Press Note
April 27, 2020

Ensure protection of the rights of the Detainees, Students and the Migrant Workers

The Commission conducted monitoring of the human rights situation of the detainees, prisoners in the detention centers and the prisons regarding COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. The monitoring team led by the Hon. Member of the Commission Sudip Pathak monitored some detention centers located at Kathmandu and Lalitpur and also the Central Jail.

For the prevention of the COVID-19, though there is access of sanitation facility, detainees’ health checkup, arrangement of cleanser and water, adoption of precautionary measures in their allegation proceeding, but for drinking water, bathrooms as well as the sanitation and social distancing there is problem because 3,164 detainees are kept though the capacity of the central Jail is 1250. During monitoring discussion was made with the Director General of the Department of the Prison Management as well as the head of the Central Jail. During the discussion, it was pointed out that though the effect of the pandemic is not seen on the detainees till now but there are 72 prisons throughout the country and are in dilapidated condition and the number of the detainees are more than the capacity, in such condition, if the pandemic is transmitted to anyone within the prison, the situation would be very terrifying.

Similarly, the Nepali workers abroad facing problem for lodging and food because of not getting payment due to COVID-19 and are prone to pandemic, the Nepali trainees and students in the various countries in the World including Bangladesh, Qatar are stranded and facing difficulties as the NHRC has received the complaints through telephone, email and through the information provided by mass media. Thus, the Commission drew attention of the Government of Nepal, especially discussing with the ministers for Foreign Affairs, Health and Labour, Employment and Social Security to seek solution in this critical condition in a human rights’ friendly manner.

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Bed Bhattarai
Secretary/Spokesperson