

National Rights Watchdog Should be Independent: Speaker

Kathmandu: Speaker and CA Chair Subash Chandra Nemwang said that there was no alternative than making the NHRC free and autonomous as per the international human rights standards, Paris Principle.

Speaking at an 'Interaction on the Bill of Human Rights Commission' organized jointly by National Human Rights Commission, and Joint Forum for Human Rights in Kathmandu on April 20, he expressed belief that the interaction would help expedite the endorsement process of the NHRC Bill which is being discussed at the sub-committee of the House.

Expressing solidarity for the autonomy of the NHRC, Speaker remarked 'Establishment of the NHRC is a long cherished dream achieved through hard struggle to transform it into an independent national rights watchdog in practical term. Its existence, therefore, would be meaningless if not strengthened.' Since the government is indulged in many other vital issues such as peace and integration processes, most of the HR issues are overshadowed, the speaker observed.

He also said that the parties must stand at one place in



Speaker Nemwang, NHRC Chairperson Upadhyay, Former Speaker Daman Nath Dhungana and Rory Mungonven, Head of Asia Pacific Region (OHCHR), Geneva at the Programme

order to resolve most of the national problems such as the bills on the establishment of the Commission on the Enquiry on Disappearance and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

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Mr. Nemwang urged that the political parties, human rights activists and civil society should provide support from their end to establish independent National rights watchdog.

Addressing the programme, the NHRC Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyaya urged the government to expedite the

adoption of NHRC Bill requiring the amendments in a number of areas in order to be fully consistent with the Paris Principles, including broadening the scope of the mandate, recruiting staff,

guaranteeing financial and operational independence, and the nature of recommendations issued by the NHRC.

Stating that the Paris Principle mentioned that the body established by the state should be independent from the government, the Chairperson said that the issue of free and autonomous NHRC had risen

so that it could carry out its activities in an independent way. 'Interim Constitution mandated the NHRC with additional mandates though, the terms "autonomy" and "independence" provisioned through the Human Rights Act -1997 have been removed. This has taken all those who believe in human rights including us by surprise,' reiterated the Chairperson .

'What all we want is an independent NHRC is not for the benefit of its officers and staffers but for safeguarding human rights of the people in light of the Paris Principle' the Chairperson clarified.

During the programme, former speaker and civil society leader Daman Nath Dhungana said, 'With the possible downgrading of NHRC from status A to B by International Coordination Committee (ICC) and the Bill remaining pending in the House for a long time now, NHRC would turn out to be almost non-functional. Therefore, it is high time that NHRC be made vibrant and goal-oriented.' Underlining the significance of the public debate Mr. Dhungana urged that the interaction among the CA members will certainly yield the anticipated result with the proposal dissolved for forwarding to the Legislature Parliament for the NHRC Bill

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C A Members, Civil Society Members, Representatives of HR Organizagions and Media Persons at the Programme

UN Dy. High Commissioner Pledges Support for NHRC's Autonomy



UN Deputy High Commissioner Kyung-wha Kang and NHRC Chairperson Upadhyay among others in the meeting held at NHRC

Lalitpur: The United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Kyung-wha Kang on her three-day visit to Nepal to review human rights situation called on the NHRC Office bearers on April 19, 2011.

Speaking at the meeting held with the NHRC office bearers, Ms Kang pledged support to ensure NHRC as a autonomous and independent body at par with the Paris Principles adopted by the UN General Assembly. She expressed her commitment that OHCHR

The Chairperson further added that the Commission is having challenging time at the moment and would have more of this in forthcoming days as well. 'We do have host of internal problems. Crippling staff management and operational independence are a few to mention. We wanted to retain our staff because they have been contributing their services right from the establishment of the Commission. While on the other hand, we have been exercising on the concern that the Commission to be treated

“ We are positive in having common strategy to execute the work related to the issues of Human Rights through joint effort ”

would extend its optimum support towards the NHRC Bill under consideration in Legislature Parliament that would pave the way for the Commission to work as an independent body.

Addressing the programme, NHRC Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay said that at a time when the entire peace process and statute drafting have become uncertain, OHCHR and NHRC have been jointly working to institutionalize human rights in the country.

in compliance with the Paris Principle, but sadly, the Government keeps different perspective in this regard' informed the Chairperson.

The Chairperson at the same time said that the support and cooperation extended by the OHCHR has been crucial at all times. 'We are positive in having common strategy to execute the work related to the issues of Human Rights through joint effort', the Chairperson assured.

