



e-Newsletter



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Consultation on Mid Term UPR Report:

Stakeholders provide Inputs for the Report

LALITPUR: While the National Human Rights Commission is in full swing in preparing the mid-term Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Report to be submitted to the Human Rights Council, Geneva during the forthcoming session, a consultation was held with the civil society organizations and other non-governmental human rights organizations at the NHRC.

The program was held in accordance with the conclusion reached during the consultations held between Government, NHRIs and CSO Coalition on UPR to be initiated to discuss strategies and preparation for the mid-term UPR report to Human Rights Council on the status of implementation of UPR recommendations by the Government together with the current de facto human rights situation in the country.

The objective of the program was to have sharing on the implementation status of UPR recommendations upon receiving the recommendations via last UPR sessions held in Geneva, transitional justice, peace process, impunity together with recently emerged human rights issues and concerns in the country.

Speaking on the occasion, NHRC Member and Spokesperson Gauri Pradhan elucidated that 135 recommendations in total were made and 56 recommendations accepted by the Government of Nepal whereas 15 recommendations were rejected. Making a brief review on this thereafter, Member Pradhan called on the representatives of civil society organizations and NGOs, human rights organizations to share both specific and general comments preferably in writing so that they could be incorporated in the would-be submitted UPR report.

Meanwhile, he also urged the participants to provide the comments based on the truth

with special focus on the implementation of the 9 core conventions to which Nepal is a party. He also urged them to have thorough cramming on the newly emerged human rights issues including the Economic, Social and Cultural (ESC) rights violation of the minority indigenous communities, Dalits and backward communities, senior citizens, women and children including migrant workers. The participants, on the other hand, raised the concern about a few communities living in caves.

Citing the UPR report presented in the past, he assured that utmost effort would be made to have the report reflect the human rights situation of the past 2 and half years. 'We are conceptually clear that NHRC UPR report would be apparently a great help to the Government report on UPR,' said Member Pradhan.

“ We are conceptually clear that NHRC Mid-Term UPR report would be a great help to the Government report. - Gauri Pradhan ”

Member Pradhan spelled out that the Government report should not only be positive in human rights concerns but it should also be fair and people oriented.

Commending the Government initiative of National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) and its implementation, he said that the state should not assume the comments provided with regard to this as a mere criticism but an opportunity to revamp things through state mechanisms for building the systems in the days to come.

At the program, the participants explored the de-facto political situation following the dissolution of Constituent Assembly affecting the human rights situation in the country. Most of them underscored the issues related to establishments of transitional justice mechanisms, passage and enactment of laws related to human rights such as criminalizing torture, protection of

victims and witnesses and so on so forth. They also emphasized that the plans and policies promulgated by the state should encompass all sections of the society.

The participants also urged the NHRC to take the lead in raising awareness among the local level state actors with regard to the human rights treaties and conventions. The participants, on the other hand, unanimously lamented over the existing vacuum in judiciary which would leave numerous human rights concerns unaddressed. They raised the concern that after the court dispensing order, the state together with the NHRIs ought to see whether or not the order is complied with or implemented accordingly. At the same time, they stressed that without the civil and political rights, people's human rights wouldn't be realized. They flayed the system going subjugated with criminals going scot-free whereas the innocent citizens are victimized.

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Institute a Probe with Immediate Effect into the Murder of Krishna Prasad Adhikari: Chairperson

LALITPUR: NHRC Chairperson Kedar Nath Upadhyay has requested Home Minister Madhav Prasad Ghimire to promptly proceed with the investigation process in connection with the case of murdered Krishna Prasad Adhikari.

The NHRC Chair Upadhyay had urged this to Home Minister Madhav Prasad Ghimire at a meeting held with the latter at the Commission.

Stating that it is not legal to hold back the probe into accused persons on the ground of Government's decision not to proceed with the investigation on the cases of conflict period, the Chairperson said that the victims must have to be delivered with justice.

The Chairperson stressed on the guarantee of justice to the parents of late Adhikari who have been staging fast unto death demanding justice.

Speaking on the occasion, Home Minister Ghimire said that the Government of Nepal was absolutely sensitive towards the series of struggles by the family of late Adhikari for justice and the Government was doing best possible to establish measures for the justice delivery to them.

