

# 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. NEPAL'S RULE OF LAW SCORE DECREASED BY 1.1%

According to the World Justice Project Index-2021, Nepal's rule of law score has decreased by 1.1%. In terms of rank, Nepal fell two positions globally standing at 70th place out of 123 countries.

### 2. WOMAN KILLED BY FAMILY MEMBER IN THE ACCUSATION OF 'WITCHCRAFT'

Sheela Devi, a 42-year-old woman from Mahottari has been killed by her own brother-in-law, Sanjay Kumar Jha in the accusation of witchcraft. Sanjay accused Sheela of being a witch saying that Rinku (his wife) suffered from a miscarriage on the same night she ate a banana given by Sheela to her. He killed her using a hammer.

### 3. NEPAL POLICE HAS ATTESTED A CANADIAN CITIZEN IN THE CHARGE OF PEDOPHILIA

Roert Kinkle, 44, a Canadian citizen has been arrested by Police from Pokhara on charge of sexually abusing three children. According the DSP Subash Hamal, the innocent children have been rescued and the accused has been kept in custody for further investigation.

### 4. PM ENSURES GIVING RELIEF TO FLOOD AND LANDSLIDE VICTIMS

Speaking at a program in Itahari, PM Sher Bahadur Deuba pledged to provide relief to flood and landslide victims in the east at any cost. He further ensured on forming mid-term and long-term plans to tackle the problems caused by flood and landslide.

### 5. HOSPITAL GIVES SIX WEEKS TO COLLECT MONEY FOR SURGERY

A woman from Badimalika Municipality, Bajura, Thewa Rokaya, 65 is struggling with life after falling off a cliff while grazing cattle in the nearby forest. Her son Tek Bahadur said his mother required 3 lakh rupees to undergo a surgery and fix her broken ribs. He further added that they cannot afford the amount. The hospital has given six weeks to collect the money for surgery.

### 6. HEARING OF SUPREME COURT CASES HALTED

Justices in Supreme Court have not conducted any hearing since last three days. All the 15 judges of Supreme Court are seeking resignation from the Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher JB Rana who have faced an accusation of seeking favor from the executive and delaying the hearing of cases filed against appointments to the constitutional bodies.

### 7. NATIONAL LAND COMMISSION TO DISTRIBUTE THE LAND FROM MID-JAN NEXT YEAR

The process of distributing land to landless Dalits, landless squatters and unmanaged settlers is to be initiated by the National Land Commission from mid-jan next year. According to the Chairperson of the Commission, Keshav Niraula, land will be distributed prioritizing the Dalits without land of their own.

Source: INSECOnline and The Himalayan Times

# INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

## 1. **ATTACK ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH**

According to Amnesty International, attack on freedom of expression by government and spread of misinformation globally during the pandemic have created a devastating impact on the people's ability to access accurate information to help them cope with the health crisis.

Communication channels have been targeted, social media has been censored and media outlets have been closed down hurdling the right to information of citizens amid pandemic.

## 2. **PROMINENT BRITISH UNIVERSITIES PRONE TO DISMISS THE COMPLAINTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

AEvidence gathered during two-year of investigation by Aljazeera has revealed that some prominent Universities in Britain are more prepared to dismiss the complaints of sexual harassment than to punish the perpetrators.

Few Professors from these Universities are found to be abusing their position of authority with sexist and drunken behavior. It has also been revealed that they have failed to protect female students from sexual harassment.

## 3. **FEMALE JUDGES IN AFGHANISTAN FORCED TO HIDE FOLLOWING TALIBAN'S TAKEOVER**

Hundreds of female judges in Afghanistan have been compelled to hide under Taliban rule. Judges hold reasons to be afraid. During its 11-day rampage through Afghanistan, Taliban released thousands of prisoners from the jails including the men who these judges had personally sentenced and who might end up joining Taliban government now.

## 4. **100 MILLION AFRICAN POPULATION THREATENED BY CLIMATE CHANGE**

As per the report published by United Nations, more than 100 million extremely poor populations across Africa are threatened by rocketing climate change that could melt away few glaciers of the continent within two decades.

Further, World Meteorological Organization's report suggests that 1.3 billion populations in Africa remain 'extremely vulnerable' and by 2030, these populations are anticipated to be exposed to 'Drought, folds and extreme heat.'

## 5. **OHCHR URGES PAKISTAN TO RELEASE STEPHEN MASIH**

Stephen Masih, a Pakistani Christian from Sialkot District has been detained for over two years awaiting trials for allegedly committing blasphemy despite being aware of his psychosocial disabilities and health condition. OHCHR urges the concerned authorities to review Masih's case and release and drop all the charges against him ensuring protection for him and his family.

## 6. **11 CIVILIANS KILLED IN AN ISIS ATTACK ON IRAQI VILLAGE**

According to the country's security force, at least 11 defenseless civilians have been killed in an ISIL (ISIS) attack on a village in Diyala province in eastern Iraq. Police have stated that the gunmen used several vehicles and semi-automatic guns in their attack.

## 7. **PRO-DEMOCRACY PROTESTERS TAKES OVER SUDAN**

Pro-democracy protesters have taken over the roads in Sudhan's capital with makeshift barricades and burning tyres following the military arrest of senior officials and seizure of power in a coup. UN Security Council has passed a statement expressing 'serious concern' about the army power grab in the poverty-stricken Northeast African Nation and urged all sides to engage in dialogue without pre-conditions.

*Source: Aljazeera and BBC*

### **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](mailto:insec@insec.org.np)

Web site: [www.insec.org.np](http://www.insec.org.np), [www.inseconline.org](http://www.inseconline.org)