

# 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. SUNKOSHI FLOODING, AROUND 2,500 FAMILIES AFFECTED

Saptokoshi erode has affected several settlements in Belaka Municipality, Udayapur and Barahachhetra Municipality, Sunsari. The floodwater entered ward 1,2,3,8 and 9 of Belaka and ward 6 and 9 of Barahachhetra.

According to the Chief District Officer of Udayapur, Birendra Kumar Yadav, around 2,500 families have been affected in Belaka and Barahachhetra due to the flood. Nepal Army, Armed Police Force and Nepal Police along with the locals were mobilized for the rescue operation. The rescued are sheltered at schools, temples and other community buildings.

### 2. DAILY ALLOWANCE OF INMATES TO INCREASE

The Government of Nepal is working to increase the daily allowance of prisoners and detainees by 33%, effective from this fiscal year. At present, prisoners and detainees get allowance of Rs. 60 per day which was increased from Rs. 40 per day in 2018. After the proposed increment, the prisoners and detainees are expected to receive Rs.79 per day.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, they have received consent from the Ministry of Finance for the proposed increment in daily allowance for prisoners and detainees serving sentence or awaiting final verdict of the courts.

### 3. ERADICATION OF TUBER CULOSIS BY 2050

A campaign has been started in Nepal to eradicate tuberculosis by 2050. Health and Population Minister, Bhawani Prasad Khapung called for cooperation from NGOs, INGOs and international stakeholders to eradicate TB from Nepal within the stipulated time.

The campaign is designed to be launched in 25 local levels at present and would be expanded to all 753 local levels within four years.

### 4. NAME IN THE CITIZENSHIP REFLECTING DISCRIMINATION

Kabiram Kami has alleged the team of citizenship distributors led by Durga Prasad Giri, the then Survey Officer, kept his name 'Kukur Kami' (kukur means dog in Nepali) in his citizenship certificate whilst he informed them that his actual name is Kabiram Kami. The embarrassment it brought on his life stopped him from going to village gatherings.

Kami's eldest daughter Kalpana, 26, is married in Junichande of Jajarkot. Having given birth to one son and three daughters, she has not claimed for citizenship because of the name of her father. The situation is no different for his other children as well.

After this case received momentum, home ministry issued a circular asking the concerned authorities to provide the citizenship to the victims on their actual name.

### 5. MOTHER ARRESTED IN THE ACCUSATION OF KILLING HER CHILD

Lakshmi Rana from Galyang Municipality-2, and Kedar Kumal of Palpa have been arrested on the charge of killing Lakshmi's six-month-old daughter and throwing her in a temporary toilet pit. Kedar has been identified as Lakshmi's lover.

As per Lakshmi's family, she along with her six-month-old daughter had been contact-less since July 26.

The accused had married Kedar Kumal from Palpa while she was already married to Min Bahadur Rana and her in-laws had filed a complaint against her. Both of the accused have been taken into custody and have confessed that they did kill the infant and threw her into the pit of the temporary toilet.

### 6. BEATEN IN THE ALLEGATION OF WITCHCRAFT

Chunchun Bhandari, 32, and Sanjay Bhandari, 27, have been arrested on the charge of beating and misbehaving with Rita Devi Thakur, 26, alleging her of witchcraft. As per the victim, the accused tried to force the victim to eat human excreta and beat her. Victim also notified that the accused pressurized her to reconcile the case.

As per DSP Bijaya Yadav, the written complaint has been received and the accused will be arrested and investigated shortly.

Sources: INSECOOnline, The Himalayan Times, The Kathmandu Post

# INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

## 1. HEALTH CARE AND CLIMATE BILL

US Senate passed democrat's \$750 billion health care, tax and climate bill, in a significant victory for President Joe Biden and his party. Party-line vote was 51-50, with Vice President Kamala Harris, breaking the tie.

The bill named 'the inflation reduction act' would represent the largest climate investment in the history of USA and make major changes to health policy by giving medicare the power for the first time to negotiate the prices of certain prescription drugs and extending expiring health care subsidies for the years.

## 2. BANGLADESH SEEKING HELP WITH CHINA FOR ROHINGYA'S REPATRIATION

During Wang Yi, Chinese Foreign Minister's visit to Bangladesh, the country sought cooperation from China to repatriate Rohingya refugees to Myanmar. China had used its influence in Myanmar to broker a November 2017 agreement to repatriate about 700,000 Rohingya who fled persecution in Myanmar in August that year.

Despite Bangladesh's constant efforts, the refugees refused to go back, fearing danger in Myanmar.

As per the Junior Minister, China has pledged to work continuously to resolve the Rohingya crisis.

## 3. INDIA WITHDRAWN FROM DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY BILL

Government of India has withdrawn a data protection and privacy bill which was first proposed in 2019 and had alarmed big technology companies such as Facebook, Google etc, announcing it was working on a new comprehensive law.

2019's law had given government with a power to seek user data from companies. This is seen as a part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's stricter regulation of tech giants.

Government issued a notice highlighting the need of a new comprehensive legal framework.

## 4. MOM SUES META OVER DAUGHTER'S ADDICTION

Cecilia Tesch, a mother from Colorado is suing Meta, Facebook's parent company over claims that her daughter, got hooked on the social media platform and it is driving her to develop an eating disorder and self harm. The lawsuit is filed at the US District Court in Denver. As per the mother, her daughter got addicted to the social media at the age of seven.

The mother alleged that the youngster would be kept up all night from notifications delivered to her devices by Facebook.

## 5. SEVENTEEN SOLDIERS AND FOUR CIVILIANS KILLED IN AN ATTACK

Total of 29 people, including six children and four women, have been killed in the Israeli attacks on Gaza. According to the health ministry in Palestine, 253 people in Gaza had been wounded since the hostilities with Israel broke out recently.

An air strike killed a senior commander in the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group. Amid this conflict, around 2.3 million Palestinians are packed into the narrow coastal Gaza Strip, with Israel and Egypt tightly restricting the movement of people and goods in and out of the enclave.

## 6. ISRAEL ATTACK, 29 DEAD

According to the army of Mali, Armed fighters with a suspected affiliation to the ISIS group killed 17 Malian soldiers and four civilians during the attack on the Strategic border zone between Mali, Burkino Faso and Niger. Nine soldiers were reportedly missing and vehicles and equipment were destroyed as a consequence of the attack near the town of Tessit. Allegedly, an unknown number of dead and injured were carried away by the attackers.

Sources: *The Guardian, Aljazeera, CNN*

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