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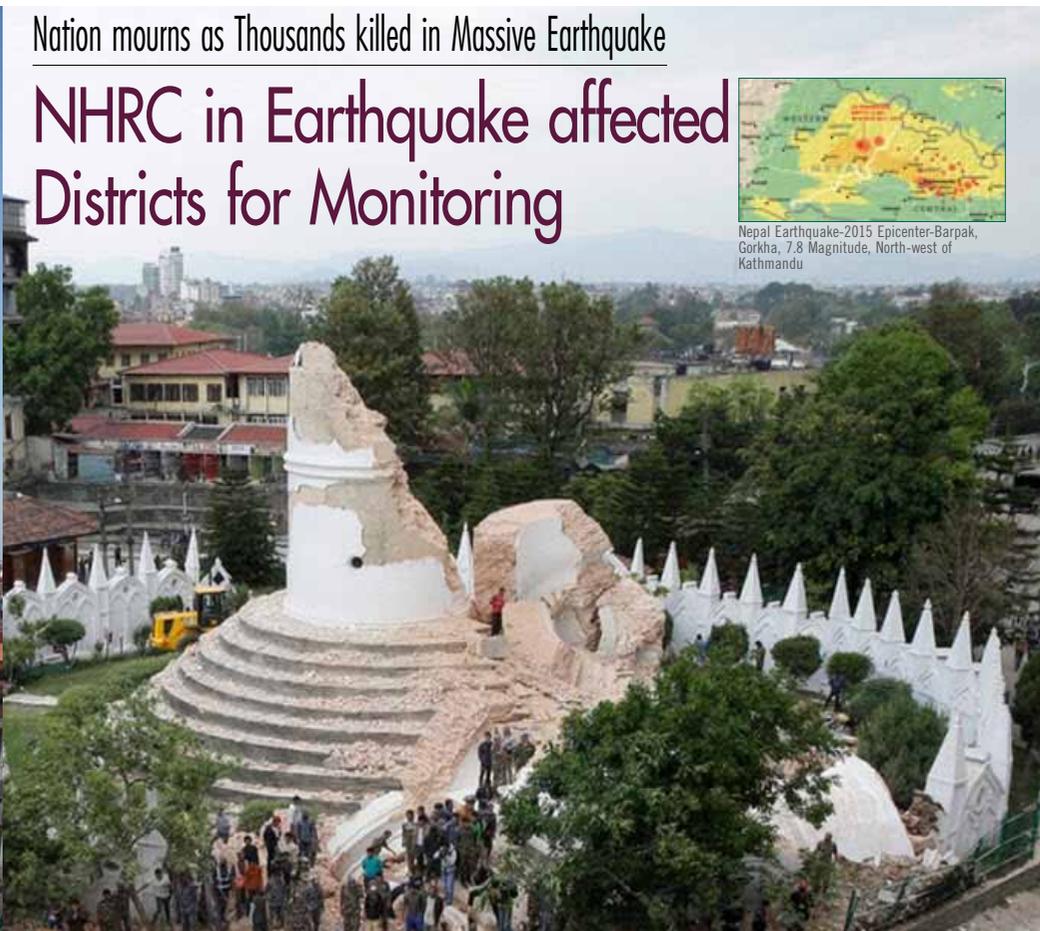
JUSTICE



# e-NEWSLETTER

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Nation mourns as Thousands killed in Massive Earthquake

## NHRC in Earthquake affected Districts for Monitoring



Nepal Earthquake-2015 Epicenter-Barpak, Gorkha, 7.8 Magnitude, North-west of Kathmandu

A scene of devastated Dharahara (World Heritage) before and after the massive earthquake hit the country on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2015  
Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

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**LALITPUR:** The Commission has expressed its deep sorrow over the loss of lives and the crisis invited by massive earthquake that hit the country on April 25, 2015. The earthquake has caused the irreparable loss of lives and rendered millions of people homeless in many parts of the country.

The Commission has urged all the earthquake affected victims to take shelter in secured place and to have patience while the country is passing through the unprecedented national crisis at the moment, says the press release issued by the Commission.

Similarly, the Commission has urged the government and private sector doctors, health workers and volunteers to extend their helping hand in providing treatment from their own sector to the injured caused due to tremor.

Enduring the crisis as such, the first and foremost priority at this hour is to provide treatment and relief to

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### PMO corresponded for the Arrangement of New Office Building

**LALITPUR:** The Commission has written to the Office of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers on 30<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015 respectively with a request for the arrangement of a permanent office building at the earliest enabling the Commission to operate its office smoothly as usual.