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Role of Stakeholders Stressed on Torture Prevention

Kailali: A Regional level Workshop on Torture Prevention was conducted by NHRC regional office, Dhangadhi in Mahendranagar, Kanchanpur on March 23 - 24, 2011. The inaugural function of the workshop was chaired by the Chief Justice Durga Prasad Upreti of Mahendranagar appellate court. Honorable judges duo Dilliraj Acharya and Baburam Regmi of Mahendranagar Appellate Court, district judge of Kanchanpur-Bhojraj Sharma, Superintendent of Police of Kanchanpur district police office Pawan Kumar Kharel delivered the inaugural speeches at the programme.

The two-day long workshop programme was attended by the representatives of the law enforcement agencies of the Government of Nepal, judiciary and Quasi judiciary bodies, human rights activists, representatives of Nepal Bar Association,



Participants in the workshop held in Kailali

Officials of Nepal Police, Officials of Armed Police Force, Officials of Forest Office, Jailor, legal professionals among others. The participants hailed from Baitadi, Doti, Dadeldhura, Achcham, Kailali and Kanchanpur district. During the workshop programme, various resource persons facilitated the training with regard to the impact and identification of torture in line with the international legal provision, practice, responsibilities and the role of the stakeholders and national and international legal provisions.

NHRC Worries over Soaring Culture of Impunity

Kathmandu: Gokarna Bista of CPN (UML) nominated as the Energy Minister was attacked by unidentified assailants in Katmandu, Nepal on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 who is now undergoing treatment at Monmohan Memorial Hospital situated at Sorakhutte as per the newspaper sources. The NHRC team consisting of Commissioner Gauri Pradhan, Director Bed Prasad Bhattarai, Human Rights officer duo Bhanubhakta Acharya and Regam Maharjan carried out the monitoring on the health condition of injured Bista.

During the monitoring, it was learnt that Mr. Bista was fatally

attacked outside his house just hours after he was appointed to his new position on April 11, 2011. He was on his way at Sorakhutte at night when the assailants attempted to block his way. As he was about to go forward one of the assailants shouted to attack him with a sharp weapon. He has sustained severe injury on his head and arm. While the police investigation is on, the health condition of Mr. Bista is found to be normal and absolutely out of danger according to his wife Pratima.

The incident as such shows that the security situation in the country is in a very piteous condition.

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Publicize the Whereabouts of the Disappeared: Kin of Disappeared

Kathmandu: The team deployed by the NHRC central office carried out the monitoring on the sit-in programme organized by the society of the families of the disappeared. With the slogan, "Publicize the disappeared during the Insurgency period" the sit-in programme was organized in 60 districts including Kathmandu.

The Monitoring team conducted on-the-spot monitoring on April 22, 2011 in Kathmandu including Lalitpur and Bhaktapur. The team consisted of HR Officer Jiwan Neopane including Interns Anuj Gaire and Anju Thapa.

During the monitoring, it was found that the general public faced difficulty in obtaining services from the district administration office, Lalitpur due to the hindrances at the entrance of the office caused by the participants of the sit-in programme. The traffic was



Participants displaying the photos of the Disappeared at the Sit-in Programme organized in Kathmandu

also found disrupted in and around the vicinity of the sit-in programme. However, the alternative routes were made open by the traffic police for the people commuting to and from their office. Around 12 noon, the programme was averted to the mass meetings. Over all, the programme was found to have been organized in peaceful manner.

The organizers of the programme had placed their

demands to publicize the people disappeared from Bahirav Nath Barrack, to take action against Nepal Army officials Bijay Pratap and Raju Basnet who were said to have been allegedly involved in the incident of disappearance, to comply with the order issued by the esteemed Supreme Court, to draft the statute in time and to dismiss the falsified cases etc.

With the Article 21 of the ICCPR being complied with by the security personnel deployed at the sit-in programme site, no hindrance was caused to the programme by the security personnel. At the same time, the participants appeared to have enjoyed the right to protest without any obstruction.

It can be recalled that the demand placed by the participants of the sit-in programme have been forwarded through the NHRC on various occasions. In this regard, the act of causing disappearance of the people is outright against the various international law and prevalent constitution. Yet the commitments to publicize the whereabouts of the disappeared citizens during the insurgency period have not been materialized by the then conflicting parties. While the NHRC is playing its role to exert pressure on the concerned parties to publicize the whereabouts of the disappeared citizens, it is time the Government and the CPN (Maoists), therefore, to be sensitive to fulfill the commitments made without any further dilly dallying.