Home Minister, however, informed that since the Government has decided on June 12, 2006 to not proceed with the investigation on the cases of conflict period, there is a legal obscurity to proceed with

A few facts

The 19-year-old Krishna Prasad Adhikari, the resident of Fujel Village Development Committee, Ward – 7 of Gorkha district was abducted from Bakulahar Chok, Ratnanagar Municipality, Ward - 1 of Chitwan district by the then Maoists cadres on June 5, 2004 and murdered a day after his abduction on June 6, 2004. Soon after the incident, the family members of deceased Adhikari had registered FIR against few persons involved in the murder of Adhikari .

Following the series of threats received upon filing the case, entire Adhikari family including elder brother Noor Prasad Adhikari fled their hometown of Fujel VDC in Gorkha on December 25, 2007.

The National Human Rights Commission, upon conducting the investigation on April 5, 2009, had recommended to the Government of Nepal to probe into the incident of criminal offence demanding the relief and reparation to the victim's family and to create an environment for their safe return to the village.

Adhikari's parents Nanda Prasad Adhikari and Ganga Maya Adhikari are on fast unto death demanding justice. They were admitted to Bir Hospital after their health condition deteriorated.



Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay and Commissioners at a program held with Home Minister Madhav Prasad Ghimire at NHRC

the investigation on the case of murdered Krishna Prasad Adhikari.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Ram Nagina Singh pointed out that it is legally contradictory that the decision is dispensed on the relief and reparation to be made on the case related to the murdered Krishna Prasad Adhikari as per the recommendation of the Commission while on the other hand the government remains tightfisted to prosecute the perpetrators.

At the program, stressing on launching the independent investigation on the cases of murdered Adhikari, Member/Spokespersons Gauri Pradhan said that the victims have to be rehabilitated in the home of their habitual residence with dignity.

Pointing out the government's decision to stop the investigation with regard to the incidents of human rights violations without consulting the Commission, Member Pradhan said that the regular justice delivery process to the victims has become yet complex due to the lack of coordination and collaboration between the Government authorities.

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Consultation on Mid Term...

Around 100 participants representing from civil society, NGOs, INGOs and UNDP among others participated in the consultation program.

NHRIs of Nepal had submitted a joint report on the Universal Period Review (UPR) on human rights situation in Nepal to the UN Human Rights Council, Geneva at the end of year 2010 as a member of United Nations. The three NHRI entities of Nepal include the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the National Women Commission (NWC) and the National Dalit Commission (NDC).

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process which was introduced in 2006. It involves a review of the human rights records of all 192 UN Member States once every four years. It provides an opportunity for all States to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to overcome challenges for the enjoyment of human rights.

NHRC appeals to save the lives of the Adhikari Couple



Nanda Prasad Adhikari and Ganga Maya Adhikari, parents of late Krishna Prasad Adhikari continuing their fast unto death during their battle for justice

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission has received the information that the Government of Nepal has advanced the investigation process of the incident related to the murder of Krishna Prasad Adhikari of Gorkha pursuant to the NHRC recommendations.

Nanda Prasad Adhikari and Ganga Maya, the parents of the late Adhikari are, however, adamant about continuing their fast unto death until the accused are prosecuted. The Adhikari couple has been staging a fast unto death for more than one month now demanding the legal action against the accused. The Commission has been constantly monitoring the health condition of the Adhikari couple. As per the monitoring, their health condition is deteriorating day by day.

The Commission has, by issuing the press release, appealed to the GoN to pledge support to save the lives of the Adhikari couple and to ensure the couple justice at the earliest. The Commission also has also appealed to all the stakeholders concerned including civil society to pledge support to save the lives of the Adhikari couple.

Incident of Krishna Prasad Killing

Ministry of Home Affairs issued Directive to act upon NHRC Recommendation

KATHMANDU: The Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers has issued directive to the Home Ministry to immediately advance the investigation process on the murder case of Krishna Prasad Adhikari of Gorkha

After receiving a NHRC letter on August 12, 2013, the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM) directed the Ministry of Home Affairs on the same day to investigate Krishna Prasad Adhikari's murder with immediate effect.

into accused persons on the ground of Government's decision not to proceed with the investigation on the cases of conflict period, the Chairperson said that the victims must have to be delivered with justice.

