



Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

Local Level Election- Two Days to Go Violation of Human Rights in Different Parts of The Country

Today is the first day of the electoral silence period. As per the information stated by the Election Commission, the preparations for the election have been completed and a meticulous monitoring team has been mobilized to monitor and take immediate action in case of violation of the code of conduct. They have also initiated the distribution of voter ID cards from polling stations across the country. The card will be distributed by tomorrow. Newly registered voters will get an identity card. Similarly, the Commission has also stated that the voters who have applied to the District Election Office after losing their identity cards will also get the identity card from their respective polling stations. According to the Commission, the voters who do not have a voter identity card can vote even if they show their citizenship. A total of 10,756 polling stations have been allocated at 753 local levels across the country. The team of the commission has reached all the polling stations. The local level election is being held countrywide in a single phase on May 13. For that, a period of electoral silence started last night. This time, 145,011 candidates are running for 35,221 posts at 753 local levels. There are 17,733,723 voters. Those returning home from cities including the capital could be seen queuing at the bus park. Political parties were found to have rented vehicles to commute their voters. On the first day of the electoral silence period, some incidents of violation of the election code of conduct were witnessed and documented in different parts of the country. The political manipulation during this period certainly does not help to make the election impartial.

According to Udyapur Representative Sujata Dhungana, Nepali Congress leader and Minister for Foreign Affairs Narayan Khadka and Minister for Physical Development and Infrastructure Himel Karki have held a meeting in Triyuga Municipality-6 on May 11 against the election code of conduct. Contrary to the election code of conduct, Ministers of the government have been found participating in the election campaign. It was found that Basanta Basnet, the candidate for the post of Mayor from Triyuga Municipality and Krishna Budhathoki, the candidate for the post of ward chairperson of Triyuga Municipality-6 has reached the Musahar settlement of Jaljale asking for votes. They represent Nepali Congress Party. Police have taken under control the cadres of Nepali Congress after they were found distributing chicken at Kumbura of D.M. Gate in Triyuga Municipality-10 and clothes at Murkuchi of Rautamai Rural Municipality-7. According to Chief Electoral Officer Deepak Khanal, the police took him under control based on information that he had distributed chickens and clothes against the code of conduct during the electoral silence period.

According to Morang Representative Binod Subedi, after the initiation of the electoral silence period, Hamromat Daily published in Biratnagar and Blast Times National Daily published from Sunsari's Dharan have published news in the favor of the party or candidate in violation of Article 22 of the Election Code of Conduct 2078. During the monitoring carried out by INSEC, it has been found that Article 22 has published news violating the code of conduct which is supposed to be followed by the

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media establishment, staff and journalists. Article 22 of the Election Code of Conduct mandates that during the electoral silence period, no message, propaganda material for or against the political party or candidate may be posted, shared, commented on, or the news of the party or candidate may be published online, in print media or any other media.

The hearing of the writ petition filed in the Supreme Court against Shilpa Nirala Karki, who has been nominated by the CPN-UML for the post of Deputy Mayor of Biratnagar Metropolitan City, has been postponed. The hearing was adjourned for May 11 after Justice Raut said that he cannot hear the case as a writ petition has been fixed in the bench of Supreme Court Judges Prakash Man Singh Raut and Nahakul Subedi.

According to Tehrathum Representative Suresh Khatri, a clash has been initiated between UML cadres and cadres of the five-party alliance in Chhatar Rural Municipality-2, Hamarjung on May 10 after the electoral silence period started. According to the police, three persons were injured in the clash. The injured have been identified as Manish Basnet and Semihang Limbu and Bikash Shrestha, district vice-chairperson of Nepal Tarun Dal, an organization affiliated with the Nepali Congress.

Bipin Limbu, the district chairperson of Nepal Tarun Dal, said that UML cadres attacked him suddenly. District Chairperson of Nepal Tarun Dal Bipin Limbu has stated on May 11 demanding action against the perpetrators.