Incidents of HR Violations Noticed Sporadic in Karnali

Jumla : The School Leaving Certificate Examinations (SLC) was conducted peacefully in the region this year as per the monitoring carried out from March 16-April 1, 2011 by the team deployed by the NHRC sub regional office, Jumla. However, the exams conducted once in the entire year witnessed irregularities unleashed in the examinations. Questions sheets were made available out of the examination hall for malpractices. Examinations halls were full of noise due to which the studious students were bound to sit separately to

give their exams. To the surprise of the monitoring team, even the invigilators were found indulged in helping the candidates of the SLC perform malpractice deliberately.

Four people of Mahat-3 sustained injury in a clash when the kin of the victim Bikash Subarnakar attempted to slip into the district police office Jumla. The victim Bikash Subarnakar, Chairperson of National Dalit Society Welfare Association, Jumla branch was said to have met with death on April 4, 2011 in suspicious condition. The police have arrested eight people including the injured ones. Two of them

have been released at the initiation of the Commission who are now admitted in the Karnali Zonal hospital.

However, over all situation human rights situation is found to be normal in the districts under the jurisdiction of NHRC sub regional office. No complaints with regard to the violations of ICCPR and excesses have been lodged and the situation of ESCR was satisfactory. Though the domestic violence and racial discrimination persisted, the incidents of violations of such rights haven't been brought to light.

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NHRC worries...

The people ranging from general public and high ranking people have been attacked and the security authority are apparently unsuccessful to catch hold of the criminals which prove that the peace and security situation is weakening and yet the culture of impunity has soared to its height. As the Police are investigating the incident, the criminal must be identified and stern action must be taken against them so as to restrain the criminal activities.

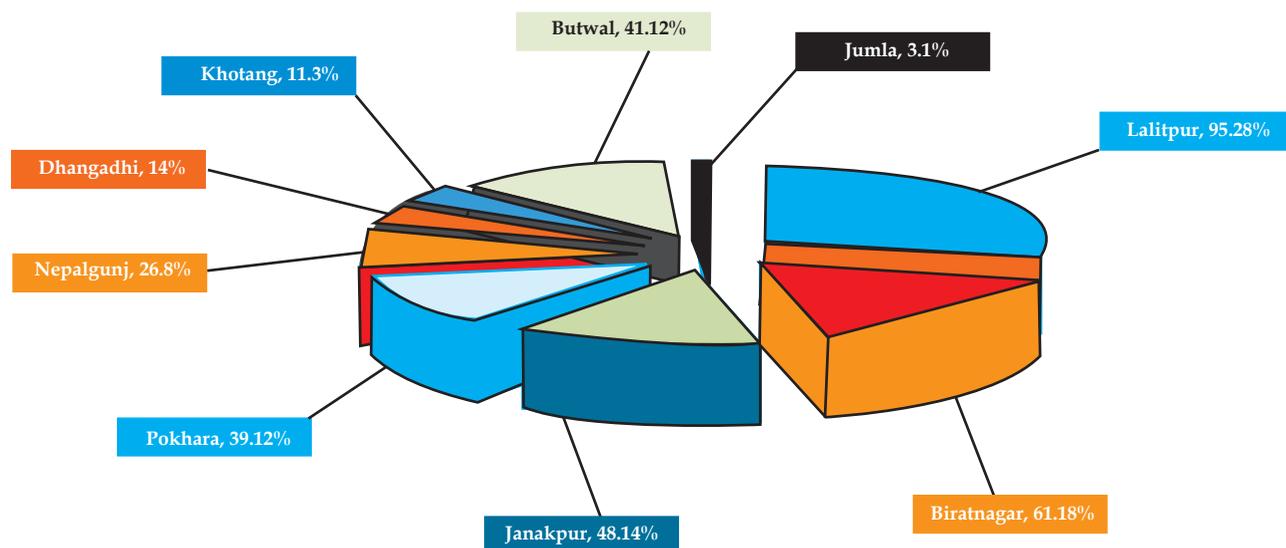
Complaints on HR Violations During 2067 BS (2010 AD)... at a Glance

