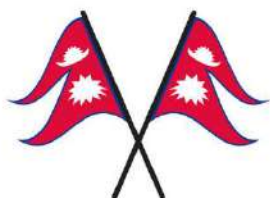


Human Rights Newsletter



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Rescue of 23 Indian Workers Forced into Bonded Labour



With the initiative of the NHRC Madhesh Province Office, 23 Indian workers held hostage and forced into labor in a brick kiln in Saptari have been rescued and handed over to their families after the completion of necessary protection, coordination and legal procedures. Among those rescued are women, men, children and minors.

A complaint was received online at the NHRC's central office on March 17, 2026, for their rescue reporting that 31 Indian nationals were held hostage and forced into labor in the BDR brick factory in Saptari. Based on jurisdiction, the complaint was forwarded to the NHRC's Madhesh Province Office in Janakpur. Considering the seriousness of the case, the office immediately collected preliminary information and conducted on-site

monitoring on March 19 in coordination with concerned authorities and stakeholders.

The monitoring team, led by the head of the Madhesh Province Office, in collaboration with the Child Rights Protection Council, Peace and Rehabilitation Center, Dhanusha, visited the site and held discussions and inquiries with the victimized workers, operators, public representatives and other concerned stakeholders. Coordination was also carried out with the District Police Offices of Saptari and Dhanusha, as well as the Labor Office, to ensure security management and legal procedures.



During the monitoring, it was found that two children (under 18 years of age) were working as laborers, families with young children were living in a vulnerable situation, they were forced to work against their will without a written labor contract. They were deprived of fair wages, healthcare, safety and basic labor rights. It was also found that the workers were kept in unsafe housing, the free movement of the workers was restricted, and proper legal procedures were not followed regarding the condition of

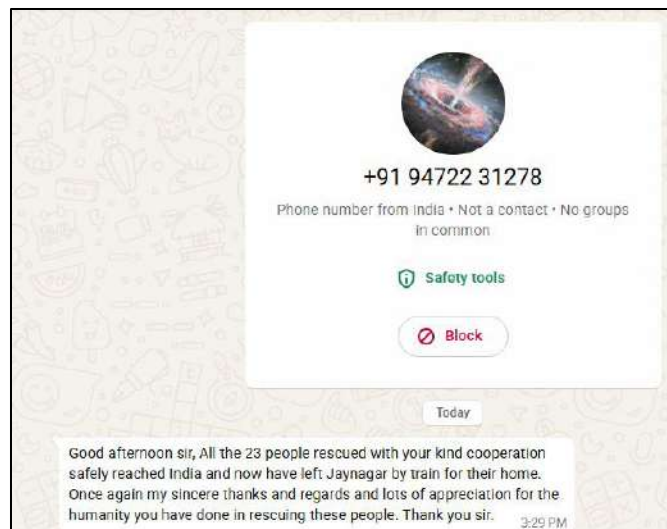


the workers brought through contractors.

The workers also reported to the monitoring team that they were deprived of adequate food, medical treatment, and wages, and were subjected to forced labor without an effective grievance redress mechanism. Although each worker reportedly received NPR 1,000 per week for food, they had not been paid wages for their labor.

According to the industry operators, it was found that the workers were brought through contractors. Although there was an old agreement between the company and the contractor, there were no clear legal provisions and agreements ensuring labor relations, services and facilities, medical care and labor protection for the workers.

Based on these findings, it was concluded that the workers were deprived of even minimum labor rights and were subjected to child labor, unsafe living conditions, health risks, inadequate and unhygienic food, inappropriate working environments, surveillance of



activities, restricted market access, and forced labor. As these practices constitute violations of human rights, the monitoring team decided to rescue the workers.

After the rescue, the workers were temporarily placed in safe shelter with the support of the Peace and Rehabilitation Center and provided security by Nepal Police. After completing necessary coordination and procedures, they were repatriated to India, and the Commission has been informed that all have safely reached their families.