Following the damage caused to the office building of the Commission, National Judiciary Academy, Nepal National Library and Department of Civil Personal Records (Repository) located at Harihar Bhawan by the massive earthquake, technicians from the Department of Urban Development and Building of the Government of Nepal has tagged a red sticker declaring the building unsafe and full of risk for use.

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### Nation mourns as Thousands killed...

the victims of the massive earthquake, the press release reads.

The Commission has also called upon the Government of Nepal, international communities, social organizations and agencies, volunteers, HRs defenders and civil society to come forward to rescue those injured and killed in the massive earthquake and to effectively distribute the relief materials to the victims.

The Commission has also drawn the attention of the Government for the appropriate management and protection of the millions of citizens languishing under the open sky due to the fear of earthquake.

Meanwhile, a team led by Commissioner Sudip Pathak including Director Subarna Karmacharya and Assistant Janak Raj Bhatta has monitored the rescue work following the massive earthquake that hit the country on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2015.

## NEPAL EARTHQUAKE-2015

The team visited the Office of the Chief District Officer (CDO) and met the district administration officials including the CDO and obtained the preliminary information about the rescue work in and around the Kathmandu valley. The team also met with the Deputy Inspector General of Police of Metropolitan Police and discussed about the rescue work taking place at his command.

Similarly, a team led by Commissioner Sudip Pathak has monitored the Kathmandu based central jail on May 3, 2015 to collect the information on the aftermath of the massive earthquake.

It is learned that sixteen inmates were killed while forty inmates have sustained injury due to the earthquake. The injured are undergoing treatment at jail hospital while most inmates have been displaced at the premises of the jail following the devastation

caused due to the earthquake on 25<sup>th</sup> April, as per Jailor Bed Bahadur Karki.

The team found that building dwelled by remaining other inmates is also on the verge of collapse. The team has, therefore, recommended for the necessary verification of the prison cells whether or not they can be used for residing.

Also recommended is the treatment of the injured inmates and adoption of the precautionary measures to avoid the possible epidemics.

The team also recommended to acquire the tents for the temporary shelter to avoid the risk of yet another devastation.

Similarly, the Commission has drawn the attention of the Government towards the heavily stocked food stuff and relief materials donated by various countries and international donor agencies at the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) and make arrangement to dispatch them to the victims with immediate effect by using the means of transportation via air or land.

The Commission has also drawn the attention to the Government to immediately rescue the earthquake victims trapped in the debris of destroyed houses and distribute the relief materials in effective way.

Also, there is a need of coordination among the stakeholder authorities to manage the dead bodies of the earthquake victims and their last rites in time lest there could be negative upshot on the people's health people, the press note reads.

The press note further says that there is a possibility of outbreak of epidemics due to the lack of appropriate management of the garbage produced at the human settlement in the open field due to the massive earthquake.

The Commission has also urged the citizens including the concerned authorities to remain alert and adopt security measures to control the criminal activities such as theft while the citizens

are languishing at the tents in open field leaving their houses unattended due to the fear of earthquake.

Meanwhile, the Commission has issued a directive to the Government for the effective distribution of relief materials to the victims of massive earthquake of 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2015.

The NHRC monitoring teams have found that the earthquake victims haven't received the relief materials in various places of Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur districts and thus the directive has been issued to the government for the effective distribution of the relief materials to the victims.

The Commission has written a letter to the GoN to make arrangement of the tent and food stuffs keeping in mind the rescue work of those victims rendered homeless in the first priority.

The Commission has also drawn the attention of the GoN to make a special arrangement for pregnant women, persons with disabilities, senior citizens and children taking into account the public condemnation of the relief materials being distributed in an unfair manner.

Since the reports are pouring in about the relief distribution being politicized in many earthquake affected areas, the Commission has urged the concerned stakeholders to make an arrangement to stop such practice and ensure that the relief materials reach to the victims directly as soon as possible.

Similarly, the Commission has sent a team to Sundhupalchok and Dolakha at the leadership of Commissioner Prakash Osti and another team to Dhading and Gorkha at the leadership of Commissioner Sudip Pathak on May 4, 2015 in order to monitor the rescue work and the human rights situation of the earthquake affected citizens.

Of late, one more team at the leadership of Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal has rushed to Ramechhap, Okhaldhunga and Solukhumbu districts for monitoring on the activities related to rescue and relief distribution to the earthquake affected victims.