S.N	Cases of Human Rights Violations	Responsible Parties	2010-11 AD												Total
			April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	
1	Killing	Security force (Including Custodial Death)	-	3	4	3	1	1	4	1	5	3	-	-	25
		Others	-	-	3	2	-	4	2	2	4	2	-	1	20
2	Disappearance / Abduction	Security Force	-	1	1	1	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	8
		Others	3	4	3	1	2	3	2	3	1	2	1	2	27
3	Torture/ Abuse	Security Force	4	1	2	2	-	2	1	1	6	3	6	1	29
		Others	-	-	4	7	-	3	1	2	3	1	1	1	23
4	Injury /Beating	Security Force	-	-	1	1	2	-	3	1	-	-	-	1	9
		Others	1	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	1	7
5	Displacement	Security Force	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	00
		Others	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
6	Property Seizure / Confiscation	Security Force	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	00
		Others	-	2	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	3	9
7	Threat	Security Force	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
		Others	1	-	1	-	1	2	2	4	-	-	1	2	14
8	Prison / Detention		-	2	-	1	-	-	3	1	2	1	1	-	10
9	Compensation		1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
10	Civil rights		1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	6
11	Economic, Social & Cultural Rights		-	4	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	2	2	1	14
12	Women's Rights		2	5	-	2		1	5	4	3	2	2	3	29
13	Child Rights		1	2	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	2	10
14	Administrative Justice		1	8	1	4	2	9	4	6	5	2	3	3	48
15	Migrant Rights		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	Others		6	3	5	2	3	1	3	3	2	5	3	4	40
	Total		15	31	26	28	12	33	33	29	43	26	21	23	338

Complaints received by NHRC Offices During 2067 BS (2010 AD)

SN	NHRC Offices	Complaints received by NHRC Offices During 2067 BS (2010 AD)													Total
		April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March		
1	Lalitpur	6	16	9	4	7	14	0	8	10	7	7	7	95	
2	Biratnagar	5	8	6	10	3	11	5	3	6	2	2	-	61	
3	Janakpur	-	10	5	3	3	1	5	5	8	5	2	1	48	
4	Pokhara	2	-	6	3	2	1	5	3	2	4	4	7	39	
5	Nepalgunj	1	3	1	5	-	5	2	4	2	1	1	1	26	
6	Dhangadhi	-	2	1	-	-	-	6	2	2	-	-	1	14	
7	Khotang	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	1	11	
8	Butwal	2	2	6	3	5	2	3	4	4	1	4	5	41	
9	Jumla	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	
	Total	18	40	36	28	20	35	35	31	44	26	21	23	338	

Complaints Received in the year 2067 BS (2010-11 AD) (Office, Number & Percentage)



Complaints as per the Thematic Basis in the Year 2067 BS (2010 AD)

In 2067 (2010 AD), the NHRC received and entertained a total of 338 complaints on various themes and areas. Clearly seen are the complaints still at a peak pertaining to the ICCPR. 152 complaints received on ICCPR is the highest of all followed by 74 complaints regarding CAT which is the second highest of all. Though the complaints on abduction remains third in the row, the number appears yet alarming. The number of complaints on ESC rights

is equivalent to that of the CEDAW. As many as 26 numbers of complaints were registered on each of these headings. As per the data, 11 complaints on CRC were lodged at the Commission this past year followed by 6 complaints on migrant workers. The data reveals that the Commission received 3 complaints on CRPD which is the second least among all whereas 2 complaints were received on CERD which is the least of all complaints.

Thematic	NHRC Offices									Total
	Lalitpur	Biratnagar	Khotang	Janakpur	Pokhara	Butwal	Nepalgunj	Jumla	Dhangadi	
ICCPR	42	33	3	31	21	17	3	2	0	152
ESCR	9	6	2	2	6	1	0	0	0	26
CAT	19	15	1	7	5	4	16	1	6	74
CEDAW	8	3	4	1	2	2	2	0	4	26
CED/ Abduction	8	3	0	7	3	13	2	0	2	38
CRPD	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
CERD	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
CRC	6	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	11
Migrant Workers /Others	2	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	6
Total	95	61	11	48	39	41	26	3	14	338

Regional Consultative Workshop on Fourth Strategic Plan (2011-13) Organized

Dhanusha: The fifth and last regional level consultative workshop on the draft of Strategic Plan (2011-13) of the Commission was held in Janakpur on April 21, 2011. The programme was presided over by the Officiating Regional Director Buddha Narayan Sahani Kewat. Honorable Ali Akbar Mikrani, Chief Judge of Appellate Court chaired the programme as the Guest of Honour.

