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National Human Rights Commission of Nepal

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63rd Int'l Human Rights Day PM pledges support for strengthening the capacity of National Human Rights Institutions



UNDP Head Robert Piper, Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay, Prime Minister Dr. Babu Ram Bhattarai, Prof. Kapil Shrestha and Dr. Netra Timilsina during the NHRC programme organized to mark the 63rd Int'l Human Rights Day - 2011 (L to R)

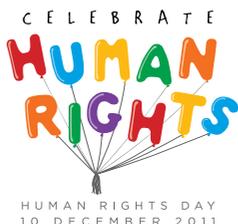
Photo: Umesh Rana Magar

Lalitpur: With the universal slogan 'Celebrate Human Rights,' the National Human Rights Commission observed the 63rd International Human Rights Day on December 10, 2011. Various programmes were organized nationwide to mark the occasion with much funfair and merriment.

Speaking at the programme held on the occasion to mark this great day, Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, as the Chief Guest of the programme has said that the government is working robustly to make the National Human Rights Institutions including the NHRC and NWC more capable and resourceful for guaranteeing the human rights as per the democratic process.

Adding that it being an integral part of the peace process, Prime Minister said, 'The process of constituting the Truth and Reconciliation

Commission and the Commission on Enforced Disappearances is in final stage with the environment facilitated through the consensus among the parties.'



Prime Minister expressed his commitment to implement the NHRC recommendations with due importance. He also added that the present government is committed to upholding the human rights, the press freedom and the legal norms and principles.

Acknowledging the support rendered by the international organizations and agencies in the protection and promotion of human rights in Nepal, Prime Minister said that in the scenarios of democracy restored in the country, we got to strengthen the capacity of the national institutions for which the government is ready to pledge support.

Addressing the programme, Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay said, 'Although the initiative taken by the present political parties for drafting constitution and consensual government is perceived as positive, the establishment of the transitional mechanisms, awarding of the compensation and justice delivery to grieved families must take place.'

Although the initiative taken by the present political parties for drafting constitution and consensual government is perceived as positive, the establishment of the transitional mechanisms, awarding of the compensation and justice delivery to grieved families must take place.

He lamented that owing to the delay in the formation of transitional mechanisms, the human rights issues have been proliferating and becoming further complex.

'The Commission, wishing for the issues of transitional justice delivery and national reconciliation, urges the Nepal Government and major political parties to join hands to end the crisis-ridden situation of human rights aggravated due to political clique and wrongful conduct in political circle for greed of position and power,' reiterated the Chairperson.

The NHRC, on this auspicious day, heartily appeals to all the political parties to embark upon the further process of creating an environment in which the Nepalese people can enjoy, in the days to come, the right to life and all human rights endowed to them, concluded the Chairperson.

Delivering the welcome speech, Member / Spokesperson Gauri Pradhan said, 'Despite some progress in human rights in records, the overall human rights situation in the country

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NHRC Submits Annual Report to Prez

Kathmandu: The NHRC presented its 11th annual report (2010-11) to President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav amidst a programme held at the Rastrapati Bhawan on 7th December, 2011. On the occasion, President thanked all the officials at the Commission for their relentless work and dedication to duty, according to a press release issued by the Office of the President.

According to the report, the NHRC has received altogether

345 complaints this year in which it has monitored 179 cases and investigated 311 cases.

On implementation side, however, 28 per cent of its recommendations are fully implemented, 55 per cent partially implemented and 17 per cent remains almost unimplemented.

Responding to the journo, Member / Spokesperson Gauri Pradhan said that the government has not been serious in implementing

NHRC recommendations seeking action against culprits involved in torture, murder, violence, enforced disappearance, abduction, seizure of personal properties and severe forms of crimes against women and children.

“It is shocking that neither the government has forwarded the recommendations to the Office of the Attorney General for prosecuting perpetrators nor has the latter taken any initiative,” said Member Gauri Pradhan.

‘The Commission had urged the President to pay attention towards effective implementation of recommendations so as to ensure justice to conflict-hit victims’ he said.

The Commission has asked the government to form the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Commission of Inquiry on Disappearances for giving justice to victims of the decade long armed conflict, Member Pradhan said.

