

Views of Institutions on Human Rights Situation in 2023

The Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers

In 2023, Nepal made strides in the protection, promotion and guarantee of human rights. Also, the government is implementing both Fifth National Human Rights Action Plan and Implementation Action Plan of 3rd Cycle of UPR Recommendations. The action plans align with the principles of universal human rights declaration, international human rights conventions and the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution of Nepal.

The government of Nepal has shown its commitment in implementing recommendations made by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the constitutional rights body established for safeguarding human rights in accordance with the Constitution of Nepal. Verdicts issued by the Courts are being implemented and dialogues are being held in collaboration with non-governmental organizations and civil society.

1. Issues Top of Form

1.1 The preamble of Nepal's Constitution has envisioned a prosperous nation built on civilian freedom, fundamental rights, human rights, rule of law and democratic norms and values. To uphold human rights, Nepal's constitution has ensured fundamental rights as special rights of civilian freedom and freedom of expression. Article 51 of the Constitution of Nepal has obligated the gov-

ernment to implement international convention and agreements signed by the government for rule of law and the protection and promotion of human rights as legislation.

1.2 The Article 49 has outlined the policy will be the guiding principle to govern the state. The Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers is the key government body to achieve the targets guided by the Constitution. The office is divided into various divisions, the Law and Verdict Execution Division and Human Rights and International Treaty and Agreement Division.

2. Efforts Carried Out for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

2.1 Regarding International Responsibility: Addressed queries, the complaints and provided human rights related information, raised by special UN Human Rights Rapporteurs

a) As a signatory of several UN human rights conventions, we have responded to inquiries related to human rights and UN conventions. In the fiscal year 2022-23, 12 replies addressing the queries regarding transitional justice, torture, inhuman behavior and human rights among others were dispatched to the concerned offices.

b) Complaint and Defense: Handling cases filed at the UN Human Rights Council and other agencies against the Govern-

ment of Nepal. By the end of fiscal year 2079-80, 29 individual complaints were registered.

1. Five responses were sent to a complaint filed by Ganga Maya Adhikari and others.
2. Since 24 complaints filed were related to transitional justice, they were forwarded to Truth and Reconciliation and Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons.

2.2 Study and Report Writing: The following activities were carried out as per the provisions outlined in Constitution and UN conventions in the fiscal year 2022-23.

- 1) Study and initial draft of Common Core Document for presentation at the UN Convention related agencies.
- 2) Study and initial draft of the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- 3) Prepared initial draft of UPR Mid-term Report.
- 4) Initial study conducted to incorporate fundamental indicators in National Data Profile and human rights related statics obtained after policy, program, laws and policy implementation for Real-Time Baseline Framework.
- 5) Working as a focal point of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCaC). Revising UNCaC National Strategy and Action Plan 2069 for its effective implementation.

2.3 Task related to Promotion, Protection, Coordination and Monitoring: The following reports are prepared after the comprehensive studies

- a) *Coordination Task*: Acting as the liaison department for the NHRC, a total of 143 recommendations were forwarded to relevant au-

thorities for the implementation during the fiscal year 2022-23.

The NHRC had submitted 1,229 recommendations in the name of the Government of Nepal. Those recommendations are divided into compensation, extra-judicial killing, torture, sexual violence and other categories and study into recommendations is underway. Effective communication and coordination with Nepal government agencies have been established to promote human rights.

- b) *Preventive Task*: An event was organized to mark International Human Rights on December 10 2023. Documentation was undertaken to facilitate access to human rights issue and recommendation.
- 3) *Monitoring Task*: Written to all provinces and local governments requesting progress updates on the implementation of Fifth National Human Rights Action Plan. Provincial level task has been completed related to the implementation of Fifth National Human Rights Action Plan.

2.4 Other

- 1) As part of the implementation of Fifth National Human Rights Action Plan and implementation action plan of 3rd cycle of UPR recommendations, report writing and regular analysis is going on.
- 2) Providing feedback to ministries on human rights related reports and other issues.
- 3) Acting as a liaison of the NHRC, we are actively engaged in coordinating the development of new laws related to the commission.