The Chairperson Upadhyay had stressed on the urgent need to guarantee of justice to the family of late Adhikari who have been staging fast unto death demanding justice.

Responding to this, Home Minister Ghimire informed that since the government had decided on June 12, 2006 to not proceed with the investigation on the cases of conflict period, there is a legal hurdle to proceed with the investigation on the case of murdered Krishna Prasad Adhikari.

Home Minister, however, said that the Government of Nepal was absolutely sensitive towards the series of struggles by the family of deceased Adhikari for justice and the Government was exploring every possible way to deliver justice to the victims.

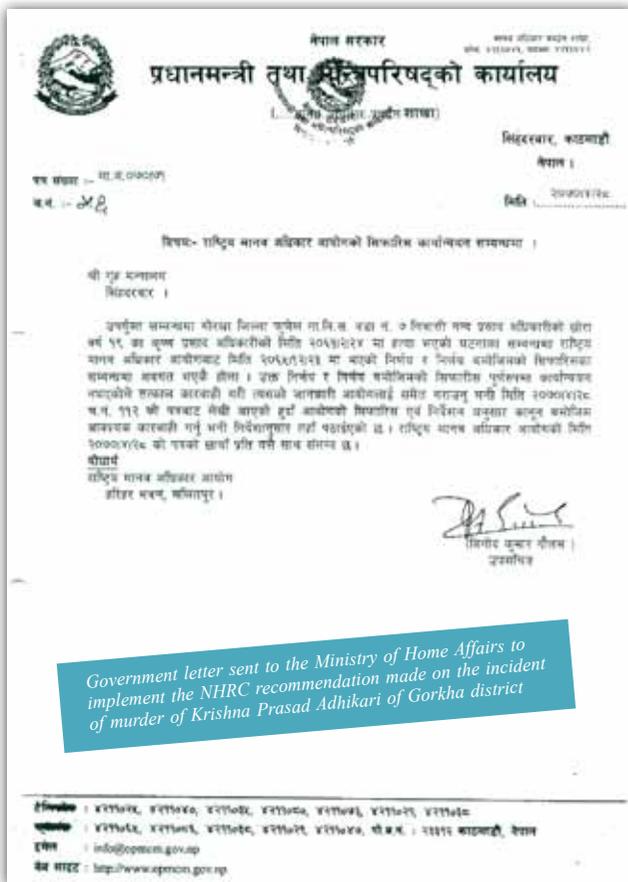
Speaking on the occasion, Member Ram Nagina Singh lamented over the legal ambiguity that the government provided relief and compensation to the victims while on the other hand the government remained tightfisted to prosecute the perpetrators involved in the incident.

Member Gauri Pradhan pointing out the government's decision to stop the investigation with regard to the incidents of human rights violations without consulting the Commission, said that the regular justice delivery process to the victims has become yet complex due to the lack of coordination and collaboration between the Government authorities.

Despite the directives issued to advance the probe into the Murder of Krishna Prasad Adhikari, the District Police Office (Chitwan) hasn't yet opened the case file due to the legal complexities, as per various media report.

Parents of late Krishna Prasad Adhikari has been staging a fast-to-death sit-in at Bir Hospital asking for legal action against the culprits. Family members of late Adhikari continued to protest for legal action against the culprits in Gorkha as well as in Kathmandu even after the government formally withdrew the armed-conflict era cases.

The police shifted them Kathmandu to Gorkha and vice versa from time to time without giving any justification. In the chain event of this longstanding case, it was reported that Nur Prasad Adhikari was kept in Gorkha Jail in 2069 BS for misbehaving with the Chief District Officer of Gorkha.



Government letter sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs to implement the NHRC recommendation made on the incident of murder of Krishna Prasad Adhikari of Gorkha district

By issuing press release the reafter, the NHRC has commended the step taken by the Government. The press release says, 'The Commission urges the Government of Nepal to advance the process with conformity to assure the victim's family and stakeholders to save and protect the lives of the parents of the late Adhikari, who have been campaigning fast unto death demanding justice.'

Earlier, in an NHRC meeting with the Home Minister Madhav Prasad Ghimire held on August 7, 2013 the Chairperson Upadhyay had urged the Home Ministers to promptly advance the investigation process on the incident of Karishna Parasad Adhikari's murder.

