

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. FREE HEALTH CHECKUP IN LUMBINI

Provincial government of Lumbini has started free health checkups in Lumbini Provincial Hospital, Butwal and Rapati Provincial Hospital, Dang. All patients will have access to free outpatient services, emergency tickets and general beds. Similarly, as per the Blood Transfusion Service Centre, blood will be provided to patients for free in all government hospitals of the province. Chief Minister Kul Prasad KC announced that the provincial government aims to make health services accessible to all.

2. EXAMINER SUSPENDED IN THE CHARGE OF SEXUAL ABUSE

Two invigilators have been suspended by Hetauda Campus, Makawanpur in the accusation of sexually abusing two female students. The invigilators allegedly forced two students from the Makawanpur Multiple Campus who had crib sheets to remove their clothes. After the incident, college administration formed an investigation team and promised appropriate action against the culprits.

3. OXYGENATOR SHORTAGE AND HALTED SURGERIES

Due to the shortage of oxygenators, a device used for oxygenating blood, routine heart surgeries has been halted in Shahid Gangalal National Heart Centre and Manmohan Cardiothoracic Vascular and Transplant Centres. Dr. Chandra Mani Adhikari has stated that they have postponed surgeries of 45 patients and will resume the service once they get the devices. However, emergency surgeries and surgeries of the children is being continued.

Adhikari also added that they have placed an order and are expecting to receive the device in less than a month.

4. WORMS FOUND IN JAR WATER

Following utter negligence by a drinking water bottling plant, insect larvae and algae have been found in a water jar produced by the plant amid the fear of cholera outbreak in Kathmandu. This was found in a monitoring conducted by the team comprising representatives from Department of Food Technology and Quality Control, Consumers Federation, District Cottage Industries Office, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Stakeholder organizations and Journalists on various drinking water bottling plants operated at Jhaukhel, Changuarayan Municipality, Bhaktapur.

According to the assistant Chief District Officer, hundreds of old jars found in the course of monitoring have been destroyed. He also stated that legal action would be initiated against them if they repeated their negligence.

5. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DISSATISFACTION WITH THE AMENDMENT OF TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE BILL

International human rights organizations including Amnesty International, International Commission of Jurists, Human Rights Watch and Trial International have shown their dissatisfaction with the Transitional Justice Bill tabled in the parliament for amendment. These organizations have demanded the government and parliament to make the changes in the amendment bill duly considering the legal threshold.

Present bill proposes the formation of special court and deemed that court's verdict to be the final one. It also holds mandate to grant amnesty to the perpetrators of human rights violations, crime against humanity and war crime.

6. CRISIS OF HEALTH WORKERS AND CLOSURE OF HOSPITAL

The temporary COVID-19 hospital in Jumla has been closed due to the crisis of doctors and health workers. Apart from the Chandannath municipality, there are several rural municipality which have COVID-19 hospitals.

These hospitals have oxygen cylinders, concentrates and some medicines. Due to the lack of doctors and health workers in these hospitals, patients are deprived of the treatment.

According to Balaram Nepali, the Health Coordinator, the hospitals has been closed since the return of the doctor who were send from the Karnali Institute of Health Sciences for a month. He further mentioned that, around 1.5 million rupees were spent on the establishment and management of the hospital.

Sources: INSECOline, The Himalayan Times, The Kathmandu Post

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

1. ECUADOR PRISON RIOT, 12 KILLED

As per the authorities in Ecuador, the riot that broke out at Bellavista prison in Santo Domingo resulted in the death of 12 people. Interior Minister Patricio Carrillo informed that investigation team collected 45 human parts from the crime scene.

Conservative President Guillermo Lasso's government has blamed the riot on confrontations between rival drug gangs linked to Mexican cartels. Lasso had declared the state of emergency in three provinces in late April after the rising of drug related violence. However, the prison riot broke out just two weeks later.

2. EID HOLIDAY AND ROAD ACCIDENT IN BANGLADESH

Around Eid holiday in Bangladesh, approximately 400 people were killed and almost twice that number were injured in more than 300 road accidents. As per Bangladesh Passenger Welfare Association, it is the highest number of road accident deaths recorded during Muslim festival since 2016.

Given the hiked cases of deaths during Eid al-Fitr involving motorcycles, the government banned two-wheeler vehicles on important highways for seven days from July 7 to 13.

Experts have proposed to form a road safety fund from the budget allocated for road construction projects.

3. MONKEYPOX, A GLOBAL EMERGENCY

World Health Organization has declared the outbreak of monkeypox a public health emergency following its surge in 70 countries. As per WHO, 'a public health emergency' is designed to sound an alarm that a coordinated international response is needed and could unlock funding and global efforts to collaborate on sharing vaccines and treatments.

Governments have been advised to raise awareness amongst the doctors and hospital to take protective measures in suspected cases. As per Tedros, Director of WHO, there have been reported more than 16,000 cases from 75 countries and five deaths so far.

4. ICJ RULED ON THE PRELIMINARY OBJECTION IN ROHINGYA GENOCIDE CASE

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) rules on Myanmar's preliminary objection to a genocide case brought over the military's brutality on Rohingya Muslim. The court had heard arguments on the objection in February. On July 22, the court unanimously rejected Myanmar's preliminary objection brought by Gambia.

As per Judge Joan E. Donoghue, Myanmar argued that the Court lacked jurisdiction, or alternatively that the application was inadmissible, on the ground that, according to Myanmar, the real applicant in the proceedings was the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Since August 2017, around 24,000 Rohingya Muslim have been killed while more than 34,000 were thrown into fires, over 114,000 beaten and around 18,000 women and girls raped, as per the report by the Ontario International Development Agency.

5. FORMER DIRECTOR OF GABON OIL COMPANY SENTENCED

The Special Criminal Court, Libreville has found Christian Patrichi Tanasa, former director of Gabon Oil Company and his deputy Jeremie Ayong guilty of embezzlement and money laundering and sentenced them to 12 and 10 years of imprisonment respectively. The other accused, treasurer Carelle Ndemengane however was acquitted by the court. Aymard Moutsinga, the prosecution lawyer stated that the decision was good and the justice has been served.

Defense lawyers expressed their disappointment with the verdict and said that they would appeal the ruling. Anges Kevin Nzigou said that the accused being sentenced based on simple proof shows absence of justice in the country.

Sources: Aljazeera, BBC, The Guardian

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