At the outset, NHRC Director Subarna Karmacharya presented the proposed draft on Strategic Plan (2011-13) for reviewing while Khimananda Basyal threw light on the objective of the programme. The programme was divided into two sessions including the inaugural and discussion sessions.

Chief District Officer Kamaleswar Sinha, eminent advocate Yugal Kishor Lal, Dhansuha, Praksh Mainali, chief of Nepal Bar Association, woman human rights defender Punam Chaudhary, Prof. Janaki Raman Lal, Prof. Gurudayal

Chaudhary of Janak Sanskrit University, RR Multiple Campus Chief Bishnu Dev Chaudhary and Superintendent of Police Dinsesh Amatya of Dhanusha district among others shared their views at the programme.

The programme was well received by the Commission with the participants forwarding their views with regard to various issues concerning human rights and activities of the Commission. Professor Janaki Raman Lal opined that the activities of the Commission should be such that the people in general must feel its importance far and wide. It should work hard to help diminish the culture of impunity, observed Prof. Lal. HR defender Punam Chaudhary came up with the view that the Commission should prioritize the programme for capacity development of the human rights defenders and monitoring on their protection.

At the programme, Prof. Gurudayal Chaudhary said that the equal attention may

please be paid to the problem of all victims regardless of their status while Vishnu Dev Chaudhary of RR Multiple Campus opined that the Commission can raise the voice at its disposal to end the liquid situation in the country. He added that all responsible for the violations of human rights should be brought to justice. Chandra Prakash Mainali, Chief of Nepal Bar Association, Janakpur emphasized that the role of the Commission becomes pivotal through its activities in order to sustain the Rule of Law in the country. He stressed that equal priority be given to the right to health and education as compared to the right to life. The Commission should be very much firm in cultivating pressure on the concerned parties including the Government for the implementation of its recommendations submitted.

Human Rights defender Vijay Dutta opined that the NHRC should strengthen its human resource. Janakpur being a very crucial place of Central region especially for

Terai, adequate number of staff must be posted in the area. With regard to NHRC recommendations, NHRC should also create effective mechanism. Participants also raised the voice that NHRC can play significant role in curbing the prevalent dowry system with the recommendations of law promulgation necessary for eradicating the ill practice of dowry.

At the programme, CDO Dr. Kamaleswar Prasad Sinha said that the Governmental and non-Governmental Organizations must have their capacity developed with their reports monitored by the Commission. The eminent senior advocate Yugal Kishor Lal emphasized that the compensation to the victim of human rights violation must go side by side with the punishment delivered to the perpetrators. Superintendent of Police Dinesh Amatya, Dhanusha informed about the Police department having its Human Rights Cell in full operation in regional level.

Human Rights Violations Observed Rampant in Far-West

Kailali/Kanchanpur: The human rights situation in the far west region remained as sporadic as it used to be for the past couple of months. Youth sports club padlocked the office of the district sports development committee for a few days in protest against the postponement of the 6th mega sports event to be held in Dhangadhi district. The number of patients visiting the hospitals of far west has inclined unusually due to the lack of doctors, common diseases caused due to the ordeal of increasing heat in the district. The HIV patients are learned to have returned

empty hand due to the unavailability of the health workers in the health post. The patients normally had their retroviral medicine distributed from the post.

A suspected bucket bomb planted at the main entrance of the office of the Daijee VDC of Kanchanpur district was defused. The normal life came to a grinding halt in the districts of Terai due to the Bandh called by the Tharuhat Autonomous State Council on April 8-10, 2011 and yet again, the UCPN (Maoists) seized the land property of two persons in Tikapur Area

resulting in the problem of displacement in the district.

The prisons of the hilly districts of far west are found to have been suffering from the acute shortage of drinking water. The prison, which could hardly accommodate 100 inmates, was found to be accommodated with 185 inmates including 13 female inmates and 2 children.

While the incidents of rape are reportedly risen up in recent days, the Indian border security forces are resorted to inflict suffering on the general people at the bordering area adjacent to

India districts. The Custom officials were found involved in the trend of collecting the money for petty things possessed by the general people commuting through the border area. The Daily service of the various VDCs have been disrupted due to the fleeing of the VDC secretaries due to their lives exposed to danger due to the activities of various armed groups in the area.