On the occasion, the NHRC Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyaya had urged before the Home Minister Madhav Prasad Ghimire that it is not legal to hold back the probe

Government's Decision lauded on the NHRC Recommendations

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission has heartily welcomed the directive of the Office of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers sent to the Home Ministry on August 12, 2013 to implement the NHRC Recommendations as per the decision made on April 5, 2009 on the complaint regarding the murder of Krishna Prasad Adhikari.

The Commission has, therefore, urged the concerned authority to promptly translate the directive into action.

The Commission has also urged the Government to advance the process with conformity to assure the victim's family and stakeholders and to save and protect the lives of the parents of the deceased, who have been campaigning fast unto death demanding justice. Similarly, the Commission urged the family members of the deceased and other stakeholders to pledge support in this concern.

The Commission had corresponded to the Office of the Prime Ministers and Council of Ministers with a reminder on August 12, 2013 to proceed with the investigation process with regard to the murder of Krishna Prasad Adhikari.

International Day against Disappearances, August 30, 2013 Publicize the Whereabouts of the Disappeared Citizens at the Soonest



Com. Justice Ram Nagina Singh, Acting Secretary Bed P. Bhattarai and the Chair of the NNFD Ram Kumar Bhandari including the Chiefs of Govt. Agencies among others at a program held on the occasion of the Int'l Day against Disappearances

both state party and the non-state party. The program also aimed at bringing about awareness among the concerned authorities with regard to obligation to commence legal action against the perpetrators and to make the arrangement for the provision of compensation and relief to the victims.

Chaired by the Member Ram Nagina Singh, the program kicked off with the presentation on the de-facto status of the issue related to the disappearances while the invitee speakers shared their comments and views on the longstanding concern with

regard to the disappeared citizens.

At the program, former Constituent Assembly Member Ek Raj Bhandari, Member of the Dalit Commission Ganesh BK, Chair of the Network of the Families of the Disappeared Citizens Ram Kumar Bhandari, Joint Secretary of Home Ministry Chudamani Sharma spoke on the occasion.

Meanwhile, by issuing a press release on the occasion of the International Day against Disappearances, the NHRC has said that more than 1000 citizens had disappeared at the hands of both the state party and the non-state party during the decade long armed conflict in the country. The act of causing

disappearances still continues even after the armed conflict. The whereabouts of most of the disappeared persons is still unknown. Their kin are undergoing acute trauma. It is our duty to pledge support for their legal campaign for justice.

The need of the hour is to deliver justice to those disappeared and their families. It is deemed necessary that the Government ought to work upon finding the truth and publicizing the names of those disappeared and to provide compensation, relief and reparation to their families, the press release says.

The Commission has, therefore, urged the Government to create an environment conducive for the formation of the Commission on the Inquiry of Disappeared (CoID) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as soon as possible, says the press release.

'Since the monitoring and investigation activities accomplished by the Commission are also inseparable endeavors from those of the truth and reconciliation as well as transitional justice, the Commission calls on all the concerned stakeholders to be sensitive for the effective implementation of the NHRC recommendations,' reads the press release.

The International Day of the Disappeared on August 30 is a day created to draw attention to the fate of individuals imprisoned at places and under poor conditions unknown to their relatives and/or legal representatives.

LALITPUR: On the occasion of the International Day against Disappearance, the National Human Rights Commission organized a dialogue on the enforced disappearances on August 29, 2013.

The representatives of the Ministry for Peace and Reconstruction, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Security Agencies, victims' families, NGOs, Civil Society, human rights workers and media persons among others participated in the program held at the NHRC premises.

The objective of the program was to mount pressure on the authority concerned to make public the names of the disappeared citizens who had been the victims at the hands of

Victims of Disappearances remembered with Candle Light Campaign

KAILALI: The Kailali district branch of ICRC in coordination with the Local Peace Committee organized 'The Candle Light Program' in far west to mark the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances.

Commemorating those disappeared during the armed conflict, the family members of the disappeared persons inaugurated the 'Candle Light Program' amidst a mass gathering held among the families of the disappeared persons from the districts of Kailali, Kanchanpur, and Daledhura. The chiefs and representatives of the various organizations, government offices and media persons also joined the program organized at Park Mod of Dhangadhi on the 29th of August, 2013.