Madan Prasad Shiwakoti
Section Officer
Human Rights Division

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Nepal's foreign policy has imbibed the values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. In this context, Nepal has been playing an appropriate role for the promotion of human rights at the national and international levels. In 2023, as in previous years, Nepal remained active and engaged in the promotion and protection of human rights through various means.

Nepal actively participated in 52nd, 53rd, and 54th sessions of the Human Rights Council last year. In the 52nd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Hon. Mr. Govinda Prasad Sharma Koirala, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Peace and Human Rights led the Nepali delegation. While addressing to the high-level segment of the Session, Hon. Mr. Koirala reaffirmed Nepal's total and unequivocal commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights to the international community. Additionally, he also urged nation-states to refrain from politicization of human rights issues and adopt an objective, non-selective, and impartial approach while handling human rights related concerns.

Nepal also engaged meaningfully in the 42nd, 43rd and 44th session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group. In these forums, Nepal made a contribution to the advancement of the state of human rights worldwide.

Nepal successfully completed its second consecutive term as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council for 2021-2023. During this period, Nepal's engagement with the Council remained impactful as we contributed to, among other issues, voting of resolutions, extension of the mandate of the special procedures, cosponsors of various resolutions, championing the issue of abolition of death penalty as well as the rights of the queer group. Besides engaged with the Office of the High Commissioner for

Human Rights, Human Rights Bodies and Mechanisms, and the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council, Nepal also responded to Special Rapporteurs providing inputs for their thematic reports. In addition, in its deliberations at the Human Rights Council and other mechanisms, Nepal prioritized the issues of, inter alia, rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, marginalized communities, migrants, indigenous peoples and minorities as well as the issues like climate change, digital divide, SDGs and right to development. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Mr. N. P Saud also participated in a commemorative event convened by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva on 11-12 December 2023 to mark Seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by UNGA on 10 December 1948.

Nepal also took part in a Twenty-second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous issues held in New York from 17-28 April 2023. Nepal was actively engaged in the high-level meeting on minority rights organized to mark the commemoration of the Thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic Religion and Linguistic Minorities. The event was held in New York on 21 September 2022.

High-level Nepali delegation participated at Sixty-Seventh Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) which was held in New York from 6-17 March 2023 under the theme of "Innovation and Technological Change, and Education in the Digital Age for Achieving gender Equality and Empowerment at All Women and Girls".

In this review year, Nepal also submitted its seventh periodic report to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Ministry also coordinated for the

early submission of the periodic report of the Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and to update the common core document.

In the review period, Nepal also actively engaged in refugee issues. Nepal participated in the 74th Executive Committee of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and made some interventions. In its statement, Nepal also highlighted the lasting solution to the problem of Bhutanese refugees. Nepal urged the Bhutanese side to take decisive action on resolving the longstanding issue of Bhutanese refugees.

In the review period, Nepal was elected as a member of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with highest vote for the triennium period from 2024-2026. ECOSOC is one of the principle organs of the United Nations which looks after economic, social and development agendas of the United Nations. Similarly, Nepal was also elected to the United Nations Peace Building Commission.

Ministry of Home Affairs

It is informed that a letter (Regd. No. 102) dispatched from your organization dated on December 27 2023 has been received. As requested, the ministry's statement regarding human rights status for the publication of the Human Rights Yearbook 2024 is as follows.

The ministry is pleased to know that INSEC, a human rights organization working for protection and promotion of human rights and social justice since 1988, is publishing Nepal Human Rights Yearbook 2024. As an organization monitoring human rights situation, its documentation and advocacy, INSEC has played an important role for the protection and promotion of human rights.

The ministry is coordinating and collaborating with the NHRC, line ministries and stakeholders concerned for the

protection and promotion of fundamental human rights guaranteed by the Constitution of Nepal. Policies, laws and programs are being formulated keeping human rights as their core values. Similarly, the report on the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) is being drafted. A joint periodic report under Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) supposed to be submitted by Nepal is also being finalized.

An Order relating to Safety and Protection of Human Rights Defenders-2021 has been endorsed and implemented. To address the special and overall need of conflict victims and conflict affected women and children, Second National Action Plan for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and 1820 Resolution on Women, Peace and Security is being implemented. The resolution aims to ensure meaningful participation and dignified livelihood of the affected women and children in the post-conflict time.

