

# 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. LIVES AT RISK DUE TO ABSENCE OF BRIDGE

Children residing in Swamibas, Kusumtara, Bataule, Haukhola and Ryang in Kalimati Village Municipality-7 are compelled to cross the Babai River keeping their lives on stake to get to the Nepal Rastriya Secondary School. It is the only secondary school in the area.

There is an old suspension bridge connecting Hattidunga and Ryang village but it takes two hours for the students to reach to the school via that route. According to the students, they face problems like water coming to their waist, clothes and books getting drenched, losing footings and so forth.

Ratna Gharti, a student from grade 10 stated that they always cross the river on group to avoid being washed away by the flow of river.

### 2. CLASH IN JHUMKA PRISON : 25 INJURED

A 16-year-old girl of Manthali Municipality, 6, Bhaluwajor was tied up with a rope and tortured for 21 hours by Sher Bahadur Shrestha, 63, on the pretext of entering into the house of a non-Dalit.

Accused Sher Bahadur Shrestha said that he had tied up the victim for stealing yogurt from his house and has demanded to bear the cost for purifying the house.

According to the victim, the accused hanged her for four hours, tied her to a pillar for 17 hours and was beaten using nettle leaves.

### 3. FEMALE FRIENDLY TOILET INCREASING GIRLS ATTENDANCE

According to Bishnu Prasad Ojha, Principal of Debaldanda Secondary School (Bajura), Girl students who used to miss four to five days every month have started attending schools regularly after the construction of female-friendly restrooms and after school started managing pads and drinking water. The toilet was constructed by Health Rights Improvement Project in coordination with the government, the Korean International Cooperation Agency and Good Neighbors International. They are also working to promote the hygiene, education and building capacity of the teachers.

According to Debendra Shah, project coordinator, total of 6,542 females have been benefited from the construction of toilet

### 4. VACCINATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST TYPHOID TO BEGIN IN MADHESH PROVINCE

According to the Province Health Directorate, with the purpose of minimizing human loss caused by typhoid, the government is launching anti-typhoid vaccination campaign in Madhes province from April 8, 2022. At the first stage, the children aged 15 months to 15 years will be vaccinated. Along with the typhoid vaccination, the children will also be immunized against measles and rubella.

### 5. PROTEST AGAINST TEACHER ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ABUSE

Students of Janata Secondary School of Faparbari in Bagmati Rural Municipality-8 have staged a protest and sabotaged the school on April 5, 2022, asking to take action against the three teachers (Rudra Bahadru BK, Hem Bahadur BK and Lok Bahadur BK) accused of sexually abusing the students.

According to the students, the accused teachers have sexually abused 15 students in Grade 9, 10 and 11 by touching them inappropriately and verbally harassing them in the classroom.

Kamal Lungeli, Inspector of the Area Police Office stated that no complaints has been lodged against the accused and all three teachers have been on leave for past few days.

### 6. MALNUTRITION : ON RISE IN BAJURA

According to the data prepared by Bajura Health Office, there were 141 children suffering from severe malnutrition as of February and March 2022. This data shows around 50% decrease in the ratio. However, the reality is different.

As per the recent survey conducted by various development organizations (Team from Nutrition Rehabilitation Home, Suaahara Nutrition Programme, Policy and Planning Commission of Sudurpaschim Province, Multi-regional nutrition project and UNICEF) in Mukhtkot Village, 61 children were found being malnourished in ward 1 alone. The study further revealed that the level of malnutrition is severe not just in

children but also in new mothers and youths. As per the survey, 100 out of 293 mothers were suffering from malnutrition in the village while 29 of them had severe malnutrition. Similarly, 99 out of 192 girls were found being malnourished while 14 of them had severe malnutrition.