Police have arrested Man Bahadur Khadka, Krishna Bahadur Karki and Meduna Ranamagar on charges of assault. According to Inspector Finjo Sherpa of the District Police Office, Man Bahadur Khadka is the chairman of CPN (UML) Hamarjung. The injured are being treated at BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan Ghopa. Communist Party of Nepal Chhathar Rural Committee Chairman Dharmaraj Khulal has stated on May 11, demanding action against the perpetrators.

According to Dhanusha representative Dipendra Prasad Singh, Raju Paswan, INSEC province coordinator and Jaya Ghimire, member of the National women's commission met Surendra Paudel, chief district officer to know about the election preparation and management. Chief district, Paudel informed that there are 224 voting stations and 596 voting centres in the district. He further informed that election preparation has been done in a short period. Paudel stated that children are actively being used for this local level election. He notified that they have arranged the voting station in such a way that pregnant women and vulnerable people will not have to stand in the queue.

He added that women's representation has been decreased due to the party alliance and one Dalit woman has been appointed unanimously. Amid this, a team of Raju Paswan, INSEC province coordinator, Raj Kumar Mahaseth, NEOC district coordinator, Rekha Jha, GEOC district coordinator and Rojlin Kumari Singh, WOREC Dhanusha coordinator monitored three places including Bateshwor Rural Municipality, Mithila Municipality and Janakpur sub-metropolitan today. The team monitored three polling stations that are, Laxmi secondary school of Bateshwor Rural Municipality-1, Chitrapur, Mahendra secondary school dhalkebar of Mithila



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Municipality-6 and Rajshree Janak secondary school of Janakpur sub-metropolitan, kabhard hal.

According to Saptari representative Manohar Kumar Pokhrel, Ramesh Prasad Joshi, district election officer informed that out of four polling centres in Bishnupur Rural Municipality, the polling station of the rural development committee, Jamuni Madhyapur has been shifted to Sarada secondary school, Jamuni Madhyapur, 100 meters away from the former centre. The centre has been shifted as per the decision of the election officer's office since the former polling centre didn't have enough space to accommodate the voters efficiently.

According to Ajay Kumar Sah, INSEC Mahotari representative, Dipesh, son of Bijaya Chaudhary, a mayor candidate from unified socialist party scuffled and harassed Hari Prasad Mandal, a mayor candidate of Mathihani Municipality from LOSAPA while he was in the running the election campaign on May 10 at around 8 PM. Mayor candidate Mandal informed that group of eight to ten people scuffled and harassed him by asking him why did he overtake their car. At the same time, parliamentarian Chanda Chaudhary's house was also attacked in Mathihani. Police sent her to Jaleswor along with security. According to Krishna Pageni, SP of district police office, she was sent there for security purpose. As per the police, the group who scuffled and harassed has been identified. SP Pageni informed that they have absconded and are actively been searched.

According to Uddab Pokhrel, INSEC Dolakha representative, Ganga Paudel, DSP of district police office informed that Mahesh Kafle, ward chairperson of Tamakoshi Rural Municipality-1, Bhirkot absconded by taking 125 voters id card from same ward's voting centre on May 11. Kafle, running in a high speed along with the voters' id absconded in a Scorpio van that was ready to assist him. After police started following him, he ran away leaving the voters' id card to his assistant who later handed it over to the police. Chief Paudel expressed that police never anticipated that the voters id would be unsafe from the ward chairperson himself. Kafle won the local level election 2018 from the Nepali congress.

Local police office of Jiri has arrested 19 unidentified people on May 10, 2022. After suspicion, Locals informed the police after the group came to Jiri in five vehicles. Sushil K.C, inspector of district police office, informed that the group was taken under control by inspector's group stationed by the local police office.

The groups tried to run away after police reached the incident site. After local destroyed the vehicles used by the group, the situation heated up and police had to fire five rounds of bullets in the sky. Inspector K.C informed that investigation is ongoing regarding their purpose of entering to Jiri. The group refrained from providing their identity and used vulgar words against the people who asked for it before police controlled them.