Such practices are unacceptable under the Constitution of Nepal, which guarantees the right against exploitation, the right to dignified labor and the prohibition of child labor, as well as under national labor laws and international standards on forced labor set by the International Labour Organization (ILO). This incident highlights the gap between legal provisions and their implementation, as basic labor rights such as safe, fair and dignified working conditions, decent wages, labor agreements and worker protection were not ensured in practice.

Furthermore, it underscores the urgent need for effective regulation and monitoring of labor supply systems, protection of workers' rights and elimination of forced labor. A policy of zero tolerance towards labor exploitation, bonded labor and human rights violations, along with effective enforcement of labor laws, is essential.



Details of Indian Nationals Rescued from the BDR Brick Kiln

S.N.	Name	Age	Address	Remarks
Female Workers				
1	Champa Bishwas	28 years	Dhubri District, Choroguma, Boksiyathana, Assam	Husband: Gohurunga Sen
2	Hasnara Khatun	40 years	Nagaon District, Sunari Panchayat, Naugad	
3	Elija Khatun	30 years	Lahuri Ghat, Dumkora Panchayat, Assam	
4	Sajda Khatun	22 years	Bay Village, Assam	
5	Sujata Roy	22 years	Cooch Behar District, Chilyakhana Panchayat, Bengal	Husband: Ujjwal Barman
6	Rahima Khatun	24 years	Chilia, Kokrajhar, Assam	
7	Mojalima Bibi	26 years	Paglahat, North Kasokhana, Assam	Husband: Amir Hossain
8	Jahira Bibi	30 years	Gauripur, Assam	Husband: Asmat Ali
9	Fatima Bibi	35 years	Kokrajhar, Kazi Village, Assam	
10	Nazma Khatun	30 years	Kokrajhar, Assam	Husband: Mojibur Rahman
11	Parul Mani Das	35 years	Cooch Behar District, Bengal	
12	Banu Bibi	28 years	Parsuka, Assam	
Male Workers				
1	Gohurunga Sen	24 years	Dhubri District, Choroguma, Boksiyathana, Assam	Wife: Champa Bishwas
2	Ramod Ali	32 years	Nagaon District, Sunari Panchayat, Naugad	
3	Mahibul Sheikh	32 years	Dhopuri Village, Assam	
4	Ujjwal Barman	33 years	Cooch Behar District, Chilyakhana Panchayat, Bengal	Wife: Sujata Roy Barman
5	Amir Hossain	26 years	Paglahat, North Kasokhana, Assam	Wife: Mojalima Bibi
6	Asmat Ali	38 years	Paglahat, Dhubri District, Assam	Wife: Jahira Bibi
7	Zakir Hossain Sheikh	39 years	Paglahat, Dhubri District, Assam	
Under-Age Workers				
1	Rasidul Rahman	17 years	Paglahat, Dhubri District, Assam	
2	Moniruddin Sheikh	14 years	Kokrajhar District, Assam	
Minor (male/female)				
1	Abu Bakar Siddiqui	(F) 3 years	Darsuka, Assam	Mother: Banu Bibi
2	Rahul Hossain	(M) 3 years	Kokrajhar District, Assam	Parents: Mojibur Rahman and Nazma Khatun

NHRC's Participation in the Annual Meeting of GANHRI



The National Human Rights Commission participated in the annual meeting of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), held in Geneva, Switzerland, from March 30–April 1, 2026. Hon. Member Dr. Lily Thapa and Secretary Murari Prasad Kharel represented the Commission at the event.

From the same meeting, the NHRCN has received the 'A' status accreditation certificate as a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI). With this recognition, the Commission's international credibility and institutional commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights have been further strengthened.

At the meeting, Hon. Member Dr. Thapa presented Nepal's good practices regarding the protection of the rights of persons on the move (POMs). Similarly, Secretary Kharel addressed the meeting and shared the experiences of the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal in effectively utilizing social media and digital platforms for the promotion and protection of human rights.

While participating the meeting, the Commission's delegation also participated in the regional meeting of national human rights institutions in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, bilateral meetings were held with the National Human Rights Institutions of Mongolia and Korea to exchange experiences and discuss areas of mutual cooperation.