The missing Director Nawraj Chaulagain of Regional Public Service Commission of Dipayal is still untraced, it is learnt.

Bandh Leaves Impact on life of General Public

The team deployed by the NHRC Central Office carried out monitoring on the Bandh programme organized by Newa-Tamsaling Joint Action Committee on April 27, 2011. The committee had called Bandh to have their demands addressed in the would-be drafted new constitution. The four member monitoring team comprising of the HR Officer Bhim Prasad Oli including the interns Ramesh Rawat, Smrita Shakya and Kumari Mahara conducted monitoring on the impact of the Bandh left on the life of general public due to the day-long Bandh.

The Committee had ,among others, a number of demands such as rights of self-determination, provision of unified Newa and Tamsaling autonomous states sufficed with political rights, including the drafting of secularism, federalism, republic, democratic and indigenous citizens friendly



The NHRC Monitoring Team with the Participants of Bandh Programme organized by Newa/Tamsaling Joint Action Committee

new constitution before May 28, 2011.

According to the Bandh organizing Committee, a mass cultural procession was organized on April 16, 2011 prior to calling Bandh. The committee also handed over the memorandum to the Prime Minister on April 19, 2011, it is learnt. They said to have organized the sit-in programmes at the central offices of all the political parties on April 20, 2011

prior to handing over the memorandum to the respective central offices of the political parties. Bandh was declared in all districts under the proposed Newa and Tamsaling autonomous states. Over all situation during the Bandh programme was found to be peaceful with the security forces deployed at all sensitive locations and confluences. However, as the means of transportations were brought to grinding halt due to the Bandh,

the right of free movement of the people to and from their destinations was found violated. Similarly, the general people were observed to have suffered as they could not purchase the daily supplies due to the closure of the shops. The shopkeepers were found deprived of the rights to do their business.

It is the universal principle that one should respect the rights of others while enjoying their own. It is therefore recommended that the organizers of such Bandh must realize the rights of others as they enjoy their own as it leaves impact on the daily lives of the people. With regard to such impacts, the Commission consistently holds interaction with the concerned agitating stakeholders in order to discourage the strikes and Bandh of extreme nature called against the universal principle.

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UN Dy. High Commissioner...

The UN Deputy OHCHR further added that if the Commission has its final say; it should set the mark that the institution serves everybody with full leadership in the manner that diversity is taken into consideration. Reminding the inclusive approach being adopted by the UN as well, she informed that inclusion of work force used to be predominantly from the people of Western worlds but the current scenario is such that People from Eastern region are taken in the UN.

Commending the joint effort of the two institutions, Ms Kang expressed her continued support for the commission's work with regard to the country's human rights agenda

through assistance in developing legal standards and best practices in conformity with international human rights law.

The meeting also discussed the measures to assist NHRC to be promoted to the Category A of the International Coordination Committee (ICC), to draw the government's attention towards the implementation of the NHRC's recommendations, and to monitor the government's commitments towards Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on the issue.

Member Gauri Pradhan, Secretary Bishal Khanal including OHCHR (Nepal) Head Jyoti Sanghera also share their opinion on the status of human rights in Nepal at the programme.

NHRC Concerned over Citizens' Right to Health

Chitwan: The NHRC has expressed serious concern over the ongoing disruption caused to the health services due to the closure of the Chitwan (Bharatpur) -based BP Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital (BPKMCH).

With the release of the press statement, the Commission has said that the closure of the hospital is outright against the people's right to health provisioned by the Interim Constitution of Nepal -2007. "The closure at the sensitive sector is against 'right to life' of citizens," reads the Press Release.

The press release says that the strike has hit the cancer patients hard and thus the Commission has urged the stakeholders to resume the

services at the hospital at the earliest by resolving the problems without affecting the patients waiting for treatment.

Meanwhile, a team deployed by the NHRC's Butwal sub-regional office visited the hospital for monitoring the situation. The team has discovered an acute shortage of medicine and other equipment at the hospital. Likewise, the patients have been compelled to return or go elsewhere for treatment. Many other patients have been left stranded on the hospital premises.

It is learnt that hospital staff has brought following a two-month long dispute over the appointment of hospital's executive director.