UML Cadres Rajendra Karki and Congress cadres Chatra Karki have been injured in the clash between UML cadres and Congress cadres that occurred on May 10 at Kalinchwok Rural Municipality-4. Among the injured, Chatra Karki is being treated at



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the community hospital, Charikot. Inspector Sanu Tamang informed that injured Rajendra Karki is being treated at the primary health centre of Singati hospital.

According to Gorkha Representative Hari Ram Upreti, Manoj Gurung, 35, was arrested by police from the polling centre of Gandaki Rural Municipality-6, Tomandanda along with the knife. Police have informed that Gurung was a congress cadre. SP Kedar Khanal informed that he was arrested on May 12 when an all-party meeting was going on. Upon the rise of suspicion, he was checked and the knife was discovered from him.

According to Tanahu Representative Prakash Chandra Bhattarai, CPN-UML and Congress party have blamed each other for the clash between their cadres in Bhimad Municipality-2 on the night of May 11. The clash took place between UML and Nepali Congress cadres in Bhimad Municipality-2, Fuchung on May 11 at 10.30 pm. CPN-UML and Nepali Congress have issued separate statements accusing each other regarding the incident. CPN-UML has accused Bhim Bahadur Thapa (Mani), a Nepali Congress ward chairperson candidate of Bhimad Municipality-2, of intimidating the people by chanting slogans and intimidating the people. The Nepali Congress has also demanded action against UML cadres for their involvement in the incident. According to a statement issued by the Nepali Congress (NC), Tanahu said that the CPN-UML cadres attacked and injured Nepali Congress (NC) cadre Bivas Thapa while he was returning from a Nepali Congress program. DSP Yuvraj Khadka of the District Police Office said that they are trying to get the details of the incident.

According to Pyuthan Representative Rabindra Pandey, a clash took place between the ruling alliance and CPN-UML supporters in Sarumarani rural municipality on May 12. Four persons have been injured in the clash. Among the injured are Shankar Bishwakarma, Tekendra Marshyangri, Guman Singh Lamtari and Ramesh Rana. Among the injured, Ramesh has been taken to Butwal for further treatment. Three people are undergoing treatment in Sarumarani. According to DSP Satyanarayan Thapa of the District Police Office, the clash took place after a dispute broke out between the two groups. A team under the command of the inspector has gone to the spot and details of the incident are yet to come, police said.

According to Dang Representative Jaya Narayan Pun, Lumbini province assembly member and chairperson of the parliamentary law committee Dama Sharma has been found violating the election code of conduct. According to the locals, they returned in a government vehicle (Lu 1 Jha 443) in Ghorahi Sub-Municipality-12, Thatauli, Dang on May 12 while protesting for the candidate of the alliance. Chief Election Officer and District Judge Ritendra Thapa said that no written complaint has been lodged regarding the violation of the code of conduct. The victim has alleged that Jagat Prasad Pokhrel, 46, of Rapti Rural Municipality-1 was mistreated by Sharad Giri, 30, of Rapti Rural Municipality -4 and Rapti Rural Municipality -4. Giri told the INSEC representative that he had snatched the ballot paper from Pokhrel and behaved indecently. Although the victim immediately informed the police about the indecent treatment, no written complaint has been lodged in the office of the Election Officer.



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A new candidature has been registered in Tulsipur sub-metropolitan-17 on May 11 after the death of a CPN-UML ward chairperson candidate. Chief Election Officer Ritendra Thapa informed that Pradip Chaudhary had registered his candidature on behalf of the CPN-UML on May 11 at the Election Officer's Office, Tulsipur. Earlier, CPN-UML had appointed 53-year-old Labaru Chaudhary as the ward chairman of Tulsipur sub-metropolitan -17

The candidate died on May 10 after registering. Voting will be held in the ward only on May 15. According to the new schedule of the commission, registration of candidates, publication of list of candidates, protest against candidature will be held on May 11 and scrutiny of candidates and publication of names will be done on May 12 and counting of votes in Tulsipur sub-metropolitan will be done only after polling.