Recommendations received from the NHRC are being implemented. The government is implementing 'Fifth National Human Rights Action Plan and Implementation Action Plan of the 3rd cycle of UPR recommendations in collaboration with various stakeholders.

Finally, since involvement of all state agencies is essential for the protection of human rights, we praise the contribution made by INSEC for the protection and promotion of human rights and the Ministry of Home Affairs wants to express commitment of continuing the collaboration and cooperation in the days to come as well. We hope the Human Rights Yearbook 2024, which is going to be published by INSEC, will be useful for all those interested in human rights affairs.

Ajita Sharma
Under Secretary

Nepal Army

“Nepal Army is committed to respect, protect and promote human rights and international humanitarian law. In 2023, Nepal army organized a basic training on international humanitarian law to train its cadets at regional headquarter, Itahari, as per the annual training directive. Additionally, 64,080 army personnel of all ranks have been trained in international humanitarian law during various professional career growth-training sessions organized for the army. This training aligns with the mandatory policy to equip army personnel with the necessary knowledge and skills in international humanitarian law.”

Rabindra Khatri

Brigadier General, Deputy Director
Human Rights Directorate
Army Headquarter

Nepal Police

Nepal’s Constitution has ensured the people’s human rights by defining 31 rights including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as fundamental rights. The state has entrusted the key responsibility of ensuring good governance and prosperity and guaranteeing people’s human rights to Nepal Police by effective implementation of fundamental rights. As a law enforcing state agency, Nepal Police has been implementing fundamental rights as guaranteed by Constitution and several other national and international laws. For Nepal Police the protection, promotion and delivery of human rights remain top priority. It’s well known that Nepal police and its cadets consider it’s their responsibility to protect and promote human rights for ensuring rule of law by exercising legal rights as entrusted by the state. A human rights cell has been established at the police headquarter for promotion and protection of human rights.

We are currently working for protecting the people’s human rights by coordinating and collaborating with the various government organizations including the National Human Rights, Home Ministry and (INGOs). To make the entire police organization as a human right friendly organization there are human rights departments in all seven provincial offices, metropolitan office of Kathmandu and all 77 district offices. There is a provision of focal officer for human rights protection in all human rights units established to handle the right violation cases. Some of the remarkable works done by Nepali Police in the year of 2021 are as follows:

1. Towards the protection of human rights
 - ▶ Zero tolerance policy has been adopted in order to address the concerns of Human rights. Easy complaint mechanisms have been ensured. Necessary contact details—emails IDs and other social media accounts have been kept on the public domains to ensure easy access to everyone.
 - ▶ Orders were made to all police offices for the implementation and investigation of complaints, suggestions and decisions received from the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of the Ministers, Home Ministry, Courts, National Human Rights Commission, Commission for Truth and Reconciliation Commission among others.
 - ▶ Departmental action was taken against 829 police personnel (including 11 in fiscal year 2022-23) following the investigation into complaints filed at police offices, media reports and information received from other sources on charge of human rights violations.
 - ▶ Protected human rights by carrying out effective investigations against those involved in human rights violation and preventing crimes.

- ▶ Regular monitoring of jails is conducted to mitigate instances of inhumane treatment in custody, manage custody effectively, and track the progress of cases involving human rights violations. The principle of the rule of law is upheld, and the doctrine of fair trial is adhered to in handling complaints, while ongoing monitoring of human rights violations is maintained.
2. Towards the promotion of human rights
- ▶ In all 221 out of a total of 2660 units, jail management officers have been designated to handle cases of human rights violations.
 - ▶ Training for Trainers on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights is organized to instruct senior and junior police officers, enabling them to provide basic and advanced human rights training within the Nepal Police force.
 - ▶ An annual calendar and curriculum have been developed for training sessions focusing on the 'Protection and Promotion of Human Rights', which are provided to senior police officers in areas such as Police Prosecution and Promotion of Human Rights, as well as to junior police officers and constables. A total of 28,090 police personnel have attended these training sessions.
 - ▶ A day-long human rights orientation program is conducted every month for police officers stationed under the Kathmandu Metropolitan Police Office, Ranipokhari, district police offices, area police offices, and police posts. To date, 70,669 individuals (including 12,231 in the current fiscal year) have undergone this training.
 - The human rights awareness program is conducted monthly in the Kathmandu Valley, provincial police offices, and district offices under the community police

