

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. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND PREVAILING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN NEPAL

International Women's day is celebrated on 8th of March every year. The theme for this year's observance is 'Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow.' On the occasion of the 112th International Women's Day, a rally and corner meeting was jointly organized by INSEC and other Civil Society Organizations working in the field of women's rights.

Further, as per the report published by INSEC targeting women's day, total of 4,966 cases of violence against women and girls were recorded in the year 2021. The same was 4,108 last year. Out of the reported cases, majority of the cases (2,059 in number) were of Domestic violence.

2. NEPAL IN WORLD BANK'S WOMEN, BUSINESS AND LAW INDEX

According to the World Bank's report, Nepal has made fastest progress among South Asian countries in closing gender-based gaps between men and women in terms of opportunities and outcome.

Women, Business and the Law 2022 assesses the laws and regulations that restrict women's economic opportunity. It measures eight indicators namely, mobility, workplace, pay, marriage, parenthood, entrepreneurship, assets and pension. The index score starts from 26.3 with the highest score being 100.

As per the report, Nepal scored 100 on 100 in three indicators (workplace, pay and marriage), 75 in mobility, entrepreneurship and pension and 80 in assets.

3. NO FUND FOR HPV VACCINE

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is considered as a major cause of cervical cancer and deaths among Nepali women. However, despite the urgency, plans to launch a vaccination campaign against human papillomavirus in nine districts of the country from current fiscal year have been halted indefinitely due to lack of funds to purchase the vaccine.

According to the official of the Ministry, HPV vaccination was included in the government's policy and programme of current fiscal year but only NPR. 1 million was allocated which is insufficient for the purchase of the vaccine.

Countries like Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Maldives have introduced HPV vaccines Nation wide while India and Indonesia have introduced it in some parts of the country.

4. VACCINATION AGAINST TYPHOID

The Ministry of Health and Population is planning to organize a nation-wide vaccination campaign against typhoid starting from 8th of April 2022. Ministry aims to immunize around seven million children between the age of 15 months and 15 years. According to Sagar Dahal, the chief of National Immunization Programme, the vaccination will be included in the regular immunization list once the campaign is over.

5. EMPTY VILLAGE OF TEHRATHUM

In last three years, more than 20 families from Okhre Banspani settlement in Chhathar Rural Municipality-5 have migrated out from the village. Lack of modern agriculture and irrigation facilities along with Shortage of water are noted to be the major reasons behind the high rate of migration.

To control this migration rate, local Chhathar Rural Municipality has constructed rural roads in remote settlement and initiated drinking water projects in the village. Recently, the Municipality have also announced a cash prize of NPR. 5 lakhs for those who return to the village and also for those who are willing to migrate to the village; however, as per the ward chairperson, Santabar Limbu, the rewards have failed to attract the people.

6. LABOUR DESK HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE AIRPORT

Following a complaint from the laborers, the Labour desk at Tribhuvan International Airport has been removed by the government. According to the Hon. Krishna Kumar Shrestha, Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security, there is no significance of the labour desk at the airport since an online complaint filing mechanism has already been introduced by the government.

Workers going abroad for foreign employment had to stay in a single line and stay in a queue for hours just to enter inside. This practice adopted by labour desk was always considered to be discriminatory against the workers.

7. **IMPEACHMENT MOTION AGAINST THE CHIEF JUSTICE**

After a proposal presented by the Speaker Agni Sapkota for the formation of 11-member impeachment recommendation Committee to study the allegations against the Chief Justice based on Article 101 (3) and (4) of the Rule 162 of the House of Representatives Regulations, the impeachment motion against the Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher Rana has been tabled in the House of Representatives for further discussion on March 13, 2022. Dev Gurung, chief whip of CPN (Maoist Centre), presented 21 reasons why Rana must be impeached. He stated that Rana is incompetent and incapable of performing his role and failed maintaining transparency.