The NHRC officials led by Chairperson Justice Kedarnath Upadhyay apprised the President of the different challenges faced by the Commission such as lack of the transitional justice, rising state of impunity, lack of full implementation of the recommendations, lack of physical infrastructures and inability to formulate related laws as per the constitution.

The President told the NHRC delegation that he would draw the government’s attention to implement the NHRC recommendations with due importance.

Member Justice Ram Nagina Singh and Member Gauri Pradhan, Secretary Bishal Khanal and other officials were also present at the programme.



NHRC Officials led by Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay along with the President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav during the NHRC Annual Report submission at a programme held in the Office of the President.

Photo Courtesy: Office of the President

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63rd Int'l Human Rights Day....

is not so encouraging due to the lack of rule of law, increasing state of impunity and political instability in the country.” During his deliberation, he had also urged the Government of Nepal to respect the independence and autonomy of NHRC by fulfilling its recommendations in action.

Chairperson of the NGO Federation Dr. Netra Timilsina said impunity was widespread in the country as the successive governments failed to implement the NHRC recommendations.

Former NHRC Member and Coordinator of the Human Rights Magna Meet, Prof. Kapil Shrestha slammed all the consecutive governments formed one after another for having confined the topic of human rights only to policy and failed to guarantee its implementation in practical term.

UN representative to Nepal, Robert Piper said although the government has expressed its commitment to human rights, there still appear

some practical problems in translating those commitments into action.

‘We welcome the attention that has been given to the task of establishing Commissions on Truth and Reconciliation and Disappearances over recent weeks and the political agreement to advance transitional justice,’ Mr. Piper said.

During the programme, Prime Minister inaugurated the launching of the fourth edition of ‘The National Report on the Trafficking in Persons, 2010’ published by the NHRC. Prime Minister also gave away the trophies and certificates to participants of Human Rights Friendly Football Tournament organized by the NHRC on the occasion.

NHRC members duo Ram Nagina Sing and Gauri Pradhan, Dr. Netra Timilsina of NGO Federation, Former NHRC Member Kapil Shrestha Hon. Ministers, Excellencies, Officials of UNDP and diplomatic missions, Government officials, representatives of human rights organizations, representatives of NGOs, INGOs and CSOs, representatives of professional Organizations, media persons and students among others participated in the programme.

Every year, Human Rights Day is celebrated across the world on 10 December. On this day, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the first global enunciation of human rights and one of the first major achievements of the new United Nations which was up with virtuous lines on inherent dignity and equality of all human descendants and remains as the source of inspiration ever since.

This auspicious day is observed by entire human race in world over including the United Nations and the UN member states.



Participants at the programme held at NHRC premises on the occasion of the 63rd Int'l HR Day

Photo: Janak Bhatta

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Bill

Victims of Armed Conflict deserve the 'Right to Know' the Truth

Kaski: By issuing a press release on 15th December 2011, from Pokhara, the National Human Rights Commission has drawn the attention of the government towards on the human rights situation in the country. The press release states that it is unarguable that the victim parties of violation of human rights of serious nature and crime against humanity during the armed conflict in Nepal deserve the right to know the truth, get relief and justice. The attention of National Human Rights Commission is drawn to the matter concerning the proposed Bill on the Truth and

Reconciliation Commission that would provide the provisions of general amnesty as revealed through some news papers of late.

The NHRC has expressed its view and sent on October 15, 2011, with regard to the ratification of the International Criminal Court of Rome Statute including the establishment of transitional mechanisms. The Commission would like to remind its firm stand that though pioneering the TRC is very much positive breakthrough, the general clemency intended to suppress the rights of conflict victims would

go against the value of Rome Statute, prevalent international standards of human rights and laws, the press release says.

Since such a deed, as expressed earlier by the Commission, won't help establish justice and sustainable peace, the Commission appeals to all the concerned parties not to include or have them included or cause to include the provisions of awarding general amnesty with regard to the Human rights violations of serious nature and crime against humanity in the above Bill, reads the press release.

Bandh Cripples life in Valley: Organizers Urged to Restrain Violence

Kathmandu: The NHRC carried out human rights monitoring during the Bandh called by the Nepali Congress and its sister wings. Bandh programme was organized in protest against the death of Shiva Prasad Paudel. Mr. Poudel, who sustained serious injury caused from the attack by other jailbirds in Bharatpur Jail in Chitwan, breathed his last while undergoing treatment in Kathmandu.