#### 7. MENTALLY ILL PATIENT DEPRIVED OF TREATMENT

Roshan Dhungel, a resident of Arjundhara Municipality-1, Jhapa, has been tied up in the house after he first showed signs of mental illness at the age of six. He spent around two decades in chains and was freed from iron chain last month with the assistance of Mechi Abhiyan. Another nine-year-old boy, Aakash Chaudhary from Arjundhara-5 had been confined to a room for past two years. He was rescued on March 3. People with mental illness like that of Aakash and Roshan are often chained or confined in the home due to family's inability to manage the expenses for the treatment. According to the families, they haven't gotten any support from the government for their treatment. However, Dr. Roshan Pokhrel, a senior psychiatrist at federal Ministry of Health and Population mentioned that the government has provisioned free treatment for the people suffering from depression and mental illness at the district hospital and medical colleges..

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

## INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

#### 1. RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR : 410 CIVILIAN BODIES FOUND

According to the prosecutor-general of Ukraine, 410 civilian bodies have been recovered from the wider Kyiv region. President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy has accused Russia of carrying out genocide in his country. Further, Anatoliy Fedoruk, the mayor of Bucha showed corpses, one of which appeared to have been shot in the mouth.

Russia however denied the allegation about the killings. The leaked footage and photographs of the dead bodies has been described by Russia as being provocation and a staged performance by Kyiv.

#### 2. RUSSIA ACCUSED OF COVERING ATROCITIES

Russia is being accused by Mariupol officials of attempting to cover up killing of tens of thousands of civilians by using mobile crematorium and burning the bodies in the besieged city. Following Russian invasion, tens of thousands of residents have been left with no access to water, food and medicine.

According to the Mariupol's city council, Russia's top leadership ordered the destruction of evidences of crimes committed by its army in Mariupol. However, Russia denied the allegation and has said that they would provide 'empirical evidence' to the UN Council meeting.

#### 3. ABORTION BAN IN IDAHO

Following controversial Texas law, Idaho has stood as the first state in the USA to ban the abortions after about six weeks or when a heartbeat is detected. Idaho house members passed the ban 51-14, with no democrats supporting the legislation. According to planned parenthood, the law makers didn't take public concerns into account before making this law. The chief executive of the organization stated that the bill should vetoed before it comes into force and before patients are compelled to remain pregnant against their will.

#### 4. INDIA BLOCKS NEWS CHANNEL IN THE NAME OF NATIONAL SECURITY

Government of India has banned 22 YouTube channels including four of Pakistani origin using 'emergency power' under country's IT law (introduces in 2021), in the charge of disseminating misinformation/fake news on subjects concerning national security and public order. According to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry, the blocked channels had total of 2.6 billion combined viewers. As per the Indian government, most of the channels were found disseminating fake news against Indian Armed Forces.

#### 5. SRI LANKA TO FACE UNPRECEDENTED DEATHS

Amid the shortage of crucial medications following the collapse of country's economy, the doctors in Sri Lanka have warned that a catastrophic number of people could lose their lives in the days to come. According to the officials and health workers, medications to treat heart attacks and tubes to help newborn babies breathe are in short supply all over the country. Similarly, due to the power cut, doctors in rural areas are compelled to stitch wounds and treat snakebites in the dark.

Dr. Senal Fernando stated that all Sri Lankan hospitals are in the verge of collapse and the Government has failed to address the severity of the crisis.

#### 6. COURT RULES: CASES OF TERRORISM TO BE HEARD IN SECRET

A federal judge in Nigeria has instructed implementation of camera hearing to maintain security and fair trial in all the trials of 'suspected terrorism' henceforth. According to the spokesperson for an Abuja court, coverage of such proceedings would be prohibited unless permission is granted by Justice John Terhema Tsoho.

#### 7. UKRAINE-RUSSIA WAR : WORLD HUNGER TO RISE

Amid Ukraine-Russia conflict, the world food price has hit an all-time high in March. According to the United Nations, the invasion in agricultural powerhouse Ukraine has raised the risk of hunger around the world (specially across the Middle East and Africa.)

As per the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the food price index that tracks monthly changes in international prices for a basket of commodities, averaged 159.2 points on march rising by 12.6% compared with February. The index was at highest level since its inception in 1990.

Sources: Aljazeera, BBC, The Guardian

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