Nepal Earthquake-2015

## 200 Earthquake affected Children rehabilitated



Children after the building of Bal Mandir was damaged  
Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

**KATHMANDU:** The massive earthquake didn't spare the building of Bal Mandir (Children Home) at Naxal, Kathmandu. Two hundred children were rendered shelter less following the heavy damage caused to the building by the earthquake on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2015. Following the damage, the Bal Mandir management was compelled to keep the children at a garage situated at the

premises of Paustic Aahar (Nutritious Food) Program building which actually belonged to Bal Mandir, according to the Bal Mandir Management.

Upon the complaint registered at the Commission by the Bal Mandir Management, keeping in mind the safeguarding the rights of child, therefore, the NHRC monitoring team comprising Director Subarna Karmachayra, Human Rights Officers Basu Dev Bajagain and Sarita Gyawali initiated to rehabilitate the children at a safe place in coordination with the District Administration Office and the Education Ministry lest they could fall sick due to chillness.

Following the directives of the commission, therefore, a team of Nepal Police evacuated the building and rehabilitated the disaster-hit children aged ranging from 3 to 15 at the building specified by the District Administration and the Education Ministry at the presence of the Commission.



The damaged office building of Bal Mandir, Naxal (Kathmandu)



The NHRC team holding a talk with the concerned prior to rehabilitating the children of Bal Mandir  
Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

Massive Earthquake damages Office Building of the Commission, may fall apart any time



The NHRC Office Building damaged by the massive earthquake of 25th April-2015  
Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

**LALITPUR:** The massive earthquake that hit the country on 25th and 26th of April, 2015 has damaged the office building of the Commission. The incident of tremor has completely affected the daily office works of the Commission ever since.

Following the incident of damage caused by the massive earthquake, the office has been temporarily set up at the child care centre of the Commission lest the damaged office building could collapse any time. The office building being damaged impeding the entire office works as such, the arrangement of new office would only ensure the protection.

In this regard, the Commission has already written to the Office of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers for the arrangement of the permanent office building.

Similarly, the Commission has been monitoring the activities related to the crisis management on daily basis following the unprecedented disaster that hit the country.

## Implementation of the NHRC Recommendations stressed



Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma, Commissioner Sudip Pathak, Commissioner Prakash Osti and Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal responding to the queries and concerns raised by the stakeholder representatives at a program held at NHRC.  
Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

of human rights as Human Rights Violators, as per the article 7 of the NHRC Act-2012.

At the program, amendment in the existing laws was also suggested to make the human rights violators accountable for due implementation of the recommendations. The NHRC Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma and other Commissioners said that the Commission has already taken steps for the effective implementation of the NHRC recommendations.

Meanwhile, the Commission met with officials from the Prime Minister's Office, Health Ministry, Ministry of Home Affairs, Defense Ministry, Nepal Medical Association and Nursing Association of Nepal and took stock of the situation in Jajarkot tragedy.

At the discussion held at the NHRC, the commission has issued a directive to the Officials from various Ministries to establish coordination among one another with regard to the Jajarkot incident and resolve the problems by combating the endemic as soon as possible.

As of now, at least 28 people are reported to have died of a disease in the district believed to have been caused due to H1N1 virus.

**LALITPUR:** The National Human Rights Commission has organized a consultation with the civil society for the effective implementation of the NHRC recommendations on the incidents of human rights violation in the context of dissatisfying implementation status of most of the NHRC recommendations.

At the program, the Commission informed that the recommendations have been made on a total of 737 complaints on the incidents of human rights violations. It is learnt that, among these, 14% of the recommendations has been fully implemented, 48% has been partially implemented while 38% of them remains unimplemented till date.

Expressing worries over the bleak picture of implementation status of

the NHRC recommendations, human rights activists and the members of civil society lamented over the government's apathy towards the issue and strongly stressed on the effective implementation of the constitutional rights body's recommendations in full.

They have also suggested to the Commission to carry out vetting of the officials, authorities, the individuals and publicize their names in the event of their failure to implement the NHRC recommendations as per NHRC Act-2012.

The Commission may make public names of officials, persons or agencies that do not knowingly implement or observe the recommendations or orders or directives made by the Commission with regard to violation



Former NHRC Commissioners and other participants sharing their inputs and suggestions at a program held on the implementation status of the NHRC recommendations  
Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

## Concern expressed on the Gaur Incident



Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma, Commissioners and the Officials from the OPM, Ministry of Home Affairs and the Chiefs of Security Agencies at a discussion held on the Gaur incident  
Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

**LALITPUR:** The National Human Rights Commission has conducted monitoring on the protest program organized in Gaur following the expansion of the service centers under the purview of the government offices in Rautahat district.

The information has been received that the protestors have pelted stones allegedly involving them in arson and vandalism due to which both the police and the protestors have sustained injury.