On the occasion, the delegation held discussions with officials of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and also met with representatives of the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations in Geneva. In the meeting, discussions were held on making Nepal's participation and coordination in international human rights forums effective.



The participation and discussions have contributed to further strengthening the role, credibility and international coordination and cooperation of the Commission.

Report on Rights Against Human Trafficking Published



The NHRC has released the *National Report on Rights Against Human Trafficking, 2026* amid a program held on April 13, highlighting the need to strengthen effective legal implementation, victim-centered protection and stronger inter-agency coordination to control human trafficking.

Since its establishment, under its constitutional mandate to protect, promote and ensure human rights, the NHRC has been publishing periodic reports on human trafficking since 2005. Continuing this practice, the current report incorporates facts and trends of the fiscal years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

According to the report, 99 percent of those affected by human trafficking are Nepali citizens, and the problem exists in almost every district of the country. The study shows that victims are particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation, trafficking and labor exploitation. Along with various regions of Nepal, countries in the Middle East have emerged as major destinations, while India has been identified as a major transit route.

The report states that vulnerable communities are often drawn into trafficking due to false promises, the lure of foreign employment, lack of information and socio-economic insecurity. It also identifies the increasing exploitation of migrant workers as a growing concern.

As a party to the United Nations, Nepal is required to effectively implement international obligations related to the prevention, control and victim protection of human trafficking, including the Palermo Protocol. The report emphasizes the need for more effective enforcement of these commitments, along with existing legal national provisions such as the Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Persons (Control) Act, 2007.

The report states that despite the existence of legal and policy provisions, implementation remains weak, delays



in justice, limitations in victim-friendly services, rehabilitation services and inadequacy of budget remain as continuing challenges. The report emphasizes that effective policy implementation, ending impunity, safe migration, victim-centered rehabilitation and multi-sectoral coordination are indispensable for controlling human trafficking.

The report was released in the presence of the NHRC Chairperson, representatives from government and security agencies, development partners, civil society, organizations active against human trafficking and media personnel. The program emphasized addressing human trafficking as a serious human rights violation and strengthening the state's commitment across all four dimensions: prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership. The Commission has expressed confidence that the report will provide policy and practical guidance to further strengthen the national efforts against human trafficking.

Discussion on Business and Human Rights Concluded



The Koshi Province Office of the NHRC organized a multi-stakeholder discussion program on business and human rights (BHR) in Biratnagar on April 8, based on the findings

of the monitoring of the situation of business and human rights. The program emphasized the need for responsible business practices, respect for human rights and strengthening coordination among the state, private sector and other stakeholders.

The program was organized after an on-site monitoring conducted in 33 food production and processing industries in various districts of Koshi Province. It focused on the relationship between business activities and human rights, especially labor rights, consumer rights,



women and children's rights, environmental rights and regulatory accountability. The monitoring was carried out with technical support from the Office of Food Technology and Quality Control.

The program included a presentation on the concept of international standards on business and human rights issued by the United Nations in 2011 and the status of the implementation of Nepal's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. The presentations highlighted the need to promote respect for human rights, risk reduction and accountable practices in business operations.

The program was attended by the Minister of Industry, Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Koshi Province, the Principal Secretary of the Province, representatives of local levels, the business and industrial sector, government institutions, civil society, human rights activists and media persons. Participants expressed their views on strengthening policy implementation, regular monitoring, regulation and enhancing the responsible role of the private sector.

During the discussion, the need to link labor rights protection, food quality, safe working environment, consumer protection and environmental responsibility in the industrial sector with human rights was highlighted. The representatives of the provincial government expressed their commitment to strengthening policy implementation, budget management and coordination, while the representatives of the private sector expressed their commitment to promoting responsible business

practices and collaborating for necessary reforms. Participants particularly stressed making policy implementation, monitoring, regulation, and private sector accountability more effective.



The Commission stated that the relationship between business and human rights should not be just a matter of regulation or compliance, but should be established as the foundation for human rights-friendly development. The program has made a significant contribution to the mainstreaming of human rights in business activities by developing a common concept through multi-stakeholder dialogue.