During the Bandh educational institution, industries, market were closed. Similarly, local transportation and vehicular movement were also hindered by the protestors.

Bandh organizers took to the streets of the capital and burnt tyres and pieces of wood. They were found resorted to obstruct transportation at various intersections of the capital. Demanding the deceased to be declared a martyr and the victim's family to be compensated, protestors resorted to vandalism and road blockade. The NHRC Monitoring team found that people's various rights related to the free movement, education, health, labor, culture were violated due to the activities of the Bandh.

NHRC makes request to the political parties to spare public properties and allow the vehicular traffic to help realize the rights of free movement of the people during such Bandhs.



A scene of the road blockade caused during the Bandh programme in the capital

Photo: Monitoring Team

Incidents of Extra Judicial Killing reported increasing in Jumla: Improvement of Human Rights situation Stressed

Jumla: Amidst the prevalent normal human rights situation in Jumla, a few incidents of murder are reported to have intermittently taken place in the district. A number of incidents of extra judicial killing of the local residents, which had taken place in mysterious circumstances, have given tough time to the security authority of the area. The dead bodies of Jaya Bahdur Rawal, Madan Bahadur Adhikari and Lav Rawat were found abandoned at different places of the district on different dates. Though speculations are made that the incident must have happened due to personal grudges, the police have commenced the investigation to discover the real story behind the clueless deaths of the three locals.

Meanwhile, the incident of death of a Dalit Manbir Sunar, age 30, has drawn the serious attention of rights bodies and organizations nationwide. It is learnt that the incident had taken place when two locals Min Bahadur Shahi and Dip Bahadur Shahi beat the victim to death under the influence of alcohol on the ground of touchability. He breathed his last on the way to the Kalikot hospital for treatment. The police have arrested the alleged murderers, as per the report.

The NHRC sub regional office has been constantly monitoring the human rights situation including the person's right to life.

Owing to the lack of necessary health services and medicine in the district, the general people seemed to have suffered a lot. The report says that pregnant Shanta Shahi died on the way to hospital since the local health post didn't have the medicine necessary for her treatment. It is outright against the person's right to reproductive health, the report reveals.

Likewise, many children in the district are suffering from malnutrition. On the other hand, the air passengers haven't been able to travel to and from the district in frequent manner due to the reconstruction of the only airfield at Mugu. This has violated the right to free movement of the people ever since, the report unveils.

Role of Media Pivotal in helping combat Violence against Women: **Ram Nagina Singh**



Member Ram Nagina Singh addressing the programme held on the Role of Media in Women's Rights organized jointly by the NHRC and Sancharika Samuha in Kathmandu

Photo: Post Bahadur Thapa

Kathmandu: A one day workshop was held on December 4, 2011 on the role of media in the protection and promotion of women's rights. The programme was organized jointly by the NHRC and Sancharika Samuha. The NHRC Commissioner Ram Nagina Singh was the Chief Guest of the programme.

Speaking at the Programme, Member Singh, as the chair of the programme, said that violence against women has remained as a part of daily life in Nepalese society and it would take time to do away with this menace.

Adding that women in rural sectors are either ignorant or are not made aware of their rights enshrined in the constitution, Member Singh said, 'We should, first of all, work on this in order to bring about awareness on violence against women for which the media can play pivotal role.'

There have been instances of Apex court decisions dispensed in favor of women that bear the liability for the implemented without any due reservation. In this regard, there exist laws but the implementations side is weak. This is mainly because the impoverished mentality among the law enforcing agencies. In general, will power is one of the ways out to commence anything that fetches welfare to the women of all walks of like, observed Member Singh.

"Similarly, despite the apex court ruling, district authority is reluctant to provide the citizenship in the name of mother on the ground that Home Ministry hasn't issued any written directives as such and this is very much unfortunate, reiterated Member Singh.

Mr. Hemang Sharma of SCNHR Project, in his welcome address, said that the agenda of the programme is aimed at acknowledging the role of media in helping combat the violence against women.

'The issue raised for the rights of women as such would make an ample space in media so that the awareness among the mass gets a boost,' said Mr. Sharma. .

Mr. Shiva Gaule, the President of Federation of Nepalese Journalists and Ms Sarita Gyawali, Human Rights Officer of the NHRC presented their paper at the programme.