collaboration program, aimed at fostering positive relations between police and citizens. As of mid-January, 74 awareness programs have been organized, reaching 2,464 individuals to inform them about human rights issues. Additionally, various awareness programs have been conducted to educate the local population about harmful practices such as witchcraft, dowry systems, caste discrimination, as well as to promote education and raise awareness about traffic rules.

- Riots are controlled in accordance with the provisions outlined in the Local Administration Act of 1971. Nepal Police adheres to basic UN standards when using arms and employing force in the enforcement of the rule of law.

3. Towards Fulfillment of Human Rights

- ▶ Despite facing limitations in both physical and human resources, Nepal Police is actively investigating 23,792 cases in the current fiscal year to ensure justice, relief, and compensation for the victims.
- ▶ Verdicts, decisions, and recommendations issued by the Government of Nepal, courts, constitutional bodies, and other judicial and semi-judicial bodies are promptly executed by Nepal Police.

These statistics and activities demonstrate that Nepal Police is prioritizing human rights through various programs and activities. Moving forward, Nepal Police aims to act more actively and effectively for the protection and promotion of human rights. Additionally, stronger and more fruitful collaboration between Nepal Police and INSEC is expected in the future.

Dan Bahadur Karki
Senior Superintendent of Police



Armed Police Force

The Armed Police Force (APF) upholds a zero-tolerance policy against human rights violations and impunity, receiving complaints through all channels regarding any such violations by APF personnel. Departmental action is taken against any individual found guilty. As a security agency responsible for ensuring constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights and maintaining law and order, we conduct patrols along borderlines to prevent cross-border human trafficking and other crimes, coordinating with relevant stakeholders to rescue victims.

We actively promote a zero-tolerance environment for human rights violations by organizing annual training sessions for our personnel, covering both theoretical and practical aspects of human rights. Trainers from the Human Rights Cell and various governmental and non-governmental organizations are invited to provide comprehensive training. We also conduct Training of Trainers (ToT) programs to produce internal trainers proficient in human rights and international humanitarian law, ensuring that armed force cadets are well informed.

To ensure the legitimate use of force, we provide training to our officers regarding the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms. A significant number of officers have already benefited from this training initiative. Additionally, we actively participate in training sessions, seminars, interactions, and discussions organized by governmental and non-governmental organizations to stay updated on human rights issues and enhance effectiveness in our work.

In conclusion, we express our support for the Human Rights Yearbook 2024 published by INSEC, an organization dedicated to human rights and social justice. We reaffirm our commitment to playing a crucial role in the protection and

promotion of human rights. Furthermore, we look forward to continued collaboration with INSEC and other stakeholders to advance human rights initiatives in the future.

Yubaraj Aryal,
Senior Superintendent of Police

Municipal Association of Nepal

The Constitution of Nepal outlines fundamental rights as the basic rights of Nepali citizens'. It is important for efforts to be made towards realizing these rights as guaranteed by the constitution. Local governments play a pivotal role in safeguarding and advancing human rights within their jurisdictions, by providing equal opportunities and justice for all citizens. The Municipal Association of Nepal actively facilitates the enactment of laws pertaining to individual rights outlined in Schedule 8 of the Constitution within its member municipalities, ensuring adherence and implementation at the grassroots level.

Local governments are working towards upholding the protection of civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights. Municipalities are also working towards ensuring fair wages for labor, social crime and punishment, consumer protection, competition promotion and market protection, food security, job creation, local business promotion, rescue and protection of citizens in disasters. At present, they are working on periodic plan and budget expansion, which is accessible to all citizens. As the primary judicial authority at the grassroots level, local governments are diligently utilizing their available resources and capacities to combat gender violence, facilitate the integration of marginalized castes and communities into the societal mainstream, and foster peace within their respective jurisdictions. By undertaking these efforts, local governments are actively contributing to

the realization of fundamental rights for citizens at the grassroots level, thereby exemplifying their commitment to promoting social justice and equitable access to justice within their communities.