The program was chaired by the Head of the Koshi Province Office of the Commission, Bir Bahadur Budha Magar, and was attended as chief guest by Hon. Minister Insrail Mansuri.

Monitoring the Situation of Business and Human Rights



The NHRC's Koshi Province Office, in coordination with the Office of Food Technology and Quality Control, has conducted the monitoring of the business and human rights (BHR) situation. The monitoring was carried out in 33 food production and processing industries across Morang, Sunsari, Jhapa, Ilam, Udayapur, and Dhankuta districts, based on the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (2011).

The Commission had mobilized two separate joint monitoring teams including food research inspectors for



the monitoring. The monitoring covered small, medium and large industries under government, cooperative and private ownership, particularly those involved in the production and processing of daily consumer goods.

Although the business sector is an important foundation of economic development, it is equally necessary to ensure respect, protection and promotion of human rights. The Commission conducted on-site monitoring based on the three pillars of the Guiding Principles: the state's duty to protect human rights, the responsibility of businesses to respect human rights and access to remedy for victims. During the monitoring, facts were collected by interviewing the heads and representatives of industries, workers, trade unions and communities around the industries.

The monitoring found that the state has been making efforts to protect human rights through policies, structures, budgets, and programs, along with regular and periodic inspections and regulation. Most of the

monitored industries were found to be operating in accordance with legal standards, providing timely wages to workers, maintaining generally satisfactory food quality, and contributing significantly to employment generation and the economy.

However, in small and medium industries, weaknesses were observed particularly in environmental management. Around 51 percent of industries lacked Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports. Inequality was also found in access to social security and trade unions for workers employed through labor suppliers and grievance handling mechanisms at the industry level were found weak.



The monitoring concluded that although the legal situation between business and human rights is generally positive, further improvements are needed in terms of practical implementation.

Interaction on the Implementation Status of UPR and CEDAW Recommendations



An interaction program on the implementation status of recommendations provided to the Government of Nepal under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was held in Surkhet on March 25. The program was jointly organized by the Karnali Province Office of the National Human Rights Commission, Save the Children, and the CCRD, Karnali.

The program discussed the progress, challenges and provincial-level implementation status of these recommendations. Facilitating the session, Ramesh



Kumar Thapa, the Head of the NHRC's Karnali Province Office and Ram Prasad Upadhyay presented on the implementation status of the recommendations from both the UPR and the CEDAW Committee.

Participants emphasized the need to strengthen coordination and collaboration among state agencies, civil

society and other stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of human rights protections, gender equality and international commitments. The discussion also highlighted the importance of continuous dialogue and cooperation to enhance the effective implementation and monitoring of recommendations received from international human rights mechanisms.

The program was attended by Purna Bahadur Khatri, the President of the Social Development Committee of the Karnali Provincial Assembly; Kalyani Khadka, the President of the Provincial Affairs Committee; Provincial Assembly Member Urmila Bishwakarma; officials from various ministries; Narayan Subedi, Coordinator of INSEC Karnali Province Office; Pitambar Dhakal, Coordinator of the Human Rights Network Surkhet; as well as human rights defenders, civil society representatives, representatives of sexual and gender minority organizations, and other stakeholders.

Monitoring the Arrest of Former Prime Minister and Home Minister



A team from the National Human Rights Commission conducted on-site monitoring in connection with the arrest of former Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, former Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak and others. The monitoring team, comprising Human Rights Officers Khimananda Basyal, Ambika Ghimire and Tara Devi Wagle, visited Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, and the Central Investigation Bureau on March 30 to assess the human rights situation of those detained.

In the context of implementing the recommendations of the Karki Commission formed to investigate the Gen-Z movement that took place on September 8 and 9, the newly formed government had arrested former Prime

Minister Oli and former Home Minister Lekhak on March 28.

During the monitoring, it was found that former Prime Minister Oli was receiving treatment at Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital and was under medical supervision. He had access to meetings with family members and legal counsel. Similarly, in the case of former Home Minister Lekhak, it was found that he was in contact with his family and legal professionals, and his health condition was being monitored.

