

# 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. SURGERY SERVICE COMMENCED AFTER 48 YEARS OF HOSPITAL'S ESTABLISHMENT

After 48 years of its establishment, a team led by Dr. Kundan Karna conducted a C-section at the Mustang District Hospital for the first time. According to Dr. Bishal Tiwari, hospital is equipped to conduct c-section and surgical services for hydrocele, appendicitis and other minor diseases as well.

Dr Bishal Tiwari further mentioned that all the necessary arrangements of the tools and instruments were made within two months. He was however concerned about the sustainability of the service since the hospital frequently experienced lack of skilled human resources.

### 2. INCREASED CASES OF VIRAL FEVER SENDS PATIENTS TO HALLWAYS

An increase in the cases of viral fever has brewed space constraints in the District hospital of Sankhuwasabha.

As per the hospital administration, the patients had to be treated in hallways and corridors due to the lack of beds. According to the Information Officer Shekhar Khatri, since May 2022, 54 people have suffered from dengue, 47 from scrub typhus and 106 from viral fever. Information Officer further informed that due to the bed shortage, patients with coughs are given medicine and sent home and those with viral fever are admitted and treated in the same bed.

### 3. NEGLIGENCE IN BOOK PRINTING AFFECTED CLASSES

The education of students have been affected after two chapters of the grade eight's Nepali book of Balmandir Secondary School located in Simkot Rural Municipality-5 were not printed well. The two chapters were blank and nothing was printed in the page expect for the heading of the chapters.

The books were distributed amongst 56 students of Balmandir High School. According to the Principal Kailash Rokaya, due to the negligence of Janak Education Material Centre, students couldn't continue their classes.

### 4. DEROGATORY NAMES IN THE CITIZENSHIP CORRECTED

The District Administration Office has corrected the names of 63-year-old Kabiram Kami of Bhagwatimai Rural Municipality-3 Meheltole and 44-year-old Karan Bahadur BK of the Bhagwatimai Rural Municipality-5 Katti, whose names were written in derogatory forms in their citizenship.

After the publication of investigative news by INSEC specifying the citizenship bearer and his family member's harsh experiences, names of these individuals were corrected by the District Administration Office, Dailekh.

### 5. ACTION RECOMMENDED AGAINST 1000+ GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

The National Vigilance Centre, an anti corruption watchdog, has directed the concerned ministries and offices to initiate disciplinary action against 1,690 government employees for staying absent and violating dress code contrary to the Civil Service Act, 1993 in last three months. According to the NVC, they carried out surprise monitoring and inspection of 297 ministries and offices. During the monitoring, 1,391 employees of the ministries and offices were found to be impunctual.

### 6. MEDICAL WASTE FLOATING IN THE RIVER

People going to bathe in the Biring river, Birtamode found bags full of medical waste floating in the river. The garbage had stuff like syringes, gloves, used bandages, saline pipes, bottles, and soiled cotton pads, inter alia.

Reportedly, garbage has been disposed in Kristajhar Community Forest area as well. According to the locals, the river they discovered medical waste in holds great significance for them. They conduct death rituals in the river, they bathe there, their cattle drink water from the same river but it has now been risky for them to use the river water due to the medical wastes.

Sources: INSECOOnline, Setopati, The Himalayan Times, The Kathmandu Post

# INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

## 1. SCOTLAND MAKES PERIOD PRODUCT FREE

Making the period products free for all, Scotland becomes the first country in the world to do so. Legal duty has been vested upon local authorities to provide free period products such as tampons and sanitary pads to anyone who needs them.

Products will be distributed as per the Period Products Act.

This change is seen as one of the big milestones for period dignity campaigners and grassroots movements which shows the difference that progressive and bold political choice can make.

## 2. RAPIST RELEASED, VICTIM'S DEMAND UNHEARD

On the Independence day in India, 11 convicts serving life time imprisonment for committing mass murder and gang-rape against Muslim women in Indian state of Gujrat in 2002 were released based on the state government's order. The men were garlanded when they came out of the prison.

Bilkis Bano, the lone survivor questioned 'how can justice for woman end like this?' after receiving the news of their release. Bano was five months pregnant at the time and was among three women who were gang-raped by the convicts.

As per the Central Bureau of Investigation, the local police officer who registered her case after she walked almost naked from the scene of the crime, distorted her account to make the case weaker.

Remission was recommended by the committee appointed by Gujrat government with political biasness.

## 3. SCHOOL AND OFFICE HOURS CUT IN BANGLADESH TO SAVE POWER

According to Khandker Anwarul Islam, Cabinet Secretary, in order to reduce electricity usage amid the rising fuel prices and impact of Russia-Ukraine war, Bangladesh is all set to close the schools an additional day each week and shorten the working days by an hour soon.

This measure is being taken by Bangladesh to ease pressure on its declining foreign currency reserve. As per the government, fuel price is also skyrocketing, however, they are exploring options to get cheaper fuel from Russia under a special arrangement.

## 4. LEGISLATOR ARRESTED FOR PROMOTING ENMITY IN THE NAME OF RELIGION

Following Muslim group's demand, T Raja Singh, a legislator from PM Narendra Modi's party has been arrested by Indian police in the charge of promoting enmity in the name of religion. He was arrested for his comments about the Prophet Muhammad.

Hundreds of Muslims protested against one of his videos where Singh in reference to the Prophet said 'an elderly man had married a girl decades his junior.'

## 5. BLACK WOMEN FACES BARRIERS TO EXERCISE RIGHT TO ABORT

Within weeks since the overturning of Roe v. Wade, an abortion ban has impacted US South and has hit black women the hardest. Across the country Black patients have an abortion rate roughly four times that of their white peers, in part due to lower use of contraception that leads to higher rates of unintended pregnancies.

As per the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, in Mississippi, black patients accounted for 74% of all abortions in 2019, far above the national average of 38%. The same state now has totally banned abortion.

## 6. HYUNDAI ACCUSED FOR CHILD LABOUR

In a six-page complaint, Department of Labor has revealed that, SL Alabama LLC, a subsidiary of South Korea's SL Corp, employed underage workers and violated labour regulation by engaging minors under the age of 16 in the work.

SL Alabama admitted that children had worked at the plant which makes headlights, rear lights and other components for companies including Hyundai and its Kia affiliates. This discovery at Hyundai supplier signals widening scrutiny of labour practices in the automaker's US supply chain.

Sources: Aljazeera, BBC, The Guardian

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