

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

i. INSEC NOTES 102 VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE MONTH OF BHADRA

Total of 102 cases of Human rights violations has been noted by INSEC in the month of Bhadra. Majority of the victims are found to be women [noting: 87 women and 15 male victims.]

ii. 'OTHER' GENDER CATEGORY IN LATEST CENSUS

Central Bureau of Statistics have started visiting homes across the country giving the option of choosing 'others' as their gender in addition to male and female.

iii. DISCRIMINATION AGAINST DALITS

Dalit residence construction struggle committee has declared an agitation against the discrimination and exploitation of the Dalits and irregularities in the name of the People's Residence programme in Rautahat.

'There are conspiracies to weaken Dalits in this country, but Dalits are no longer weak and are ready to fight for their rights' says former Minister Prabhu Sah.

iv. UNDP PLEDGES TO ASSIST POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN GANDAKI PROVINCE

Ayshanie Medagangoda-Labi, a resident representative of UNDP has pledged to support Gandaki Province in alleviating poverty by helping 200,000 people living beneath the poverty line by 2030.

v. IMPACT OF POVERTY ON RIGHT TO HEALTH

Dhaulti Thapa, a 30 year old woman who has been suffering from feet infection since last three months was referred from Bajura District Hospital to Kohalpur Medical College for further treatment but her family had to bring her back to home after not being able to afford the treatment expenses.

vi. CONFLICT VICTIMS URGE UN TO ADDRESS THEIR DEMAND

Conflict victims in Nepal sent a letter to Secretary-General of UN, Antonio Guterres through UN office in Nepal urging the government of Nepal to address their demand. Victims further highlighted the dysfunctional state of Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Commission of Investigation of Enforced Disappeared Persons.

vii. DEATH IN DETENTION: VICTIM DEPRIVED FROM COMPENSATION

Krian Rai, 18, was killed in the custody on July 10, 2013. His family neither received justice nor the compensation of Rs. 300,000 recommended by NHRC.

Source: INSEConline and The Himalayan Times

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

i. STRICT PUNISHMENT AND EXECUTION TO RETURN IN AFGHANISTAN

Mullah Nooruddin, a Taliban leader officially declared that the harsh punishments such as ‘cutting off the hands’ is necessary to ensure security and will return in Afghanistan. He further adds that the execution this time might be held in private.

ii. COVID-19 AND VACCINE INEQUALITY

According to Amnesty International, refusal to waive intellectual property rights and share vaccine technology by six top manufacturers of vaccine (AstraZeneca, BioNTech, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Novavax and Pfizer) has wheeled the deal in favor of wealthy states resulting in massive vaccine inequality. Merely 0.3% of the vaccine has gone to low-income countries while over 79% is going to the upper-middle and high-income countries.

iii. US ENSURES ABORTION RIGHTS TO WOMEN

Codifying the precedent laid down by Roe V Wade case, US House of Representatives approved a proposed law guaranteeing women’s right to an abortion throughout the States. This bill overrides new laws in Texas and other Republican-led states restricting abortion.

iv. HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES SURGE IN EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Total of 739 cases of Human rights violations were recorded in Congo in the month of August including death of at least 293 civilians including 63 women and 24 children. 55% of the extrajudicial killings were found to be attributed to the State while 45% of the recorded abuses were supposedly inflicted by the armed groups.

v. VACCINE INEQUITY PROMINENT IN AFRICA

Speaking at the UN General Assembly, leaders of African countries, whose populations have little to no access to the COVID-19 shots, highlighted the persistent vaccine inequity in their countries. They further noted that more than 82% of the vaccine doses have been acquired by wealthy countries, while less than 1% has been distributed amongst the low-income countries

vi. SWITZERLAND LEGALISES SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Switzerland has agreed to legalize same-sex marriage following two-third majority (64.1% votes) in a referendum. This makes Switzerland one of the last countries in the Western Europe to legalize same-sex marriage.

vii. UN CHIEF WARNS: WORLD ON ‘CATASTROPHIC’

Antonio Guterres, UN Chief has warned that the inability to cut global emission will move the world to a catastrophic path to 2.7 degree Celsius heating.

Sources: Aljazeera and BBC

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