Organized in coordination with the National Human Rights Commission, INSEC, Human Rights Alliance, RDN, Local Peace Committee, Nepal Red Cross Society, NNDSWO, WOREC Nepal, RUDFUK, FAYA Nepal including Nepal

Construction Business Association, the program was attended by 133 the participants representing the media including the chiefs and representatives of the government offices, NGOs, conflict victims, families of the disappeared citizens and the representatives of the political parties.

Enforced disappearance is used as a strategy to spread terror within the society. It occurs when people are arrested, detained or abducted against their will and when governments refuse to disclose the whereabouts of these people. Enforced disappearance is a global problem and is not restricted to a specific region of the world.



Participants lighting the candles in commemoration of the disappeared people during the decade long armed conflict in Pokhara

In December 2010, the UN officially declared that it would annually observe the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances on August 30 each year, starting from 2011.

Drag the Perpetrators of Crime against Humanity into Justice

LALITPUR: 'Today is the tenth Anniversary of the Doramba massacre that shook the country on August 17, 2003 in which 19 innocent Nepalese were brutally killed at Doramba of Ramechhap district on the suspicion of Maoists,' the National Human Rights Commission has said it in the press release issued on the occasion of the 11th Year of the Doramba Massacre.

Condemned by the national and international level, this incident was downright crime against humanity, the press release says.

The National Human Rights Commission had immediately formed a probe committee in coordination with the former Chief Justice of Supreme Court Krishna Jung Rayamajhi in order to have investigation on the incident.

'I would like to remind here that the truth about the incident was unearthed by the committee and made public, says Acting Secretary Bhattarai.

The Commission has already sent the recommendations to the Government of Nepal for the provision of relief, reparation and compensation to the victims and legal action against the perpetrators involved in this systematic killing. This is a sheer injustice to the citizens that no perpetrators

have been booked till date and nor have the victims been provided with appropriate compensation from the side of the State even after 11 years of incident of killing, the press statement quoted Secretary Bhattarai as saying.

Not to mention, the incidents of Godar killing, Kotvada Killing of Kalikot, Muthvara killing of Doti are serious nature of crime against humanity sponsored by the then State actor, the press release says.

Similarly, the Commission has recommended to the Government of Nepal for legal action against the perpetrators and relief, reparation and compensation to the victims upon conducting the investigation on the incidents of Madi killing of Chitwan and Bargdawa killing of Nawalparasi in which the then non-state party CPN (Maoists) was found involved in killing hundreds of people were killed, the press release says.

The press release further reads that though the Government of Nepal has recently provided relief, reparation and compensation to the victims of these incidents, no action is advanced to prosecute the perpetrators involved in serious nature of human rights violations. This, indeed, is a regretful for those who believe in Rule of Law.

Despite the fact that all the consecutive Governments formed after the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) have expressed their commitment to implement the NHRC recommendations in full, the process does not seem to advance in practical term to bring the perpetrators into justice. On the other hand, the longstanding process of the formation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) provisioned by the CPA has been the matter of heightened concern ever since, reads the press release.

The press release further says that it is the responsibility and duty of the Government of Nepal to effectively implement the NHRC recommendations sent upon conducting fair and independent investigation over the incidents of serious nature of human rights violations and crime against humanity of the conflict period.

'The National Human Rights Commission once again calls on the Government of Nepal to effectively implement the recommendations, advice and orders for the respect, protection and promotion of human rights and also to end the ever stretching ill-culture of impunity in the country,' says the press release.

Incident of Parbati Devi Killing

NHRC Investigates the Incident of Killing of Parbati Devi in Parsa

PARSA: A team from the NHRC Regional Office Janakpur visited Supauli Village Development Committee-9 in Parsa district to monitor the situation after the incident of killing of Parbatidevi over a witchcraft accusation.

Team led by the NHRC Regional Chief Buddha Narayan Sahani said the most residents in the village fled their homes after the incident. The victim's family members were found to be extreme shock and terror, Mr. Shahani said.

The NHRC has urged the local administration of Parsa to apprehend the suspects and initiate investigation to book the guilty as soon as possible.

It was learned that Jagdish Raut, the resident Sapauli VDC had blamed Parbatidevi of practicing witchcraft. Following this, avillage council was convened to settle the

case that unanimously voted the decision to banish Parbatidevi, her husband, Bhagan, and their children from the village.