Addressing the programme, Dan Bahadur Chaudhary, Minister for women, children and social welfare said, 'In recent time, media has done splendid job in terms of raising awareness among the communities of both rural and urban sector. Besides, Cos, Gos, NGOs and INGOs are urged to strengthen their work field including the issues focused more on violence against women, domestic violence and the like.

Siekh Chand Tara of National Women's Commission said, 'The attitudinal change with regard to the orthodox concept of portraying

women as forbearing individuals can't be brought overnight. While we talk about the violence against women, however, its time zero tolerance was adopted.'

Ms Kiran Rana, DSP, Women's Cell of Nepal Police said that the magnitude of the issue is serious and a matter of concern for all responsible in recent time. In a conservative society like ours, everyone is responsible for the incident of violence against women and it's a vicious circle. The problem can be combated only when there exists collaborative team work.

At the programme, comprehensive discussions were held on the issues of violence against women and the role of media. They include allocation of global budget for women development, mainstreaming of women issues, plight of single women and child widows, sexual harassment at work places, crime against women, sexual abuse and rape, justice delivery before death, zero tolerance to violence against women, violence against women in transitional phase, human rights of media persons, role of media in revealing the crime for punishment delivery and women being harassed by women.

Babita Basnet, Chair of Sancharika Samuha, expressing her pleasure to have the programme conducted in collaboration with the NHRC, said that the programme would send in the message of zero tolerance to violence against women through media.

Coinciding the 16 Day International Campaign against violence against women, the programme was one of the series of events conducted in the country.

The participants of the programme consisted of the representatives of the various organizations working in the field of women's rights, Nepal police, media personnel, and civil society members, office bearers of Sancharika Samuha and NHRC staff.



Participants at a programme jointly organized by the NHRC and Sancharika Samuha in Kathmandu

Photo: Post Bahadur Thapa

NHRC Officers, Stakeholders trained as Trainers on HRBA to Development

Lalitpur: The NHRC and OHCHR held a three day Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to Development on December 19-22 in Lalitpur.

Lead Trainer Pablo Espiniella- OHCHR Geneva, NHRC Secretary Bisal Khanal, Dr. Keshav Khadka, Ruplal Aidi facilitated the training. The objective of the training was to pass on the HRBA to development Concept, to better equip the NHRC officers and the stakeholder trainees to help provide training on the HRBA on the policies and budget planning.

At the programme, Pablo presented the slides on the HR and HRBA, rights based situation analysis: causes, roles and capacity gaps moving from policy to budgets. Similarly NHRC Secretary Bisal Khanal presented the slides on the link between development and Human Rights. Dr Khadka also presented the slide on the Human Rights and Budgeting system. Ruplal Aidi deliberated on the constitutional provisions with regard the development related rights of the people.

The participants representing the Planning Commission, Commerce & Industry Department, Nepal Police, Health Ministry and NHRC underwent the training.



Trainer Pablo Espineilla of OHCHR - Geneva facilitating training during the Training of Trainers (ToT) on HRBA to Development organized by the NHRC

Photo: Umesh Rana Magar

Workshop held on Integrating HR Education in School Curricula

Lalitpur: The NHRC organized a one day workshop on HR education in school curricula to cognize the concerned stakeholders about the need and importance of HR education in school curricula.

Delivering the welcome speech, Deputy Director Achyut Acharya shed light on the objectives and rationale of the programme. He also deliberated on the NHRC efforts made so far for the inclusion of human rights education in school curricula.

At the programme, Dr. Anand Paudyal, Deputy Director of the Curriculum Development Center presented a paper on HR education in school curriculum and made deliberation on various aspects of human rights and child rights to be incorporated in school curriculum. He also pointed out the need and importance of human rights in child education. He also explored various best practices and government initiation needed to be included HR education in School Curricula.

During the programme, Member Ram Nagina Singh admired the concerns and efforts inculcated from the side of the Government on the issue of human rights education. He also shared the information what exactly NHRC is doing to include HR education in school curriculum.



Deputy Director Achyut Acharya addressing the workshop programme held on the inclusion of Human Rights Education in school curricula

Photo: Hasna Maharjan

Adding that human rights education will boost child morality in general spectrum, Member Singh stressed that the government has to conduce the environment for the incorporation of moral and human rights education in the schools of the country.