While local governments endeavor to uphold basic human rights, local governments face challenges in fully aligning with constitutional mandates. In some cases, citizens may be unable to access rights guaranteed by the constitution at the local level, directly impacting their human rights. Despite the establishment of bodies like the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Commission of Inquiry into Disappearances post-peace agreements, challenges in their effective operation persist, resulting in continued suffering for victims of armed conflict.

The absence of necessary laws to ensure the guarantee of fundamental rights, coupled with a lack of awareness and a culture of working based on universal human rights values among people's representatives and employees, further complicates the issue. Additionally, the peace and security situation in the country remains relatively fragile, and the recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission often go unimplemented. Concerns such as arbitrary withdrawal of cases and an increase in amnesty pose significant human rights challenges, with direct repercussions on local government functions. These actions have direct repercussions on the functioning and responsibilities of local governments

With the advent of federalism, systematic distribution of social security post-local government elections, and inclusive planning and resource mobilization focusing on women, Dalits, and persons with disabilities, municipalities have made significant strides in ensuring equitable access to education. Moreover, effective reconciliation and dispute reso-

lution facilitated by judicial committees further contribute to fostering human rights. Municipalities play a vital role in advancing human rights through these activities and achievements. Recognizing the potential for enhanced contributions through coordinated efforts among government levels, the Nepal Municipality Association is undertaking initiatives to facilitate collaboration through its diverse programs, projects, and activities.

Bhim Prasad Dhungana
Chairperson
Nepal Municipality Association

National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal

In the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal having a three levels of government, the local government at the grassroots level primarily focuses on delivering services and undertaking development initiatives for the citizens. The Constitution of Nepal guarantees fundamental rights, including human rights, suffrage for youth, periodic elections, complete press freedom, an impartial judiciary, the right to live with dignity, the right to freedom, and various other rights for the citizens. Similarly, rights to social security, consumer rights, social justice rights, senior citizens' rights, Dalit rights, women's and children's rights are directly related to human rights. Nepal has a legal system wherein it is a party to international treaties, and the provisions of those treaties are applied as part of Nepalese laws. In terms of the institutional structure, the list of rights has been mentioned and distributed among the federal, provincial, and local levels to promote and protect human rights. Local governments are committed to protecting, promoting, and dignifying human rights through the implementation of the law. While all three levels of government share equal re-

sponsibility in safeguarding and promoting the fundamental rights of citizens, local authorities bear a greater responsibility due to their accessibility and direct connection with the citizens.

The Efforts of Local government in Protecting and Promoting Human Rights

Local governments have been conducting campaigns to enroll children in schools, aiming to ensure access to basic education. However, the lack of suitable education system for students with disabilities brings significant challenge in ensuring their basic as well as higher education. The local governments have undertaken initiatives to deliver community and house-to-house services to marginalized communities through various outreach programs and camps. Similarly, there have been promotional activities through the Judicial Committee aimed at proactively preventing human rights violations in society. The Judicial Committee has served as a channel for citizens facing difficulties in accessing justice, providing them with a means to seek recourse and experience a sense of justice. These efforts collectively contribute to addressing the needs and rights of marginalized communities and promoting a fair and just society.

Reconciliation Committees are being established and conducting necessary training and orientations, which are resolving small disputes at the Rural Municipalities through mediation.

Few local governments have taken proactive steps in developing grievance redressal systems to effectively address citizen concerns. Additionally, there have been awareness campaigns and targeted programs to prevent child marriage, including initiatives such as declaring Rural Municipalities as child marriage-free zones.

Initiatives like the Senior Citizens Day Service Center, Honor Program, and Single Men's Incentive Allowance have played a significant role in reflecting the government's efforts and enhancing the self-esteem of the target group.

