritizing services of family planning, sexually transmitted diseases, treatment of children and senior citizens. Vaccination and free distribution of medicines have been effectively implemented. Act of Medical Education for all is one the verge of implementation.

3.3 Shelter and Reconstruction

There are many slums. The problems of landless are as usual. Number of people without shelter and land have increased post 2015 earthquake. Party is working hard to complete all the reconstruction works of private shelters, heritage sites and other damaged structures by the end of this fiscal year.

3.4 Labor and Employment

This year, number of youths going for foreign employment has gone down. Party believes this is due to increased employment opportunities in the Country. Government has prioritized workers security through Social Security Fund. Prime Minister Employment Programme has aided in creating employment up to some extent. Party is serious to secure the lives of workers returning from abroad who are also the main sources of remittance.

3.5 Child and Women Rights

Party is sensitive towards increasing gender violence this year. Women are suffering from physical and mental abuses, cultural abuse, trafficking, sexual abuse, unsafe abortion and so on. This has resulted in weak health, increased maternity death, decreased literacy rate, dropping schools, inaccessible to higher education and so on. Women in these state cannot feel social justice and equality. So, Party is working to provide all women rights. Government's acts of eradicating gaps in women's rights are welcomed by the Party. Practices of destroying menstrual huts are welcomed by the Party.

Party is working to ascertain child rights. One third of children are in child labor and about six lakhs of them are involved in dangerous labor. Children in Terai and urban areas are involved in domestic labor, in industries, hotel, transportation, recreation and they are working as porters in hills and mountains.

Especially girls are suffered from murder, violence, menstruation cases and so on. Provisions of women rights are positive. Legal approaches of their rights in parental property, participation in politics, bureaucracy, security of services are implemented. Party is focused on implementing these in reality.

3.6 Rights against Discrimination

There are Acts guaranteeing the rights of equality, social justice, special rights to marginalized and Party is focused on effective implementation of these. Around 42% of downtrodden people are below poverty line with 0.434 score in Human Development Index (HDI). So its roles of all political parties to bring them up and our Party is actively involved in it.

3.7 Rights of People with Disability

There is special mention of rights of people with disability in Constitution. There is provision of special education to

the children with disability. There is provision of participation of at least one representative from disability and marginalized in the National Assembly. Family, community and nation must see people having disability with rightful concept. There must be disable friendly physical infrastructures, modes of transportation, special education, facilities and opportunities.

4. Challenges of Human Rights and Efforts to Solve Them

Currently, following challenges are present

4.1 Rule of Law

Party is working to wipe out increasing corruption in the Country. Zero tolerance against corruption is Party's bottom line. However, Nepal falls back in position of corruption index and party has taken it as main challenge. Few approaches to reduce corruption have been implemented with regard to untimely service, illegal commissions, and construction of fragile infrastructures and so on. Government has ordered to all levels of Governance to work effectively, responsibly and in an accountable manner.

4.2. Condition of Impunity

There is problem in implementation of adjudgements by Court, recommendations of Human Rights Commission and so on. Party is focused to end this situation and it does not approve anyone who violates the Human Rights.

4.3 Transitional Justice

Party believes the execution of transitional justice through Commission on Investigation of Enforced Disappeared Persons and Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

4.4 Discriminatory Cultures and traditions

There is prevalence of discrimination, witchcraft, Chhaupadi Pratha, dowry and many more social traditions.

Women are victimized by witchcraft. In the name of cultures, illegal acts have been occurring in our society. Women are burnt alive, attacked by acid in the name of dowry. Inter cast marriage is taken illegal in our society. So our Party believes, only after eradicating all these activities, there can be supplantation of social justice and society with equality.

5. Opportunities

To feel the Human Rights, their principles must be followed by every organs of society, bodies of Government and every persons. For this, Human Rights education must be disseminated to the public. Fixation of Human Rights issues to be precise is the role of Government. But, there is also importance of civil organizations in safeguarding Human Rights. So, to face the challenges mentioned above, coordinative and collaborative roles of state, political parties, civil organizations, private sectors, and media must be established. Party prioritize role of Government to establish the culture of Human Rights, spread Human Rights education, create feelings of rule of law and so on. Rights acquired by the sacrifice of people must be implemented on reality to feel the essence of 'Happy Nepali: Prosperous Nepal'.