During the programme, participants facilitated their comments and suggestions on the paper presented by Dr. Paudyal paper and posed their queries on various issues of child rights and HR education. The workshop was facilitated by Human Rights Officer Manju Khatiwada.



Excerpts of Statement by Hon. Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay On the occasion of the 63rd Human Rights Day - 2011

December 10, 2011

As in the past years, we are gathered here to mark the 63rd International Human Rights Day. I, on behalf of the National Human Rights Commission, heartily welcome all our guests for joining us at the programme to mark this great day that makes all of us feel proud of human heritage world over.

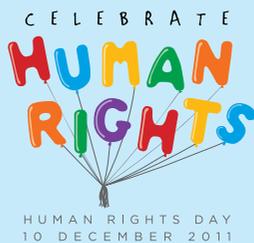
We cannot imagine peace and development of any country without the respect, protection and promotion of human rights. Having realized this truism, the theme 'Celebrate Human Rights' has been chosen as the universal slogan for this year. Perhaps, the recent situation of political development in Nepal has boosted up the environment to be conducive for the celebration of human rights which appears befitting to the slogan.

The recent agreement reached between three mainstream political parties including the Unified Democratic Madhesi Front to pave ways for logical conclusion of peace process, ensuring of the deadline for the early accomplishment of Constitution making, formation of high level Advisory Commission on state restructuring, categorization of Maoists combatants, voluntary retirement of Maoist soldiers, gradually visible progress concerning the reintegration and rehabilitation of the Maoist soldiers is indeed the primary indication of reinstatement of the human rights friendly environment. As we have witnessed the adverse scenario of the politically chaotic situation arisen due to rift between some major political parties for the past couple of years, political instability, deteriorating law and order situation particularly in Terai and some parts of the mountain region, insecurity of life and property have altogether made us cautious and yet being assured of future environment with the turn of events in recent days. The NHRC, therefore, on this auspicious day, heartily appeals to all the political parties to relentlessly embark upon the further process of creating an environment in which the Nepalese people can enjoy, in the days to come, the right to life and all human rights endowed to them.

The Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) signed between the then Government and the CPN Maoists to put an end to the decade long armed conflict, framing of Interim Constitution, CA election and the process of forming the government had altogether given the environment of high morale spirit and encouragement to Nepal and all the Nepalese including the world communities who wish for sustainable peace, prosperity and national reconciliation in Nepal. In true sense, CPA, inclusive of principal conditions for transformation of conflict, was the guideline which should have been inevitably complied with. On the contrary, the provisions furnished in the peace agreement have been impeached and on the other hand, it is well known that the days after the end of conflicts could not experience the advancement in peace, constitution building and issues of human rights as anticipated by the CPA. There have been serious issues of human rights due to the derailment of peace process, stagnation to the building of human rights friendly constitution, abetment to the state of impunity garnered through political level. I would like to hereby remind you all that the NHRC has gone even out of its way and met with the Chiefs of three major political parties separately in order to impress them on matters of major human rights concern.

Although the initiatives taken by the present political parties for constitution making and consensual government is perceived as positive, the establishment of the transitional mechanisms, awarding of the compensation and justice delivery to grieved families must have to take place. Owing to delay and slackness in the accomplishment of these tasks, the human rights issues pertaining to the above have been proliferating and becoming further complex. The Commission, wishing for the issues of transitional justice delivery after the CPA and national reconciliation, urges that the Nepal Government and major political parties to join hands to end the crisis-ridden situation of human rights aggravated due to political clique and wrongful conduct in political circle for greed of position and power.

With advancement in technology, the human rights issues too have been expanding. In this regard, like civil and political rights, economic, and cultural rights have pursued wider spectrum in recent days.



The Government doesn't seem adequately attentive towards the problem of trafficking of women and children. Besides, the human rights problems created through foreign employment are becoming challenging day by day. Many aspiring Nepalese youths have fallen the victims of unsafe foreign employment due to insecurity and lack of employment opportunities in the recipient country. From this podium, today, I request the government to conform initiatives towards inking agreement between Nepal and specially the countries like Qatar, UAE, Malaysia and Korea with the objective of having remedies for exploitation of Nepalese working overseas and their basic human rights.

Despite the existence of the agreement between the South Asian countries on the transnational trafficking of women and children and prohibition of the practice of enforced prostitution, the implementation remains ineffective. The NHRC has been publicizing the report on this endemic issue every year. The report of this is released only today.