The monitoring found that the detained individuals had been taken into custody on the basis of arrest warrants, were provided with necessary medical care, allowed to meet their family members and lawyers and that the investigation process was progressing with regular extensions granted by the court.

At the same time, the Commission also monitored protests held in Maitighar and Baneshwor against the arrests. The demonstrations were found to have been conducted peacefully and the overall situation remained normal.

Monitoring of Protest Program



The Gandaki Province Office of the Commission, Pokhara has monitored the demonstration and protest program organized by the NCP (UML) District Committee, Kaski in

Pokhara on March 28 and 29 15 against the arrest of party Chairperson K.P. Sharma Oli.

A monitoring team led by the head of the Commission's Gandaki Province Office, Neetu Gartaula, along with Human Rights Officer Tanka Prasad Khanal observed the protest activities.

The protest began from Baidam Chowk in Pokhara and proceeded through Rastra Bank Chowk and Shahid Chowk, concluding in a corner assembly) at the District Administration Office. The monitoring found that no untoward incidents occurred during the protest. As part of the program, a memorandum was submitted to the Government of Nepal through the Chief District Officer.

Interaction with International Students



The National Human Rights Commission, Nepal, in coordination with the Kathmandu School of Law, organized an educational observation and interaction program with a study visit team of international students from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Timor-Leste, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

In a program organized at the meeting hall on April 6, students from various countries were informed about the role, functioning and achievements of the Commission in the field of protection and promotion of human rights. The program provided an opportunity to expand international understanding of the constitutional human rights body established in Nepal to the international community.

At the program, Navaraj Sapkota, Joint Secretary of commission made a presentation on the background of the establishment of the Commission, its constitutional and legal mandates, complaint registration and investigation processes, inquiries into human rights violations, monitoring of prisons and other institutions, as well as election monitoring and other key areas of work. He highlighted that the Commission has been collaborating with the government, civil society and international partners to promote and protect human rights.



In the interaction session that followed, Secretary Murari Prasad Kharel responded to questions from the participating students and shed light on the status,



challenges and opportunities of human rights in Nepal. He emphasized the Commission’s ongoing efforts to ensure victim-centered justice, enhance accountability and strengthen the rule of law.

The international students also shared experiences from their respective countries regarding the situation of human rights, the structure and effectiveness of national human rights institutions and public access to such bodies. They expressed particular interest in the role

played by human rights institutions in a socially diverse country like Nepal.

The study visit provided international students with direct insights into Nepal’s human rights protection mechanisms and contributed to the exchange of experiences, strengthening mutual understanding and expanding academic cooperation among countries. Such programs are expected to promote awareness among young people about universal value of human rights.

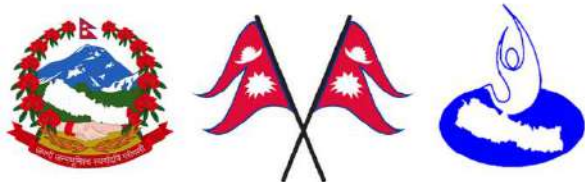
Orientation for Intern Students



The NHRC’s Gandaki Province Office, Pokhara has conducted an orientation program on March 23, for the students sent from Prithvi Narayan Campus for internship at the Commission.

The orientation was facilitated by the Head of the Gandaki Province Office, Neetu Gartaula, and Human Rights Officer Tanka Prasad Khanal. They oriented the trainees on the Commission’s duties, responsibilities and authority, as well as key human rights issues and the role of human rights defenders.

Seven students studying in the 10th semester of Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Laws (B.A. LL. B.) of Prithvi Narayan Multiple Campus Pokhara are participating in the internship program. After completing a 45-day study and practicum period, the students are required to prepare a human rights study report and present it at both the Commission’s provincial office and their respective campus.



Editorial Team

Kailash Kumar Siwakoti
Netra Bahadur Gautam
Pawan Bhandari

National Human Rights Commission Nepal
Hariharbhawan, Pulchok, Lalitpur

Phone No: +977-01-5010015
GPO Box No:9182, Kathmandu, Nepal.
Email: nhrc@nhrcnepal.org
Website: www.nhrcnepal.org