On the day of the incident, Raut, his family members and other villagers dragged Parbatidevi out from her house and mercilessly thrashed her to death. Bhagan reported the police about his wife's murder only on Friday evening. By the time the police reached the incident site, most of the village men, including the main suspect, Raut, had absconded.

The police have apprehended Raut's wife, Pasapati Devi, Sima Kumari and Renu Devi as a possible accessory to the crime, it is learned.

In his statement to the police, Bhagan has named 10 suspects involved behind his wife's death. Deputy Superintendent of Police Basudev Khatiwada said the other



Parbati Devi of Parsa who was brutally killed on the accusation of so called witchcraft practice

men, who are out of contact, were perhaps the participants of the council that had issued the orders to expel the victim and her family from the village. Five days after the incident and the suspects are still at large. Police believe that they might be hiding in the bordering towns of India.

The NHRC is monitoring the entire situation to see the course of action taking place to book the culprits with prompt effect.

Interaction taps Momentum on the Rights of Indigenous Populace

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission, coinciding the 19th International Indigenous Day, organized an interaction on the protection of the rights of the indigenous people in the country.

At the program, Human Rights Officer Sarita Gyawali, Head of 'Gender and Social Inclusion Division' threw light on the NHRC initiatives for the realization of the rights of the indigenous people.

Speaking on the occasion, NHRC Member and Spokesperson Gauri Pradhan said that the NHRC is incessantly involved in

working in partnership with stakeholders and other NGOs on the issues related to the protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous people. He, however, made it clear that all the stakeholders ought to differentiate between myth and reality for sustainable peace and human rights at a time when the country is heading towards federalism. He urged to uphold harmony among all diverse communities in society in newly emerged political scenario.

On the occasion, unveiling the fundamental rights violations of the indigenous populace, the office bearers of the Nepal Federation

of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) and the indigenous rights activists called on the Government of Nepal to be altruistic for the respect and protection of the rights of indigenous communities in the country.

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of the World's Indigenous People is observed on August 9 each year to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. This event also recognizes the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection.



Head of Gender and Social Inclusion Sarita Gyawali making her presentation on the rights of indigenous people. Participants from various indigenous organizations attending the interaction (right)

NHRC Conceives Plan for Fiscal Year 2070/71



Chairperson Upadhyay along with Commissioners and staff members during the NHRC Planning and Review meeting held in Kavre

KAVRE: The National Human Rights Commission has brought forth its plan for the forthcoming financial year 2070/71 amidst a meeting held on the annual progress report and strategic plan implementation review of the Commission.

Addressing the meeting, Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay called on the officials involved in planning to make the NHRC accessible with its outreach far and wide for all common citizens through newly developed plan.

Similarly, underscoring the need of human rights friendly approach in all its activities and endeavours, Chairperson Upadhyaya stressed on making necessary reformation in the investigation and monitoring guidelines in accordance with the time relevance. He also laid emphasis on the NHRC reports to be thought provoking together with in-depth account.

On the occasion, speaking about the type of recent media report intended to tarnish the NHRC image; NHRC Member Justice Ram Nagina Singh said that whosoever is involved in such act is absolutely uncalled for. He termed it as "Kalidas Culture" and such an attempt wouldn't do any better for any one.

'The lamp which brightens a home can even ablaze the entire house giving unbeatable problems for all,' he warned.

NHRC Member and Spokesperson Gauri Pradhan stressed on the annual plan for the NHRC activities ought to be at par with the activities delineated in the concurrent strategic plan.

'The Commission has always been as the voice of voiceless and the trust of the citizens it has earned so far as social benefit may be cashed positively with utmost care, he suggested.

Speaking on the occasion, Member Dr. K.B. Rokaya urged to do adequate homework while preparing the future work plan of the Commission. He also laid emphasis on the appropriate budget allocation between the centre, regional and sub-regional offices with ample coordination and collaboration.

At the meeting, throwing light on the objective and rationale of the planning meeting, Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai briefed on the major NHRC activities accomplished in the last financial year. Likewise, he also enumerated the activities included in work plan of the Commission.

Meanwhile, the proceeding of the meeting was followed by the analytical presentations made on the Six Year NHRC Report, Human Rights Defenders Guidelines, Complaint Handling and Management Guidelines, Guidelines on Coordination and Collaboration with civil society.