It is well known that the NHRC was established for the protection, promotion and implementation of human rights in the country. Elevated to the status of the constitutional body by the Interim Constitution of Nepal- 2007, the Commission has accomplished 416 investigations and sent recommendations. Similarly, in last 11 years of its establishment, it has investigated 566 complaints and sent the recommendations on them. Besides, in policy level, the Commission has developed and endorsed the Rehabilitation of the Freed Bonded Laborers, Prison and Detention Centers Monitoring Guidelines, Consumer Rights Guidelines and Child Protection Policy Guidelines at schools and recommended to the Government for their implementation. Despite the fact the implementation status of the recommendations has been progressing concerning their address from the side of the Government yet the actions against the accused of serious violations of human rights are in dismal state.

Last but not the least, provided that the Government is attentive towards the problems related to human rights as mentioned above, we can uphold our expectations to celebrate human rights wholeheartedly. Sincerely craving for such a day with warm wishes, I would like to wind up my few words here.

Glimpses of Major Activities organized on the Occasion of Int'l Human Rights Day - 2011

Human Rights Magna Meet - 2011

Kathmandu: Like past year, Human Rights Magna Meet was organized as one of the series of events in the capital from 9-11 December, 2011 on the occasion of 63rd International Human Rights Day. Inaugurated by the CA Chair Subash Chandra Nemwang, the Meet formally kicked off with the slogan "Human Rights Friendly Constitution and Justice Friendly Peace."



Wishing success for the three day long programme, the Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay remarked that the mutual consensuses reached between the political parties have indeed helped the peace process approach at the threshold of its conclusion.

Adding that the withdrawal of the cases of serious human rights violations and the prosecution against the violators of human rights have altogether remained the matter

of concern ever since, the Chairperson, in the context of International Human Rights Day, expressed hope with regard to the advancement in the process of drafting new human rights friendly constitution that would foster the respect towards the inherent rights of the citizens in the days to come.

Various activities including various human rights documentaries shows, cultural programmes as well as the rally were organized during the Human Rights Magna Meet which concluded with the remark made by Deputy Prime Minister Bijay Kumar Gachchhadar. Entire programme was broadcast by Sagarmatha Community FM Radio Station.



Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay inaugurating the Human Rights Rally during the National Human Rights Magna Meet held on the occasion of 63rd Int'l Human Rights Day

Photo: Janak Bhatta



Donors participating in the Blood Donation Programme held at the NHRC premises on the occasion of the Int'l Human Rights Day

Photo: Umesh Rana Magar

Exhibition of Human Rights related Publications

Lalitpur: The NHRC organized a human rights exhibition at NHRC premises in coordination with 42 other human rights organizations and agencies on the occasion of 63rd International Human Rights day on 10th December 2011. Member Ram Nagina Singh inaugurated the exhibition. The human rights promotional materials including the human rights books and journals, newsletters, brochures, posters and flyers were displayed at 42 stalls for free public distribution.

Over thousand visitors including Prime Minister Dr. Babu Ram Bhattarai, Deputy PM Narayan Kaji Shrestha, Ministers, CA Members, Nepal Army Chief Chatra Man Singh Gurung, Chief Secretary Madhav Prasad Ghimire, Secretaries of various Ministries, Excellency Ambassadors, representatives of various diplomatic missions, students, teachers, human rights workers, general public and media persons among others visited the stalls at the exhibition. The exhibition was one of the series of programmes conducted to mark int'l human rights day. Coinciding the Int'l HR Day, the programme held as such has been a good platform to flow the human rights information and message far and wide.

Blood Donation Programme

Lalitpur: Internalizing the saying 'Donate Blood and Save Life,' the NHRC had organized a blood donation programme on the 8th of December to mark 63rd International Human Rights Day. A total of 47 donors donated their blood during the day long campaign held at the NHRC premises with the technical support extended from Nepal Red Cross Society. Amongst the donors were NHRC staffs, security personnel from Nepal Police, representatives of human rights community.

Speaking at the programme, Member Ram Nagina Singh made his remarks on the importance of blood donation especially at a time when Blood Bank was facing acute scarcity of blood. Programme as such was appreciably humanitarian as it saves someone's life, observed Member Singh.



