

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. CITIZENS DEPRIVED FROM RIGHT TO JUSTICE AMID JUSTICES VS. CHIEF JUSTICE CLASH

19 Justices demanding the resignation from Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher Rana have not heard any cases other than habeas corpus writ since last three weeks. According to Baburam Dahal, spokesperson for the Supreme Court, 28,966 cases are currently awaiting hearings.

Despite constant pressure/protests from Nepal Bar Association, Supreme Court Bar and Supreme Court Justices, Chief Justice Rana has refused to step down from his position.

2. 1,600+ HOUSES IN BAJURA AT HIGH RISK OF WATER-INDUCED DISASTERS

According to the officials of Sudurpaschim Province, around 1,616 households are at risk of water-induced disasters in Bajura. Settlements in the district has further been exposed to disaster following unseasonal October rains few weeks ago.

Further, 155 families in Rudi, 47 in Muktikot and 14 in Jory in Swamikartik Khapar Rural Municipality are deemed to be at high risk of landslides.

3. PATIENTS HIT BY MEDICINES SCARCITY IN HUMLA

Patients visiting Lali Health Post of Kharpunath Rural Municipality-1 are facing difficulty in treatment due to the scarcity of medicines. According to Birjan Shahi, health post has been sending the patients back home due to lack of medicines. Baliraj Shahi, Coordinator of the Rural Municipality's Health Department has stated that there has been an increase in the number of patients suffering from seasonal flu and around 15 to 20 people, who visited the health post to receive treatment for fever and headache were send back due to the medicine crisis.

4. DELAY IN COMPENSATION WORRIES FARMERS IN BAITADI

The unseasonal rain in mid October 2021 resulted in huge loss of lives and properties worth millions of rupees in Baitadi. Amid this disaster, delayed in the distribution of compensation has worried the farmers ever more.

The data collected so far revealed that 30 houses were completely damaged and 45 were partially damages. Following this incident, government announced to provide compensation to the victims but the details of damage for compensation distribution is yet to be collected.

5. MAN COMPELLED TO SELL OXEN TO TREAT HIS WIFE

Hasta Budha, a poor man from Bajura district sold his oxen for Rs 15,000 to treat his wife who had been suffering from toothache for past four months. Budha spent Rs 10,000 on his way to hospital in Nepalgunj and ran out of cash feeding his wife at the hospital.

Budha said, he had to sell the oxen when it was time to cultivate the field.

6. NEPAL BAR URGE THE JUDGES NOT TO HEAR CASES

Amid current crisis in the Supreme Court, Nepal Bar Association has released a press statement requesting judges not to hear the cases based on Chief Justice's instruction. Following this, Chief Justice Choldendra Shumsher Rana called upon the Bar Association for a dialogue pronouncing it to be the legitimate way of settling the existing turmoil.

However, Chairperson of Nepal Bar Association, Chandeshwor Shrestha has rejected CJ's call for dialogue and asked him to resign from the post.

Sources: INSECOnline, The Kathmandu Post, The Himalayan Times, Online Khabar

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

1. TOKYO TRAIN ASSULT

A man dressed in Batman's Joker costume this Halloween attacked passengers in the Keio train near the Kokuryo station (Tokyo), resulting in 17 injuries including one serious injury. According to the NHK public television, the suspect even poured liquid resembling oil and set a fire. Local media reported, attacker, 24, confessed that 'he wanted to kill people so that he could be sentenced to death.

2. EUTHANASIA (ASSISTED DYING) LEGLIZED IN NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand has legalized assisted dying with the implementation of 'End of life Choice Act' which was enacted following a binding referendum with two-third majority.

To exercise this rights, a person must have a terminal illness that is likely to end their life within six months and they must be able to make an informed decision.

3. FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF BANGLADESH SENTENSED FOR 11 YEARS

Former Chief Justice of Bangladesh, Surendra Kumar Sinha, 70, has been sentenced in absentia with 11 years of imprisonment in the charge of corruption. Court have found him guilty of laundering approximately \$471,000 in connivance with the officials of a private bank. Sinha left Bangladesh in 2017 and is reportedly living in North America seeking asylum.

Campaigners have pronounced his departure as a 'massive blow to the credibility of the country's judiciary' and blamed the government of going after him.

Sinha later wrote a book titled 'A Broken Dream: Rule of Law, Human Rights and Democracy' mentioning that he had been forced to resign and flee after being threatened by a military security agency.

4. 45 MILLION PEOPLE ON THE EDGE OF FAMINE

According to United Nations food agency, the number of people on the brink of famine across 43 countries around the world has risen from 42 million earlier year to 45 million. World Food Programme (WFP) states that the additional 3 million spike is accounted to the people facing famine in Afghanistan.

5. 70 PEOPLE KILLED BY GUNMEN IN NIGER

An assault in Niger's 'tri-border' zone with Burkina Faso and Mali killed 69 people including a mayor. The place has been the epicentre of a year-long conflict between state forces in the western portion of Africa's Sahe; region and armed groups linked to ISIL (ISIS) and al-Qaeda.

Nigre's government has declared two days of National mourning following this incident.

6. CHINA MAYBE COMMITTING GENOCIDE AGAINST UIGHURS, SAYS US HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

A report released by United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has highlighted on the existence of reasonable grounds to believe that China is committing genocide against Uighurs, Mislim Turkic ethnic group living in Xinjiang for centuries. The allegations against Beijing's police includes that of forced serialization, sexual violence, enslavement, torture and forcible transfer.

Previously (On October) 43 countries had called on China to allow independent observers 'immediate, meaningful and unfettered access' to Xinjiang which China has been rejecting since long by criticizing activists for spreading a 'groundless accusation' and 'unfounded lies.'

7. DOZENS OF INMATES KILLED IN ECUADOR PRISON CLASHES

According to the Ecuador Prosecutor's Office's Tweet, Ecuador prison clash has left 68 prisoners dead and wounded 25 of them. Residents living around the prison reported that they heard hours of sustained gunfire and explosions coming from the lockup. Several such prison clashes have occurred in the prison over past few months. In September, a riot between rival gangs killed 119 prisoners. Around 300 inmates have been killed this year in Ecuador's broken prison system.

Sources: Aljazeera, BBC, VOA News

Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

Nagarjun Municipality-10, Shyuchatar, Kalanki, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977-01-5218770, Fax: +977-01-5218251

Email: insec@insec.org.np

Web site: www.insec.org.np, www.inseconline.org