Similarly, the department heads and the Chiefs of the NHRC Regional and Sub Regional Offices shared the progress report of the financial year 2069/70 along with the work plan of the current financial year.

Facilitating the program, Jaya Shor Chapagain, the Head of the NHRC Policy, Research and Planning Division made the analytical presentation based on the annual progress reports of the central, regional and sub regional offices.

Breakthrough urged in making National Laws at par with CRPD



Chair of the National Federation of the Disabled persons, Sudarshan Subedi sharing his inputs on the Government report on CRPD at a consultation held at NHRC.

Addressing a program held on national draft report on the CRPD prepared by the government, Commissioner Singh stressed on concerted effort to be inculcated from the side of all in this regard.

He added that 'Protection of Disabled and Welfare Act - 2039' is apparently erroneous and thus this doesn't serve any better for the persons with disabilities. 'Necessary revamping of the Act is the need of the hour,' he said.

Speaking on the draft report, Chair of the National Federation of the Disabled Persons, Sudarshan Subedi said that the adequate consultation was not done with the partner organizations while preparing the report. Having said this, he also offered

his criticism on the unclear policy wise changes as furnished in the report.

He also explored that the report doesn't speak about the necessary monitoring mechanism as such.

At the program, Birendra Pokhrel, Samira Shrestha, Bhojraj Shrestha, Kiran Wagle, Matrika Devkota, Jagdish Prasad Adhikari, Kalpana Acharya, Raj Kumar Shah, Mukund Dahal, Nar Bahadur Limbu including Bir Bahadur Budha also shared their comments and suggestions on the necessary amendment to be made in the national draft report on CRPD.

The CRPD is an international human rights treaty meant to protect a range of rights for people with disabilities. Nepal became the most recent signatory to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - 2006 (CRPD) and the accompanying optional protocol way back on January 3, 2008. The national laws in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Convention, however, have not been drawn until the present day.

Former Kamalaris Visit NHRC

KAILALI: A discussion with the former Kamalaris was organized during their visit to NHRC Regional Office, Dhangadhi on August 26, 2013. The visit was led by the Kamalaris Abolition Society Dhangadhi.

The society is constituted with the former Kamalaris who have been liberated from being the Kamalari for years in various parts of the country including the city capital Kathmandu.

They paid their visit to the NHRC after they had a number of observation-cum-discussion programs in various non-governmental organizations operating in Kailali district following the one month long training on development provided to them by the society.

At the program, the Human Rights Officer Mohan Dev Joshi enumerated the mandates, functions and duties of the Commission including the basic human rights. The former Kamalaris working in 15 different Village Development Committees pointed out various problems of the Kamalaris prevalent in the VDCs.

On behalf of the Commission, the Kamalaris were provided with a session on the



Former Kamalaris and the NHRC officials at a program held at the NHRC during their visit

awareness about lodging complaints in the event of their rights violations. At the same time, the Kamalaris together with their own problems informed about the wretched living condition of the inmates in the detention centers situated in the District Police Office which they observed during their visit to the DPO of Kailali district. They also informed about the overcrowded detention cells.

During the program, they also unveiled the problems existed in their VDCs and the problems faced by the former Kamalaris and the women in general.

Citing the recent recommendations sent by the Commission to the Government

of Nepal upon conducting monitoring on various incidents and problems with regard to the Kamalaris and village level women in five different districts of West, Human Rights Officers Mohan Dev Joshi said that the Commission was very sensitive towards the issues of the Kamalaris and women alike.

Mr. Joshi called upon the Kamalaris Abolition Society to utilize the leadership skills learned so far and enthused the society to raise the voice for voiceless. He also urged them to come to the Commission to register the complaints on the rights violation of theirs and also requested to embark upon having coordination and collaboration with the Commission as and when necessary.

NHRC, DIHR to Devise Human Rights Manual



NHRC Officials along with the experts from Danish Institute of Human Rights (DIHR) during a workshop held on human rights education

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission organized a workshop in collaboration with the Danish Institute of Human Rights (DIHR) in Lalitpur. The objective of the two day workshop was to design and develop complete manual to impart human rights education to the citizens of all walks of life.