Citizens' Right to Life Tossed into Jeopardy: NHRC Expresses Concern

Nepalgunj: NHRC Regional Office, Nepalgunj carried out an extensive monitoring from April 4-6, 2011 on the incidents of deaths and illness caused due to the use of elephantiasis prevention drug administered by the government across Banke district. The after-effect of medicine was said to have been the cause of unexpected deaths and illness in the area. However, the medicines diethylcarbazine and albendazole are reportedly claimed to prevent the tropical disease Lymphatic filaria, commonly known as elephantiasis.

Since many VDCs including the municipality area were said to have been left affected due to the use of medicine against filaria, the monitoring team deployed by the NHRC Nepalgunj Office visited the district public health office and

also met with the kin of the victims, ailing people and doctors during the course of monitoring. The team also observed and analyzed the press release issued by the doctors of the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health; related pieces of news published in local newspapers and interviewed the concerned people.

The press release issued by EDPH says that the medicine was distributed as per the objective of the WHO to eradicate filaria by 2020. The incident of deaths is found not because of the use of drug but because of the illness the victims already had had, the press release reads. However, since the cause of death is said to occur due to the use of medicine, the probe is duly under process and the report of which will be publicized

anytime soon. Meanwhile, it has been appealed to everybody concerned through the press release to have patience till the report along with the evidences arrives.

It was found at few places of the district that the volunteers, who distributed the medicine, were learnt to have been untrained and fed the medicine to the people against the standard prescribed. On top of that, no awareness programme was launched among the general public prior to the distribution of elephantiasis preventive drugs. Nor did the authority use the local media for the awareness campaign as per the finding of the monitoring team.

It is learnt during the monitoring that the concerned authority did not seem to have done adequate groundwork

prior to going to the general people with such campaign and thus the sheer negligence has been shown with regard to the right to health and right to life of the people.

In this concern, the appellate court of Banke district has issued an interim order to suspend the distribution of the preventive drug till the final report of the probe over such sensitive issue comes into the notice as per the rule 33 of regulations 2048, it is learnt.

Elephantiasis is a disease that causes thickening of the skin and underlying tissues, especially in the lower body, caused by parasitic worms, transmitted by Culex mosquitoes. The government had announced a national elephantiasis control campaign on 26 and 27 March in 36 districts and a four-day campaign in Kathmandu simultaneously.

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National Rights Watchdog

endorsement. Lets all of us be pragmatic in this regard.

Speaking at the Programme, Rory Mungoven, Head of Asia Pacific Unit, Geneva, said that OHCHR and NHRC have equal interest in strengthening the NHRC-Nepal. He said NHRIs have benchmarks for their independence at par with the Paris Principles and so does the NHRC. 'It is good to learn that, of late, Nepal's Universal Periodic Report (UPR) is being reviewed in Geneva and Nepal enjoys 'A' Status in the ICC. In such scenario, at a time when we are reviewing law, CA members can play crucial role for making strong and binding recommendations through public debate as a landmark to have some of the provisions adjusted and amended' observed Mr. Mungoven.

Secretary of the GoN Dr. Trilochan Upreti said that bill was presented at the parliament by the government after conducting discussions with concerned stakeholders on how to ensure an effective NHRC and protection and promotion of human rights of the people. NHRC Secretary Bishal Khanal presented a working paper on the proposed bill on NHRC and free and autonomous NHRC.

Joint Forum for Human Rights Chairman Charan Prasai stressed the need for change in the structure of NHRC to improve the quality of its services.

CA member Ekraj Bhandari, Radheshyam Adhikari, rights activist Dr. Birendra Mishra, Sharmila Karki, also spoke on the occasion.

SLC Examinations Monitored through Child Rights Perspective

Kailali/Kanchanpur: In view of monitoring whether or not the School Leaving Certificate Examination (SLC) conducted in peaceful environment, the team deployed by the NHRC Dhangadhi Office carried out on-the-spot monitoring of the aforementioned examinations conducted effecting from March 26 - April 3, 2011 in Kailali and Kanchanpur districts. The team executed monitoring in twelve different schools under the jurisdiction of the NHRC regional office, Dhangadhi. Though the examinations were conducted peacefully in many

schools, it was found that a few of them couldn't keep themselves aloof from irregularities such as malpractices. The sitting arrangement for the candidates appearing in the exams was found inadequate. A few centers were fixed at those places where there were no physical facilities due to the political tug of war. As a result, the students coming from far off places had very much difficulties of accommodation.



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