NHRC staff at the Exhibition of human rights related publications held at the NHRC premises on the occasion of the Int'l Human Rights Day

Photo: Umesh Rana Magar



Team NHRC and team Sagarmatha Community FM Radio station along with their supporters at the final match of HR friendly football tournament held on the occasion of the Int'l Human Rights Day

Photo: Umesh Rana Magar

Football Tournament: Event for the Promotion of HR through Sports

Lalitpur: Hosted by the NHRC with the sole objective to promote human rights through sports, the Friendly Football Tournament was organized among the human rights organizations on the occasion of Int'l Human Rights Day - 2011. Six different teams namely National Human Rights Commission, OHCHR, Advocacy Forum, National Dalit Commission, Radio Sagarmatha, and INSEC participated in the tournament held at Jawlakhel Youth Club Football Ground, Lalitpur.

Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay inaugurated the tournament by kicking football. The tournament was held on knock out basis. In the final match played between Radio Sagarmatha and NHRC, the host NHRC lifted the winner's title by winning over the Radio Sagarmatha by scoring 3 against 2 goals. The Chief Guest of the programme Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai gave away the winning shield and the runners-up cup to the participants amidst the function organized on 10 Dec 2011 to mark 63rd international day of the Human Rights.

Human Rights Rallies (Prabhat Pheri)

Kathmandu: Expressing solidarity for the human rights, the NHRC including dozens of human rights organizations took out a rally in the morning to mark the occasion in the capital. Inaugurated by the Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay, the morning procession (Prabhat Pheri) started from Bhrikuti Mandap and took to different thoroughfares of the city including New Road, Bhotahity and Ason before it converged into a corner assembly at Basantpur.

Addressing the function, Chairperson Upadhyay stressed the need for drafting human rights friendly constitution by incorporating the rights of all citizens. NHRC former member Kapil Shrestha, Chairperson of HR Alliance Ganesh BK, Netra Timalina of NGO Federation Nepal and Chakra Bishwokarma of Rastriya Haliya Mukti Samaj Mahasang among others also spoke on the occasion. HR organizations including NHRC, HR Alliance, INSEC, Dalit NGO Federation among others had jointly organized the event.



Participants at the Human Rights Rally (Prabhat Pheri) organized on the occasion of the Int'l Human Rights Day

Photo: Umesh Rana Magar



A scene of Human Rights Rally organized in Far-West by the NHRC Dhangadhi Office on the occasion of Int'l Human Rights Day

Photo: NHRC Office Dhangadhi

Kailali: Amidst seemingly improving human rights situation in the Far West, the NHRC Regional Office, Dhangadi celebrated the 63rd International Human Rights Day with much gaiety and funfair.

During the occasion, the NHRC had organized a massive human rights rally in coordination with the civil society, human rights activists of the area and WHRD. Having the slogans chanted for the realization of human rights and implementation of NHRC recommendations of the past and present, the rally took to the streets of downtown Dhangadhi and went to thoroughfares of the town. Various speakers made their speeches on the significance of the HR day. The participants of the rally comprised of the officials of the government offices, representatives of the political parties and security agency, human rights defenders, women human rights defenders, youth volunteers, local NGOs, teachers, students and media persons.

Jumla: The NHRC in coordination with the dozens of rights organization active in the area organized a human rights rally (Prabhat Pheri) in which 160 participants took part. The participants comprised the representatives of various human rights organizations including the government agencies, various business professional and the local residents.

The rally, which started from the District Council Hall, took to the thoroughfares of the various places including Bharatibad, Khalanga Bazaar, Bijay Nagar and converged into an assembly back at District Hall.



Participants of the Human Rights Rally organized by the NHRC Jumla Office in Mid-West to mark the 63rd Int'l Human Rights Day

Photo: NHRC Office, Jumla

Kaski: Coinciding the occasion, morning rally was organized by the NHRC in partnership with the human rights organizations of the area, security agency and media. As many as 300 participants took out a rally to mark the occasion on 10 the December, 2011. The rally started from Sabhagriha Chok , went to different thoroughfares and later converged into an assembly at Human Rights Fork.

Addressing the function, NHRC Regional Head Yagya P. Adhikari, Officiating Chief District Officer, eminent Human Rights Worker Tek Nath Baral, Civil Society Network for Peace Coordinator Surendra Thapa Magar threw light on the significance of great human rights Day observed world over. The entire programme concluded in the evening on the same day followed by the candle lit programme.