It has been found that Ram Ashish Thakur of Ward 10 of Gaur Municipality was allegedly killed when the van belonging to the armed police hit him while attempting to reverse following the chaos created by a mob of three to four hundred people gathered at Sabgada of the district on April 3, 2015.

In this regard, the Commission has invited the officials including the secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs, Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Inspector General of Nepal Police and Armed Police Force to the Commission and held discussion. The Commission has expressed concern on sustaining the peace and security and the incidents of violence perpetuated on the human rights workers, women and the common citizens.

During the discussion, the Home Secretary had informed that maintaining restraint, it stepped up investigation in the event of any incident of violence due to the use of excessive force and the efforts inculcated from the side of the government to resolve the problem.

In this regard, it is the fundamental rights of the citizens to receive services at the close proximity of their habitual residence in the democratic governance system. Since it is deemed necessary to make decision and implement on such matters keeping in mind the proportion of population and geographical setting together with adequate study conducted and consultation advanced with the service seekers on the basis of principle of equality in service, the Commission has drawn the attention of all stakeholders towards this.

The Commission has urged all the parties to carry out fair investigation on the killing of Ram Ashish Thakur including the incidents of ill treatment perpetuated on women, media persons, and common citizens and take legal action against the accused, to make arrangement for necessary treatment of the injured, and to create an environment congenial for journalists and human rights workers to discharge their duties without any undue hindrances.

## NHRC expresses Concern on the Jajarkot Epidemics

**LALITPUR:** The National Human Rights Commission has drawn the attention of the government towards ineffective control of epidemic in Jajarkot district due to the lack of coordination among the government agencies including Health Ministry, Ministry of Home Affairs and Defense Ministry, Nepal Medical Association and Nepal Nursing Association at a discussion held in the presence of the Chairperson and Commissioners.

At the program, the Commission has urged the government to make arrangement of adequate resources to conduct the emergency rescue and to provide effective treatment to the sick by adopting necessary high alert and conducting effective awareness raising program to prevent the endemic to spread in other neighboring districts.

At the discussion, Nepal Medical Association and the Nepal Nursing Association have expressed commitment to make necessary volunteers if the government calls for.

Earlier, the Commission had reminded that many people had to lose their life due to the outbreak of endemic in Jajarkot in the past and it again creeps in.

The Commission, therefore, would like to draw the attention of the government to equip the local authorities with sufficient facilities in order to evade repercussion of epidemics in the district in future.

The Commission will conduct monitoring on whether or not the directive issued by the Commission to the concerned Ministries to advance in a coordinated manner to control the epidemics is compiled with.

## Action Plans sketched for the Role of South Asian NHRIs to further promote Human Rights of Women and Girls



Commissioner Mohna Ansari, APF Deputy Director Pip Dargan, NHRC Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma, Com. Praksh Osti, Acting Secretary Bed P. Bhattarai and Alison Aggrawal of the NHRC – Australia at the APF South Asian NHRIs Workshop on ‘The Human Rights of Women and Girls’ organized jointly by the APF of NHRIs and NHRC-Nepal (Form L to R)  
Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

**KATHMANDU:** The South Asian regional workshop entitling ‘APF South Asian NHRIs Workshop on ‘The Rights of Women and Girls’ (13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> April, 2015) concluded on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 in Kathmandu. The workshop was organized jointly by the National Human Rights Commission-Nepal and the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) and sponsored by the APF.

At the opening session, Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma of NHRC-Nepal said, ‘In the South Asian Region, we have common problems and challenges quite often endured for the protection of the rights of women and girls. I believe that following this workshop, the officers from the NHRIs of South Asia will be well-equipped with more professional knowledge and skills which help them to embark upon wider protection and promotion of the women and girls rights in their respective countries.’

Mentioning about the NHRC-Nepal mission human rights for all in every household, a base of peace and development, Chairperson Sharma said, “We at the NHRC-Nepal firmly believe that if human rights enter a home, it will not only prevent violence against women, but also it will prevent the repercussion of domestic violence perpetrated on women and girls with equality and respect fostered towards women”.

He also shared that the NHRC Nepal has been proposed as the venue for

Annual Meeting of APF for the year 2017.

The Chairperson expressed his thanks to APF team including Deputy Director Pip Dargan, Suraina Pasha, Alison Agrawal and Ash Bowe for their splendid work for making the event a grand success.

Delivering the welcome address at the program, Commissioner Mohna Ansari of NHRC-Nepal, portrayed the incidents of violence against women (VAW), human trafficking specially on women and children, inequality and discrimination against women as the major obstacles for realizing the rights of women and mentioned that legal and policy wise arrangement is inevitable to combat the situation.