According to Arghakhanchi Representative Kul Bahadur Nepali, CPN-UML cadres and driver Shubhas Pokhrel, 25, who had returned from a program organized by the CPN-UML ward committee at Malarani Rural Municipality-4 on the night of May 12 was beaten by Ram Singh Khanal, 54, and Gobind Khanal, 45, of Malarani Rural Municipality -4. Cadres from both parties have gathered and started a dispute. Police had taken the situation under control immediately after the incident.

According to Khima Khanal, a candidate for the Malarani Rural Municipality -4 from the CPN-UML, the two sides agreed to reconcile the incident on May 11. Similarly, Prakash Bhattarai, 42, secretary of the Central Committee of the employees' union and Shiva Tandon, 40, a Nepali Congress cadre were returning from Ghumti Bazaar in Ghumti Ribdi of Sandhikharka Municipality-6. He was beaten for walking to distribute money. Prakash Bhattarai said that the police had sent both the parties home and an agreement was reached at the District Police Office on May 11.

According to Rolpa representative Tilak Gharti Magar, CPN-Maoist cadres had beaten Satma Budhathoki, 67, mother of CPN-UML ward chairman candidate Tirkha Bahadur Budhathoki at Sunchahari Rural Municipality-5 Jamakasala on May 11. The victim's family has lodged a complaint at the Area Police Office, Sulichaur on May 11. The victim has complained that the police did not show any interest even though they informed the security personnel immediately after the incident. The injured were treated at the Primary Health Center, Sulichaur on May 11.

According to INSEC, Lumbini Provincial Office, a person close to CPN-UML candidate for the post of ward chairperson of Janaki Rural Municipality-6 Suresh Yadav of Banke has distributed water motors during the silence period.

According to Parbati Acharya, INSEC Kapilvastu representative, after the death of deputy mayor candidate of Maharangunj Municipality, Subhawati Kurmi, 55, her daughter-in-law Rita Kurmi, 28 has been registered as a candidate as per the decision of May 11. As per Tejendra Prasad Sharma Sapkota, election officer, the election will be held on May 17 after the fulfilment of all the procedures. May 11 has been designated for candidacy registration along with complaints investigation and final name list will be published on May 12. Similarly, three people have been arrested while distributing Alcohol to influence the voters at Kapilvastu-3 in the period of electoral silence. Twelve



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cartons (360 bottles) of Alcohol have been recovered from the vehicle numbered 'Lu 1 Ja 2410.' However, the information as to who did they recover it from hasn't been disclosed.

According to Dolpa District Representative Bishnu Devkota, Surin BK, a 24-year-old resident of Kaike Rural Municipality-4, working as temporary police during the election period died at around 8 pm on May 10. He was delegated to Dashrath Chand Basic School. Chief District Officer Vedanidhi Adhikari informed that the district security committee has decided to compensate the family of the deceased as the government had decided initially.

According to Rukum West Representative Manisha KC, the National women commission has drawn its attention to the incident on May 11, wherein a man from another party entered the house of a person, beat and harassed him along with his mother and sisters who were dancing in the election-related song in the course of the election campaign. Commission has demanded the proper investigation of the incident and punishment of the offender following the same.

According to Surkhet Representative Prem Bahadur Khadka, two UML cadres, Sunil B.K, 26, and Indra Bahadur Sunar, 24, from Simta Rural Municipality-6, Rishi Danda, have been injured in the clash between the cadres of NCP UML and Congress at around 11 o'clock on May 10. Both the injured are taken to Nepalgunj for further treatment. Kabindra K.C, chairperson of Simta Rural Municipality has accused the police of beating two cadres of UNL, Purna Bahadur Shahi, 50, and his wife Hem Kumari Shahi, in the course of controlling the clash.

According to Humla Representative Nanda Singh, a clash occurred between the cadres of the five-party alliance and NCP UML on May 10 at Anandachuli Rural Municipality-2, Saubada. Cadres of NCP UML, Jhalak Buda, 20 and Bir Thapa, 52, of Anandachuli Rural Municipality-1 were injured in the clash. Cadres of congress, Jiwan Buda, 24 of Anandchuli Rural Municipality-2 was also injured. As per Mohan Buda, a local, Jhalak is being treated at a health clinic and other injured are being treated at local medical.