Sources: *Sources: INSECOOnline, The Kathmandu Post, The Himalayan Times, Online Khabar*

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

1. **ACCUSATION OF GENOCIDE AGAINST RUSSIA**

President of Ukraine has accused Russia of carrying out Genocide after Russian aircraft reportedly bombed a children's hospital despite the ceasefire deal, burying patients in rubble.

According to the authorities, the attack injured women in labour and left children in the wreckage. The attack has been referred as the biggest assault on a European state since 1945. As per Mariupol city council, the hospital had been hit several times.

2. **750 CIVILIANS KILLED IN ETHIOPIA**

Country's rights body has informed that at least 750 civilians were killed or executed in Amhara and Afar regions of Ethiopia in the second half of year 2021. Ethiopian Human Rights Commission also reported widespread abuses including torture, gang rape and enforced disappearance. Report stated that at least 403 civilians lost their lives and 309 were injured in air raids, drone attacks and heavy artillery fire since Tigrayan rebels fighting government forces launched offensives into the neighboring region of northern Ethiopia last July. 346 more civilians lost their lives in extrajudicial killings carried out between the conflicting parties.

3. **PAKISTAN BOMB BLAST : AT LEAST 30 KILLED**

An incident of Suicide bombing occurred in Shia Mosque of Peshwar killing 64 people and injuring 190. ISIS (ISIL) claimed the responsibility of the attack later in a statement. The suicide bomber was reportedly an Afghan exile who returned home to train for the attack.

According to Muhammed Ejaz Khan, a police chief, the violence started when two armed attackers open fired on police outside the mosque. Cases of violence is increasing in recent days in Pakistan. Dozens of military personnel have been killed in series of attacks on army outposts along the border of Afghanistan.

4. **PROTEST IN NIGERIA OVER THE REJECTION OF PRO-EQUALITY BILL**

Hundreds of women in Nigeria have converged at the Parliament of the country in Abuja to protest its decision 'to vote against the adoption of five gender bills'. Following two years of continuous effort, the legislature had voted on a series of bills to amend the controversial 1999's constitution, adopted during the transition phase. Proposed amendments, inter alia, insures citizenship rights to foreign-born husbands of Nigerian women, provides women with the right to become indigenes of their husband's state after five years of marriage and provides 35% of legislative seats to women. However according to the protesters, the legislator still view women as second-class citizens and have pushed back years of efforts by female lawmakers, lobbyist and activists.

5. **17 SHOT DEAD IN MICHOACAN**

Mexico is conducting an investigation on the spread of gruesome video on social media which showed a group of people lined up against a wall, most of them holding their hands behind their heads, before reportedly being shot (17 people). It was reported that mourners were killed in the town of San Jose de Gracia. President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador have urged everyone to be patient as the chief prosecutor's office investigates what happened. He further stated that he hopes 'with all of his soul' that the event were not true.

6. **UKRAINE-RUSSIA CRISIS AND FOOD INSECURITY**

According to the United Nations official, the Ukraine-Russia crisis have generated new challenges in securing food supplies on top of a prolonged pandemic. Head of the Committee on World Food Security, Gabriel Ferrero Lamo-Osorio, stated that approximately 821 million people are suffering from hunger and Russia's invasion of Ukraine has further created a heavy impact on the availability and price of food (which surged 55% since a week before the invasion) generating a global crisis. He added that the countries need to be careful in handling their food security.

7. **GENDER BASED PAY DISPARITY**

According to a payscale report, women made only 82 cents for every dollar a man made in the year 2021, which was one cent more than that of 2020. In early career levels, women enter the work force in large numbers, but they fade away as the time extends. Women are commonly associated with profession that involve care giving and require higher emotional quotient which have low salaries with fewer opportunities for work. Low representation of female employees is an issue, along with staring casual sexism to sexual harassment

Sources: *BBC, Aljazeera, CNN, OHCHR*

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