Mentioning about similar socio-economic and cultural conditions for women and girls of south Asian countries, Commissioner Ansari said that rights of women and girls are the top priorities for NHRC-Nepal.

‘While we are making efforts to improve situation for women’s and girls’ rights, we are also eager to learn from experiences of other countries how we can move ahead to address the de-facto situation of the rights of women and girls,’ she concluded.

The Deputy Director of APF Pip Dargan threw light on the context, objective and rationale of the five day long workshop.

Thanking the NHRC – Nepal for warm welcome and hospitality shown to the

training team from APF she said that women’s rights are human rights and APF provides a regional platform for NHRIs to discuss human rights issues in wider spectrum.

Citing the South Asian regional event as an exciting milestone event for the APF to run its first blended learning program that completely focuses on the critical issue of human rights of women and girls, she urged the participants to think about how they can use their official mandates along with their enhanced knowledge and skills gained at the workshop to better promote and protect human rights of women and girls. She also reiterated that men and boys must also be a part of the solution in addressing discrimination and violence against women and girls.

The Deputy Director also commended the role of the NHRC as an active member of the APF, highlighted the de-facto situation of reproductive rights, VAW and women’s rights in the South Asian countries.

The workshop, she said, would examine the international frame work and will look at the NHRI activities taken up in pipeline for safeguarding the rights of women and girls.

She mentioned that participants, as part of the workshop, would develop action plans on the stipulated theme for the purpose of implementing them in their respective institutions and countries.

Pip Dargan also outlined the APF commitment to gender equality and gender integration ‘We will monitor, evaluate & report on what we do. We are developing gender indicators. We will monitor our impact over the 5 year period and conduct a baseline survey” she concluded.

The representatives of six NHRIs including India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Afghanistan participated in the workshop. The lead trainer was Alison Aggarwal,

# Glimpses of the APF South Asian NHRIs Workshop

Photos: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office



APF and NHRC-Nepal officials exchanging token of love after the workshop



Group Photo



NHRC-Sri Lanka



NHRC-India



NHRC-Afghanistan



NHRC-Bangladesh



NHRC-Maldives



NHRC-Nepal

a senior officer from the NHRC Australia, Pip Dargan, APF Deputy Director and Mohna Ansari, the NHRC Commissioner presented the working papers during the workshop.

During the workshop, the workplan has been developed for the respective NHRIs.

Work Plan makes the bases as to how to use the national inquiries and also help the stakeholders become gender sensitized.

The work plan also aims at establishing the collaboration by sharing best practices, experiences including the preventive strategies and measures among one another to deal with gender based violence including sexual harassment by engaging the communities.

The NHRIs concerned need to be well equipped to apply best practices. It

also calls for integrating women and girls' rights into NHRI strategies and action plans. In order to put action in place, they need to apply Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) within all respective NHRIs.

Commissioner Prakash Osti, in his concluding remark, extended his sincere thanks to the APF training team led by Pip Dargan, Deputy Director of APF, Alison Agrawal from Australian Human Rights Commission, Suraina Pasha, Ash Bowe and the NHRC staff Shree Ram Adhikari for their tireless efforts and hard work to make this workshop a grand success.

He urged the participants to use acquired knowledge and skills in the respective countries.

He mentioned that the newly adopted Strategic Plan of the NHRC-Nepal has identified that women and girls are in

one of the major priority issues of the NHRC Nepal.

He also shared that the NHRC-Nepal has envisioned to establish National Human Rights Academy, which will empower the government, security agencies, human rights defenders, NGOs and needy citizens of the country.

Congratulating the training team including the participants for having developed the action plan via the workshop, Commissioner Osti said that it will be the guidelines for the NHRIs and the policy makers of the respective countries to sketch the roadmap for safeguarding the rights of women and girls in the region.

Thanking all involved in the weeklong workshop-cum-training, Commissioner Osti declared the closing of the event.

# Inaugural address by the Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma on the Occasion of the APF South Asian NHRIs Workshop on "The Human Rights of Women and Girls"

It is a pleasure to attend the opening session of the South Asian Workshop on National Human Rights Institutions and Human Rights of Women and Girls of the region. May I take this opportunity to congratulate the Asia Pacific Forum and NHRC Nepal and to express my appreciation for organizing and hosting this Workshop in Nepal. I would also like to thank all NHRIs from South Asia for sending their participants to this workshop.