Speaking at the program, Human Rights Officer Mr. Shree Ram Adhikari said that the NHRC initiative as such was to evoke awareness through human rights education among the people of civil societies, government employees, students, journalists, academia and general people.

During the workshop, expert duo from DIHR Ms. Marie Lousi Muff and Ms. Kristine Yen facilitated the workshop providing skills and knowledge in drafting the manual on human rights education.

Ms Muff also elucidated the relationship between human rights education and rights based approach including other various dimensions of learning realm on human rights education. Similarly, Ms. Kristine Yen briefly shared the findings while discussing with the officers regarding the strength and opportunity of the NHRC to draft the HR manual pursuant to the mandates of the NHRC and its international obligation. At the program, lauding the initiation of the two prototype organizations for wider promotion and protection of human rights in Nepal, NHRC Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai extended his wishes for the success of the workshop as well as for strengthening of the long term relationship between two institutions.

Teachers imparted with Human Rights Knowledge

KASKI: The NHRC and Social Studies Forum (Kaski) jointly organised a one day training to the teachers of Social Studies/ Sciences in Pokhara on 28th August, 2013.

The objective of the training entitled the Basics of Human Rights to the Teachers was to impart knowledge and skills of human rights to the teachers of various schools and the participants associated with education sector.

NHRC Deputy Director Yagya Prasad Adhikari provided the training on the 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)-1948' and 'Human Rights and Good Governance.' He also threw ample light on the mandates and functions and duties of the NHRC. Similarly, President of the Social Studies Forum (Kaski) Surya Bahadur Gurung provided the training on the 'Concept of the Child Friendly School and Minimizing of Corporal Punishment in Schools.'

Organized at the venue of Kumudini Homes Higher Secondary School of Gaira Patan, the training was attended by 70 participants including the teachers, local level educationists, representatives of the Social Studies Forum (Kaski) and academia including other human rights organizations.

Uphold Social Harmony: NHRC

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission has expressed serious concern over the situation erupted through communal clash that escalated between two different parties at the premises of Sharswarnath Temple in Siraha district.

In this regard, a team of NHRC officers from its Janakpur-based Regional Office has launched on-the-spot monitoring and investigation on the incident from August 9, 2013. The team comprising the Officials from the NHRC Central Office has also proceeded to the incident spot in order to enquire into the incident.

During the investigation, the teams have observed the incident site, met with the local administration, security agencies, media persons, human rights defenders, local residents, representatives of civil society and obtained the preliminary information while gathering of detailed information on the incident still underway.

The Commission has urged the Government to launch a fair probe into the incident and bring out the factual information about the incident and to advance the legal action against the miscreants responsible for deteriorating the law and order in the area.

The Commission has urged the Government to maintain peace and stability, to sustain communal harmony, to make

necessary arrangement for free medical treatment to those injured in the clash and also to rehabilitate those displaced due to the escalation of clash.

The Commission has also urged all the Nepalese communities, civil society members, intellectuals and religious communities to uphold the religious and social harmony in society.

The NHRC Officers Honoured

KATHMANDU: United Nations Association of Nepal has honoured Human Rights Officers duo Mr. Shree Ram Adhikari and Ms. Manju Khatiwada amidst a program held in Kathmandu.

Mr. Adhikari and Ms Khatiwada have been felicitated with the Certificate of Appreciation for their active engagement in the protection and promotion of child rights and in appreciation of their contribution as resource persons with their presentation on 'Promoting Human Rights and Peace to End Child Abuses in Nepal' and 'International Human Rights Instruments and NHRC Mandates and its Role in Peace Process' respectively. Mr. Adhikari is in Charge of International Desk and Ms. Khatiwada is a Focal Person of Child Rights at NHRC.

At the program, NHRC Member and Spokesperson Gauri Pradhan, in his opening remarks, said that the Convention on the Rights of Child has tapped huge momentum in its implementation as compared to other international human rights treaties. He, however, added that trend and patterns of the violation of the rights of the child has remained still the same over the years.

Urging the government authorities and all other stakeholders to wholeheartedly work for the goal to curb the practices of child abuses, he added that the NHRC was ready to take lead on all holistic endeavours related to the child rights protection campaign.

Speaking on the occasion, Associate Professor Dambar Bir Thapa and Program Coordinator of the UNA briefly explained about the objective and rationale of the program.

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