Local governments have implemented programs aimed at reducing gender and domestic violence. Additionally, to provide access to basic and clean drinking water and sanitation, one house, one stream is part of the basic campaign of all local governments. Local governments are actively engaged in campaigns to eradicate the dowry system, mobilizing citizens for this cause. They are also taking comprehensive measures against human trafficking, including awareness campaigns, rescue operations, establishment of relief and rehabilitation centers, and provision of psychological counseling for trafficking survivors. Furthermore, Several local governments have established foreign employment assistance desks to provide guidance and support to workers seeking employment abroad. This aims to assist workers by providing them with sufficient information to prevent exploitation and fraud. Additionally, campaigns declaring local governments as child labor-free zones have played a crucial role in safeguarding the human rights of citizens.

Local governments are actively engaged in organizing regular meetings with children and women in prisons, fostering an environment that supports children's education. Additionally, they have demonstrated their commitment to respecting the rights of prisoners, including the right to read and access information, by providing facilities such as television sets and establishing libraries within prison facilities

Although the local governments are serious about protecting and promoting human rights, the local governments have to shrink due to the lack of capacity and the lack of necessary facilitation from the fed-

eration, provincial and related areas. Due to the lack of effective implementation of the law, there has been no reduction in the cases of human rights violations and violence against women. Since there is a lot of work required in the local government concerning human rights, prioritizing this area appears crucial. The the protection of human rights is possible only if there is coordination and cooperation between the state, civil society and organizations. The absence of such coordination poses a significant challenge to ensuring the protection of human rights.

Laxmi Devi Pandey

Chairperson

National Association of Rural
Municipalities in Nepal

Nepal Bar Association

INSEC, a prominent organization dedicated to advancing human rights in Nepal, has been publishing the Human Rights Yearbook since 1992. We anticipate that the release of the 2024 edition will mark another significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to protect and promote human rights in Nepal and globally.

Regrettably, it appears that there has been insufficient progress on the part of the state in fulfilling its responsibility to safeguard human rights. There persists a concerning trend of neglecting the rule of law in our country. Furthermore, little progress has been made in investigating cases of human rights violations, holding accountable those implicated in war-era atrocities, and providing compensation to victims. Urgent action is required to investigate war-era cases by the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

It is worth noting that the Nepal Bar Association, in a significant decision, committed to advocating for the promotion of a human rights culture at a na-

tional seminar held in Chitwan on the occasion of International Human Rights Day last year.

In conclusion, I am confident that the Nepal Human Rights Yearbook 2024, published by INSEC, will continue to provide an accurate portrayal of the human rights situation in our country. I hope this publication will contribute to fostering a stronger human rights culture in Nepal. Best wishes for the successful publication of the Nepal Human Rights Yearbook 2024.

Hark Bahadur Rawal (Advocate)

Vice-chairperson

Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ)

The year 2023 witnessed concerning developments in terms of press freedom and freedom of expression. Similar to previous years, the Press Freedom Monitoring Unit established under FNJ registered various cases of press freedom violations, with ensuring journalists' professional security remaining a significant challenge.

Compared to the previous year, there was an increase in the number of cases of press and freedom of expression violations in 2023. Records obtained from the Press Freedom Monitoring Records from the Press Freedom Monitoring Unit of the FNJ show that while 53 cases were registered in 2022, the number rose to 58 in 2023. Additionally, 13 female journalists and 74 male journalists were affected in 2023, compared to 132 male and 18 female journalists affected in 2022. Furthermore, the number of affected media houses increased from five in 2022 to six in 2023.

FNJ identifies labor issues within media houses in 2023, along with professional insecurity, as major challenges. The federation is actively working to address these issues through various means,

including protests, legal remedies, talks, and dialogue. In 2024, FNJ is committed to enhancing legal arrangements to seek sustainable solutions for labor issues and ensure the sincere implementation of press freedom.

Moreover, in 2023, politicians and government officials repeatedly made baseless accusations against the media. FNJ urges political party leaders and government officials to maintain their official dignity and uphold their commitment to press freedom and democracy when making such remarks.

The slowdown in the media law drafting process by the government in 2023 is concerning. FNJ has called on the government to expedite the law promulgation process, which was initiated with FNJ's involvement. The federation continues to remind federal, provincial, and local governments to uphold freedom of opinion and expression, the right to information, and full-fledged freedom of expression as guaranteed by Nepal's constitution while introducing media-related laws.

Khagendra Phuyal
Media Monitoring