I would like to recall here once again that NHRC-Nepal has successfully organized two mega events before in collaboration with Asia Pacific Forum. And this time, it is a great pleasure that NHRC Nepal's has acquired this opportunity to host this Workshop again. In South Asian Region, we have common problems and challenges quite often endured for the protection of the rights of women and girls. I believe that following this workshop, the workforce including the core staffs from the NHRIs of South Asia will be well-equipped with more professional knowledge and skills which help them to embark upon wider protection and promotion of the women and girls rights in their respective countries.

The need of regional human rights network has been felt many times in this region and concerted efforts have been made in this concern so far. Hosting over one fourth world population South Asia is home to some of world's most ancient civilizations, cultures, religions and languages, South Asian nations are bound by historical ties with vivid exchanges among its people. Despite historical riches, South Asian Region continues to grapple with grave human rights violations.

Poverty, terrorism, extremism, corruption and deficiencies in democratic institutions are a serious setback for the region. Women, children and minorities continue to

be marginalized and require greater standards of protection.

A South Asian Human Rights Network can help

- Greater realization of human rights of the region
- Address specific issues and challenges faced by the region, providing workable solutions
- Promote greater peace and stability to the region through ensuring human rights of its people.

While Europe, America, Africa and the Arab States have successfully established regional mechanism for human rights, South Asia lags behind South Asian network is yet to be materialized.

I am of the opinion that, at least, we have to develop regional network among the NHRIs from the SAARC nations and work on equality and non-discrimination against women of South Asia in the first place on the very ground that the South Asian region share the common problems and challenges such as social taboos including many harmful practises, dowry, discrimination, domestic violence, violence against women etc.

May I take this opportunity to share with you that the NHRC Nepal has developed its six years mission as "Human rights for all in every household, a base of peace and development". There are several objectives based on this theme and one of the most crucial ones is access of human rights paved for all in every household. We at the NHRC-Nepal firmly believe that if human rights enter a home, it will not only prevent violence against women, but it will also prevent the occurrence of domestic violence perpetrated on women and girls. It will also increase equality and respect towards women. We also believe that it will help women and girls including others to enjoy their human rights on the basis of dignity, freedom and equality. For this, the



NHRC Nepal is all set to advance its activities and endeavours on the basis of its new Strategic Plan.

It is a great pleasure to share with you that the NHRC Nepal has proposed Nepal, the land of Himalayas as the venue for Annual Meeting of APF for the year 2017. This event will be a huge platform for us to discuss more deeply on human rights issues and concerns including the women's rights of the Asian region.

I, on behalf of the Commission, would like to express my sincere thanks to APF team who had wholeheartedly worked to make this event a grand success. Similarly, I personally thank Deputy Director Pip Dargan, Suraina Pasha, Alison Aggrawal and Ash Bove for their tireless engagement and of course the splendid work.

I would like to request all the participants to work more diligently and professionally with the knowledge and skills gained in the workshop for the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls.

Last but certainly not the least, your sincere engagement to use this forum as a place of learning and sharing will enthruse us to explore new ideas and vision that will pledge support to draft common policies and plans for the gender and women rights in the days to come.

I wish a great success of this workshop and hope you will enjoy your stay in our country Nepal.

Thank you !



Commissioner Sudip Pathak and the NHRC staff members including Dr. Tika Ram Pokharel and Jyoti Ghimire from the NHRC Regional Office Pokhara during the monitoring on the CA by-election held in Baglung district  
 Photo: Jyoti Ghimire, Regional Office, Pokhara

## CA By-Election monitored through Human Rights Perspectives

**BAGLUNG:** An NHRC monitoring team comprising Commissioner Sudip Pathak and the NHRC officials including Dr. Tika Ram Pokharel and Jyoti Prasad Ghimire has monitored the overall human rights situation in western districts including Gorkha, Lamjung, Tanahu, Mustang, Myagdi and Baglung districts.

During the course of monitoring, the team held interaction and discussion programs on various contemporary

human rights issues and concerns with the district level government bodies, NGOs, representatives of security agencies and civil society, human rights defenders and media persons. The program also focused on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report, human rights laws and the implementation status of the international human rights treaties and conventions to which Nepal is a party and the NHRC activities.

At the program, the participants raised their concern on the NHRC role to be in the lead to bring about awareness on human rights in the region. They also laid their emphasis on taking the prototype program to other parts of the country.

Meanwhile, the team monitored the Constituent Assembly By-Election being held in Baglung district and obtained the information about whether or not the election was conducted from human rights perspectives. They also kept vigil on whether the contesting parties complied with the election code of conduct or not.

The team also inspected the district based prison and detention center in Lamjung district. Commissioner Pathak met with the jailor and the inmates serving their terms on various charges. Upon inspection, Commissioner Pathak issued directives to improve the physical infrastructures, facilities including health facilities and other income generating activities provided at the prison.