Ishwar Bahadur Rijal
Secretary, Central Office

Nepali Congress

The year 2019 unlike other years experienced serious cases of Human Rights violation. Usually, Human Rights used to be violated by various defiant groups. But, Government itself was involved in curbing Human Rights by violating Fundamental Rights, freedom and promises made to different international acts and accords and has stood itself as an impediment to citizens from enjoying

their rights as mentioned in the Constitution of Nepal. Government, standing on its 2/3 majority has misused its power and has brought various bills that are against sentiment of Democracy and has pulled people on road for the protest. Bills of Medical Education, Staff Inclusion, Guthi, Information Technology, Media council and National Security Council are its examples. In the meantime, Country faced the problem of price hike, corruption, illegal trade, commission, murder, violence, terror, abduction and so on.

Government was ashamed by involving in various activities that were proved to be against the merits of country and its people. Some of them were chasing contractor of Melamchi Drinking Water Project, 33 Kg gold case, case of purchase of security press, land case of Lalita Niwas, involvement of Prime Minister in organization of program against religious ethics, handover of land to Yeti Group, intention for forceful cutting of trees for Nijgadh International Airport and so on.

There was continuous cases of murder, violence, corruption, commission and insecurity. The statement of President of the Country regarding corruption reflects the state of corruption in the Country. This year too, convicts of rape and murder of Nirmala Panta were masked. Voices for Rule of Law and rights have been suppressed.

Nine people were murdered in Miklajung-9 of Panchthar. Two people were murdered in Jhapa, two children of Kathmandu were abducted and killed, former Ambassador Keshav Jha was murdered, Police personnel Sanjeev Rai was murdered in Bhojpur, fake encounter in Sarlahi, bomb explosion in Kathmandu, murder of activist of sister organization of Nepali Congress, Manoj Yadav, murder of Ram Bilas Mahato of Sarlahi and Rohit Pun of Rolpa.

Government forming Party has ordered its activists to attack anyone who

stands against the activities of Government. This has created turmoil in political arena and has uplifted the spirit of activists to engage in illegal activities. Members of ANFSU have attacked members of Nepal Student Union in Minbhanwan Campus and made number of them injured. Police too used the power to suppress the victims of this incident. Pramod Kumar Yadav was abducted in Dhanusha. Similarly, Government used its power to suppress protest of teachers and nurses.

An attack was launched in a peaceful protest in Banke where District President Kiran Koirala was injured. Minendra Rijal while on his program in Rising Rural Municipality of Tanahun was attacked by cadres of Nepal Communist Party. They have impeded Rijal and violated the rights of free movement within the country. Deputy Mayor of Bharatpur Metropolitan was attacked in the social sites and created a state of terror. Terror was created among workers returning from abroad in airport, goods were seized that were brought for family purpose and consistent acts of terror were produced.

In this period, media was attacked by cadres of Nepal Communist Party for pointing negative works of Government. Even security personnel were in attack. Office of Avenues Television in Birgunj was vandalized. Journalists were registered with fake cases. Three media persons working in Government run media in Doti were attacked. Journalists were attacked during their peaceful protest. Students were suppressed while protesting for justice for a student hit by a truck at Kohalpur.

Boasting the strong mathematical presence of Nepal Communist Party in Parliament, it has started to be oblivious about the existence of other parties. Hanging the posters of Prime Minister on

poles of Kathmandu, it has tried to spread false rumors of commencement of development in the nation. Further, there was act of ignoring the presence of main opposing party and making haphazard decisions by the ruling party. Statement by a Minister against peaceful protest reveals the mindset of Government towards Human Rights.

A message was delivered to Custom Investigation Department, Money Laundering Investigation Department and important organs of state conveying Prime Minister as the source person of all. Power management between various state coordination units was discontinued. This Government has been acting against the spirit of Democracy in Parliament.

Further, a maximum effort was made to incline the results of sub-election towards ruling party using resources of Government illegally at maximum. Government was not serious for checking of vegetables imported from third countries. Government has cut off the incentive given to disabled. Further, Government has decided to curtail reservation from 5% to 3% allocated for persons of disability in Government Job.

Government was unsuccessful in maintaining international relations and diplomacy. Statement on Venezuela by Government has adulterated the image of the country.

