

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 INSECOline 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. IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED AGAINST CASES OF CASTE BASED DISCRIMINATION

Amnesty International has released a report: "Systemic descent-based discrimination against Dalits needs urgent action" on May 10, 2024. The report states that Dalits and especially Dalit women and girls need immediate action against caste-based discrimination. The report has also shown Authorities in Nepal are failing to protect Dalits, particularly women and girls, from systemic and widespread caste-based discrimination. It is reported that the Dalit community lacks trust over police and other Legal authorities which is why only 30-40 cases under Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability Act are registered in a year.

2. SINGER RAVI OAD ARRESTED FOR MARITAL RAPE

The police arrested the 26-year-old Ravi Oad, of Krishnapur Municipality-5, the winner of the singing reality show, Nepal Idol season-2, 2018 on May 9 for the charge of marital rape of his 25-year-old woman. Inspector Anand Chand of District Police Office, Kanchanpur said that the complaint against the accused was filed at Area police office, Jhalari alleging that he raped his wife on April 2. However, he was on a foreign trip at that time and was immediately present at the District Police Office after returning back. As per DSP Umesh Joshi of District Police Office, Kanchanpur, the accused was investigated regarding the incident after the district court extended the date of five days.

3. GANDAKI CHIEF MINISTER ADHIKARI REMOVED FROM POST, SUPREME COURT RECOMMENDS TO APPOINT PANDEY

The Supreme Court declared the vote of confidence received by Chief Minister Khagraj Adhikari of Gandaki Province unconstitutional. The joint bench of Kumar Regmi and Sunil Kumar Pokharel decided on May 27 to invalidate the vote of confidence taken by Chief Minister Adhikari. The Supreme Court ruled that the 30 votes received by Adhikari in the 60-member assembly did not constitute a majority. Additionally, the Court ordered that Surendraraj Pandey, the leader of the Nepali Congress Provincial Assembly, be appointed as the new Chief Minister within 48 hours of the notice.

The Court through certiorari canceled 'the vote of confidence favoring the Chief Minister Khagraj Adhikari had been passed by the majority'. Pandey on 7 April, approached the court to challenge the vote of confidence received by Chief Minister Adhikari. Additionally, Pandey filed a writ in the Supreme Court on May 7. Following this, the Supreme Court issued a short-term interim order to show cause on May 10, instructing the Gandaki Province government to refrain from taking any actions that could have long term effects.

4. CHAIRPERSON SIROHIYA OF KANTIPUR MEDIA GROUP ARRESTED OVER ISSUES WITH HIS CITIZENSHIP

Police arrested Kailash Sirohiya, the Chairperson of Kantipur Media Group on 21 May from his workplace at Kantipur Daily in Thapathali for allegedly having multiple citizenship cards and was taken to Janakpur overnight by road.

Sirohiya's arrest, reportedly without prior investigation, has raised concerns about the misuse of power and potential threats to media freedom. This incident comes at a time when Kantipur Media Group had been actively

publishing critical material regarding the controversial involvement of the Home Minister with cooperatives. In a statement, Sirohiya alleged that the arrest warrant was issued as a form of blackmail to dissuade Kantipur Daily from further reporting on cooperative frauds

5. NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION URGES TO RESPECT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND PRESS

The National Human Rights Commission on the occasion of the world press freedom day on 3 May, requested all relevant parties including the Government of Nepal to protect the safety and freedom of journalists by respecting the freedom of expression and press guaranteed by the constitution and other national/international laws. With a main motto of, 'Press for the Planet: Journalism in the face of the Environmental Crisis', the Commission expressed its best wishes to all citizens including journalists, and activists for freedom of expression.

The press freedom, freedom of expression and human rights are interdependent. The commission concerned over the increasing number of journalists being victimized this year also revealed the fact that there were 64 incidents of violation of press freedom during the last one year as per the Federation of Nepali Journalists.

The press release issued by Dr. Tikaram Pokharel, Joint Secretary and Spokesperson of the National Human Rights Commission states that the mistreatment and discouragement against media workers by any security personnel or other responsible agencies violates rules of law, democracy and human rights, Article 17 (2) (a), Article 19 of the Constitution of Nepal, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 19 of 1948 and even Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

1. 'ALL EYES ON RAFAH' ONE OF THE MOST VIRAL PHRASE USED OVER INTERNET

The viral AI image with the phrase, "All Eyes on Rafah", created by a user in Malaysia aims to bring attention to the situation in Rafah amid ongoing conflict gaining widespread attention with over 40 million shares on Instagram. The phrase is reportedly a call for the observers not to ignore what's happening in the city of Rafah, where over 1 million people are taking shelter from the violence taking place in Gaza. The slogan and the image gained widespread attention after an Israeli air strike caused a fire at a camp for displaced Palestinians Rafah, a city in southern Gaza.

2. LANDSLIDE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA CAUSED OVER 100 DEATHS

A landslide in Papua New Guinea's remote area on 24 May has caused over 100 deaths and an emergency response is underway as per the South Pacific island nation's leader and news media. The landslide took place in Kaokalam village in Enga Province, about 600 kilometers (370 miles) northwest of the capital, Port Moresby, around 3 a.m as per the report of Australian Broadcasting Corporation. The locals have said that the death rate could be significantly higher than 100, although authorities have not yet verified this figure.

3. SUPREME COURT OF INDIA GRANTED BAIL TO KEJRIWAL FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN ELECTION

A regulatory authority in India has suspended the manufacturing licenses for 14 products produced by The Supreme Court of India granted bail to Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister of Delhi and Leader of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) until 1 June for his participation in the general election. He was arrested on charges of corruption and held in custody for nearly two months. However, Kejriwal refuses the allegations, asserting that his arrest is politically motivated to hinder his participation in the election, which started from April and will extend until June. (Source: Reuters)

4. INDIA POTENTIALLY RECORDED HIGHEST TEMPERATURE EVER

India, known as one of the hottest countries globally, potentially recorded its highest temperature ever. Mungeshpur, located northwest of New Delhi, recorded a scorching temperature of 52.3 degrees Celsius (about 126 degrees Fahrenheit), on 29 May according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The previous record, set in Rajasthan in 2016, was 51 degrees Celsius (123.8 degrees Fahrenheit), as reported by the IMD.

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