According to Kailali Representative Mainamoti Chaudhary, despite the imposition of electoral silence from midnight of May 11, the political parties have still not stopped the door-to-door campaign asking for votes. Similarly, flags and banners posted in the public spheres are also intact.

According to Doti Representative, Ganesh Joshi, Kalu Bhul, 5, Dharma Bhul's son's hand has been broken in the clash between the cadres of Nepali Congress and the Unified Socialist Party that occurred on the evening of May 10 at K.I. Singh Rural Municipality-5, Rana village. Chetan Bahadur Rawal, Principal of Montessori elementary school informed that the clash broke out due to the conflict between cadres of unified socialist, Roshan Malla, Birendra Parki ad Jay Bhum while Ganesh



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Shahi, ward chairperson of Nepali congress, Karna Shahi, a local leader and Bharat Shahi, were asking for votes in the Syala tole.

Sarada Kumar Chaudhary, SSP, District police office, informed that congress cadres Yogendra Shahi, Lalit Shahi, Karna Shahi and unified socialist cadres Roshan Malla and Jay bhul were injured in the clash. The Father of the five-year-old victim was notified that the child has been brought back home after his treatment at Sujang Hospital, Dipayal. SP of the district police office, Chaudhary, informed that the conflict between the parties has been reconciled and both the parties have expressed their commitment to conducting the election peacefully with due consideration to the election code of conduct.

According to Darchula Representative Narendra Singh Karki, alliance cadres have scuffled Man Singh Badal, ward chairperson candidate from CPN UML on May 10 at Duhu Rural Municipality-5. Badal who suffered from a serious injury on his head by the alliance cadres' beatings in the process of the election campaign, received primary health care at the district hospital, Darchula and was sent to Dhangadi for further treatment. Under-secretary of CPN UML district committee has accused that cadres of NCP UML, Mansingh Badal, Birendra Mahara, Lalisingh Mahara and others along with the ward chairperson candidate have been attacked by the alliance cadres.

UML district under-secretary, Badal, informed that they have demanded the arrest of the people involved in the incident along with the initiation of a legal proceeding. Pratik Bista, DSP, District police office has informed us that the people involved in the clash have absconded and the search is ongoing. Even though an all-party and stakeholders' meeting has been conducted on May 11 for the allocation of voting station territory, election materials kept in the public sphere within 10 meters of the voting station haven't yet been removed.

In the course of monitoring done by INSEC On May 11, it was found that the pamphlets and other advertisement stuff posted by CPN UML and Nepali congress around the voting centres were still not removed. Dirgha Raj Upadhayaya, chief district officer notified that given the electoral silence has started, election materials used for advertisement have already been removed and some that have been missed, will be removed shortly.

According to Kanchanpur Representative Lily Kunwar, a clash occurred between the cadres of CPN UML and Maoist on May 11 at Lalijhandi Rural Municipality-1, pani tole. UML Cadres, Prakash Rana, Kishor Joshi, Naresh Rana and Dinesh Rana have been injured by the beatings of Maoist cadres, Madan Sen Badayar, Prakash Magar, Dipak Timalcina and others. Kripa Rana, member of the central committee, UML, informed that the clash broke out between the parties after the cadres of CPN UML protested and took pictures of the election code of conduct violation done by Maina Magar, former minister and leader of Maoist (Central) in the electoral silent period on May 11. She was reportedly running the election campaign and asking for votes in



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Laljhadi Rural Municipality-1, pani tole, riding a car numbered 'ba 17 cha 7942' along with the party flag.

Lokendra Singh Thaguna, inspector of the district police office informed that the situation was normal when they reached the incident spot and injured Prakash Rana was sent to the Provincial hospital, Dhangadi for his treatment.

May 11, 2022



For Human Rights and Social Justice

Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

Nagarjung Municipality-10, (Blue House), Syuchatar, Kathmandu

P.O.Box 2726, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977-1-5218770, Fax: +977-1-5218251

Email: insec@insec.org.np

Website: www.insec.org.np/www.inseconline.org

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