Overall, Government, despite of safeguarding and conserving Human Rights of people, has been involved in deteriorating it. This has created a serious issue inside the country. This can also pose serious complications for organizations like INSEC to work as per the ethics of Democracy.

Krishna Prasad Paudel
Chief Secretary

Socialist Party

There was no considerable improvement regarding Human Rights issues coming to this time in 2019. There were multiple incidents of murder, violence and rapes. There was no solid approach acquired from state to safeguard and follow the ethics set for Human Rights conservation; to do such is the first and foremost responsibility of Government. Due to lack of active and unbiased involvement of Government, real culprits have not been curbed by Law and in many cases, impeccable are entrapped. There is trend of utilization of power and post by privileged of these assets for masking immorality and the negative consequences have been dumped upon the deprived ones. Mass gets the taste of democratic utilization of Human Rights rendered by the constitution only if its principles and bases are prioritized by organs of the state. There is also a void in roles to be played by National Human Rights Commission of Nepal; to be precise, the Commission is in dormant state.

Complete realization of Human Rights is only possible in a nation with political stability and permanency. Federalism has been implemented as administrative unit instead of treating it as political ecosystem. There is need to retain constitutional and legal system to establish common participation in ruling structure, election mechanism, and eradication of all kinds of discrimination. Until and unless there establishes an inclusive system for all to enjoy their rights, "Human Rights" proves to be a song of the lips. Keeping all these in mind, our party has been provoking for constitutional amendment. There is impossibility of political stability unless and unless the system in constitution that discriminates and ignores existence of peoples' right, gets amended. If ruling and other big parties undermines the agenda of constitution amendment put

forward by our party, there is an anticipation danger of degradation of Human Rights issues further in the Country. We expect the works of INSEC to be exemplary to eradicate discriminations and establish social Rule of Law.

Prakash Adhikari

Deputy Secretary General and Head of
Central Office

Rastriya Janata Party

Annual publication of 'Human Rights Year Book' is exemplary. We are delighted to know, it is being published this year too.

Human Rights being the pillar of Democracy, safeguards people on the ground of race, language, religion, culture, and gender. Everyone has rights to safe life. Realizing the importance of Human Rights, United Nations 131st Convention had passed global manifesto regarding Human Rights in 1948.

This right is acquired by birth. Being deprived of equal rights irrespective of language, religions, gender, race and geography is regarded as the violation of Human Rights. Despite the global ethics of inclusion of all people from all walks of life, Madhesi, Women, Marginalized, Tharu, and so on are deprived of their rights in Nepal. Human Rights are cognitive rights and no one has the right to snatch them from people.

There is violation of Rights against discrimination as mentioned in manifesto of International Human Rights. Culture of treating Madhesi people as second tier citizen inside their own country has not changed. Resham Chaudhary despite of being elected as representative bringing highest number of votes was sent to jail accused with false crimes.

Nepali people are deprived of Right to Information guaranteed by the Constitution. Protesters of Terai are forced to live behind the bar accusing them with

various false cases. Government has ignored injured people during protests to safeguard the rights of Madhesi people. Report published by Investigation Committee headed by Girish Chandra Lal was not publicized by the Government. There is state of depriving Madhesi people from their rights to information. Similarly, provision of inclusion is not fully followed in bureaucracy, Army, Police, Diplomatic Councils and so on.

Citizens are also not enjoying economic, social, political, cultural rights and right to live freely. Youths are bound to move abroad for employment and they are bound to face various difficulties there. Inside country, youths are bound to get entrenched in abuses, terror, robbery and so on. If the current trend of moving abroad worsen, there is danger of nation being occupied by only children and elderly populations.

Today, Nepalese people are not able to feel the presence of Government and Rule of Law in the Country. The year of 2019 cannot be taken as satisfactory with regards to Human Rights; however, various approaches are being made. Three tiers of Government have been formed. Participation of women is seen high. However, marginalized class has been devoid of their rights. Ruling party has been using power excessively in their favor.

In the views of RJP (Rastriya Janata Party), Nepali people have not enjoyed rights mentioned in Constitution. Our party has been devoted to safeguard citizen's rights and freedom.

At last, we wish for the success of 'Human Rights Year Book, 2020' and anticipate for it to be proved as the milestone in the sector of Human Rights in Nepal.

Rajendra Mahato
Coordinator