Commissioner Pathak also gave interview in the district based FM station in Lamjung district.

## Sort out the Problem through Talks to evade Scuffle: NHRC Jumla Office

**JUMLA:** The NHRC Sub Regional Office Jumla has monitored the incident of scuffle between the Police and demonstrators representing the Disabled Rehabilitation and Development Center on March 26, 2015.

The scuffle took place when the police tried to unlock the gate of the Jumla based District Education Office which was padlocked by the protestors of the Disabled Rehabilitation and Development Center with the their 5-point demand placed forth, according to the report sent form NHRC Sub Regional Office.

Their demands include the reinstatement of the post of account coordinator with the person with disability under special education

in Karnali Secondary School, Anamnagar, appropriate management of special classes for the special resource class, appointment of the person with disability in the relief quota including the information sharing about the budget expenses incurred in the construction of disabled friendly infrastructures.

Upon monitoring, the Sub Regional Office, Jumla has made a number of recommendations with regard to the grievances and demand of district based persons with disability associated with the Disabled Rehabilitation and Development Center .

The recommendations include the redress of the demand to be made prior to the individuals, groups or

the organizations opt for an agitation to have their demands meted out by means of protest. In this regard, the Commission is of the opinion that if the problems are sorted out through dialogues well in time, the scuffle of any sort can be evaded.

The police administration, on the other hand, have to restrain using excessive use of force while controlling the protest organized by the persons with disability. The surety agency is also urged to protect the rights of the citizens to organize peaceful protest provisioned through the constitution, the report sent form the NHRC Sub Regional Office Jumla says.

## Civil Society to play its Role for the Protection of HRs: Commissioner Paudyal



Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal and NHRC Regional Head Dr. Tika Ram Pokharel along with the civil society members from the cross section of society at a program held during the human rights situation monitoring in west  
Photo: Jyoti Ghimire, Regional Office, Pokhara

**PARVAT/SYANGJA:** Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal has said that the role of civil society becomes extremely pivotal in transitional period.

Speaking as the chief guest at the third District Citizen Conference and the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of NGO Federation Parvat, Commissioner Paudyal commended the exemplary role played by the citizen network, Parvat. The program was chaired by Yam BK, the chair of the Citizen Network, Parvat.

Commissioner Paudyal added that the NHRC has been advancing its activities in close coordination and collaboration with civil society in order to have access of human rights to every household as the base of development as envisioned lately by the Commission.

He also informed about the guidelines on the coordination and collaboration with civil society issued by the Commission already in implementation phase for a long time now.

Commissioner Paudyal mentioned that the Commission has developed its six year Strategic Plan (2015-20) giving an effort to give space to human rights activities accomplished by the NGOs. He also expressed his commitment to help boost coordination and collaboration with the local level NGOs for the overall promotion of human rights.

The participants had raised queries

with regard to good governance and transparency to make the service providing government authorities accountable.

Speakers at the program also stressed on the guardianship role of the Commission. They laid their emphasis on strengthening and broadening its role in future.

The NHRC team comprising the Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal including the NHRC Regional Head Dr. Tika Ram Pokharel and other staff members was on a monitoring mission in Parvat and Syangjha districts from 28-31 of March, 2015.

The NHRC team also visited the Chief District Officer Indu Ghimire, the first ever CDO of the country in Syangjha district and had comprehensive discussion on the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan of the government with the district authority.

Meanwhile, the team carried out monitoring on district prison in Syangjha. The team met with the chief of the prison, security chief of the prison, prefect (Naika) and inmates serving their term on various criminal charges.

During the visit, Commissioner Paudyal also gave interview on contemporary human rights issues and the NHRC activities in the local radio Kusum of Parvat district and radio Barahi of Kaski district.

## Stop Arson and Vandalism

**LALITPUR:** The National Human Rights Commission has monitored the general strike called by the Thirty Party Alliance including the UCPN (Maoists). The life across the country has been hit hard by the bandh program on April 7, 2015, the first day of the bandh, as per the monitoring.

There have been reports of clashes between the demonstrators and the Police at places like Bijuli Bazaar of Kathmandu and Bhojpur district. A taxi and a motorcycle have been reportedly blazed by the demonstrators in Kathmandu. Similarly, the demonstrators have blazed private motorcycles in Janakpur, Morang, Kanchanpur and Surkhet districts. The demonstrators have also vandalized the Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Division Office in Dhanusha district. The bandh enforcers have damaged the office equipment in the office of the Office Chief and vandalized a Toyota pickup van with the number Ba. 1 Jha 5312 parked at the office premises.

Though the political parties, organizations, agencies and the protestors have the right to protest, they must adopt peaceful and democratic process in a democratic system.

The incidents of arson and vandalism caused by the demonstrators to the private vehicles have drawn the attention of the Commission. In this regard, the Article 12 (F) of the Interim Constitution of Nepal – 2007 has ensured the freedom to practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, industry, or trade.

Since the activities like bandh program violate the fundamental rights of the citizens, the Commission would like to draw the attention of all the concerned parties to stop such activities forever.

## Stakeholders provide Inputs and Suggestions



Resource persons and the participants at a program organized on the NHRC draft National Report on Trafficking in Persons (TIP)-2014  
Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

**LALITPUR:** The stakeholder representatives provided their inputs and suggestions amid a consultation held with the NGOs, Nepal Police, UN Agencies and the Judiciary among others.

The Commissioner/Spokesperson Mohna Ansari chaired the program while Acting Secretary shed light on the objective of the program.

Underscoring the importance of four Rs such as Rescue, Repatriations and Rehabilitation and Reintegration, Secretary Bhattarai also mentioned about four Ps paradigm such as PROTECTION, PREVENTION, PROSECUTION and PARTNERSHIPS in terms combating the trafficking in person specially on women and children.

At the program, expert Tek Narayn Kunwar, the judge of Lalitpur District Court made his presentation on the national level de-facto situation of trafficking in persons in the country.

Making comprehensive elucidation on the TIP, Mr. Kunwar mentioned about the both national and international human rights instruments that pave ways to work on the issues of intra national human trafficking and transnational trafficking. He also threw light on the legal approaches in practice to impede trafficking by way of using the latest techniques.

The report of Trafficking in persons 2014 is prepared by Aurora Research Center Private Limited with the expertise availed from Ratna Kaji Bajracharya.

At the program, the feedback mainly focused on the situation of trafficked persons based on the reliable data and study on trafficking.

Underlining the dire need of intervention on the TIP, Mr. Kunwar unveiled that the study shows the rate of human trafficking has increased by 60.34 percent in one-and-a-half years. The number of people trafficked or attempted for trafficking were 13000 and 16000 respectively in 2014.

Would-be publicized national report on TIP concludes that trafficking is common for three major purposes-sexual exploitation, labor exploitation and entertainment, according to Mr. Kunwar.

At the program, the participants also had comprehensive discussion on the review on the Human Trafficking and Transportation Act-2007. Urging to have the review on the definition, they suggested to have effective arrangement for the compensation to the survivors of trafficking and to verify the testimony of the victims at the presence of the district attorney.

In this regard, expert Kunwar mentioned that Anti Trafficking Act

was drawn in 2064 BS which paves ways for punishing those who lure the aspiring employees in foreign land and offer hazardous employment to them, yet the criminals involved in such defrauded act are left scot-free.”

Likewise, studies have shown poverty, gender-based violence, unemployment, lack of education, gender inequalities, awareness of safe migration and laws related to combating violence make women and children susceptible to trafficking, the report reads.

Similarly, The Global Slavery Index Report (2013) ranks Nepal fifth among 162 countries in modern day slavery, as per the report.

At the program, the stakeholder representatives unanimously laid their emphasis on the report to be based on the reliable information and the study carried out on the basis of truth.

Commissioner Ansari, in her closing remark as the chair of the program, said that the Commission would urge the government to formulate a national policy on prevention and combating trafficking and revise the existing National Plan of Actions and other acts and rules accordingly.

She added that despite having the law and mechanism, the legal response has always been a challenge with regard to the implementation concerning trafficking.

She urged that the implementation side will be taken into account with greater attention to evoke the sense of duty among the implementing agencies/authorities.

Expressing hope about the report to work as a preventive and advocacy tool, Commissioner Ansari said that the report would basically need a lot of exercise for monitoring and reviews in the first place.

Closing the program, she confided the stakeholder agencies that the inputs provided by them would get an ample space in the report.

# Images of the Devastation caused by the Nepal Earthquake-2015

Photos: Yadab Poudel, Central Office



Monitoring on rescue work in devastated site in Kathmandu



Monitoring on rescue work in devastated site in Kathmandu



Meeting with Jailor Bed Bahadur Karki about the effect of the earthquake at the Central Jail, Kathmandu



Monitoring on Jail hospital at the Central Jail, Kathmandu



The damaged wall of the prison cell at the Central Jail, Kathmandu



Inmates taking shelter at the premises of collapsed building outside the Central Jail, Kathmandu

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