Representing the human rights organization including the civil society network, Kaski, INSEC, Advocacy Forum, Human Rights Alliance, Human Rights Protection Forum, Nepal Human Rights Association, CWIN, District Children Welfare Committee, National Heritage, Naulo Ghumti, Amnesty International, Dalit Organizations, Indigenous and

Ethnic Organizations, Government Agencies, various Mother Groups, Journalists, Human Rights Workers, Legal Professionals, General Public and Porters among others had jointly participated in the programme.

Morang: On the occasion of 63rd International Human Rights Day - 2011, the NHRC Regional Office, Biratnagar organized various programmes in coordination with human rights NGOs in Biranagar and Jhapa.

In Biratnagar, HR organizations organized a rally followed by a talk programme. Over 500 participants took part in the rally. During the talk programme, Chief Justice of Appellate court Hon. Gopal Parajui, NHRC Regional Head Koshraj Neupane, UCPNM Maoist Leader Ganesh Upreti, UML leader Mahesh Regmi reviewed the country's human rights in general. They also threw light on the significance of human rights and their realization in recent time. On the occasion, renowned HR defender and Lawyer Mr. Bishowraj Pandey was felicitated by the Chief Judge of Appellate court.

NHRC Regional Offices observe 63rd Int'l Human Rights Day

Kaski: Internalizing the universally propagated slogan "Celebrate Human Rights," the NHRC Regional Office Pokhara organized various programmes on the occasion of the 63rd International Human Rights Day on December 10, 2011. As usual, this great Day was observed this year with the participation of various organizations and agencies including human rights organizations, security agencies, local denizens and media.

Interaction held with Daily Wage Laborers

The NHRC in collaboration with the Human Rights Network for Peace and INSEC organized an interaction with the participation of 45 local porters living and working in the municipality area on December 9, 2011. Held at Human Rights Fork of Chipledhunga, Pokhara, the interaction focused on the basic rights of the porters who have been pulling on their livelihood through this occupation. During the interaction, most of the porters revealed their basic problems and grievances yet to be addressed by the state. The porters expressed their aggravation against state negligence towards the problems and hardships faced by them.



Constituent Assembly Member Dharmashila Chapagain addressing a talk programme organized by the NHRC Office, Biratnagar on the occasion of Int'l Human Rights Day

Photo: NHRC Office Biratnagar

Talk Programme on Human Rights Organized

Jhapa: The NHRC, HR Network Jhapa and IDEF organized a talk programme on the '*Role of Stakeholders on Protection and Promotion of Human Rights*'. The programme was chaired by HR Network President Mr. Lalraj Subedi. Speaking at the programme, CA Member Dharmashila Chapagain said that still today the issue of violence against women has not been taken as the issues of human rights in Nepal. NHRC regional Head Koshraj Neupane, Senior Lawyer Leela Udashi and other participants commented on the paper presented by SP Tarini Lamsal, FNJ Chair Ganesh Pokharel and political activist Bishow Prakash Sharma.

Human Rights Radio Quizzes and Seminar conducted in Mid West

Jumla: The NHRC Sub regional Office Jumla celebrated the 63rd International Human Rights Day by organizing various events in coordination with the local human rights organizations and civil society.

In commemoration of this great day, the NHRC Jumla office conducted Human Rights Radio Quiz among the students of secondary level on December 9, 2011. Ten students from across the district proactively took part in the human rights quiz contest. In the contest, Rupesh Upadhyay bagged the first position whereas Dhanjit Sikarmi and Ratiman Nepali were declared the first and third respectively. All the three winners were given away the certificates the following day during the human rights meet held on December 10, 2011. The event was broadcast live on Radio Karnali FM.

The human rights assembly was held at the District Council Hall on 10th December, 2011. 400 participants comprising the District Judge Khem Raj Sharma, representatives of political parties, district level human rights NGOs, various professionals, local artists and residents attended the seminar held during the assembly.

At the programme, a cultural programme including Deuda dance, poems recitation and cultural procession was organized.

Following this the participants reviewed the coverall human rights situation up to date in the Karnali region. The programme was moderated by Parbati Bhandari, Programme Coordinator of KAD.

Interaction on Impunity and Human Rights Situation held in West

Kaski: Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay said, 'There is a need of collaboration and coordination to have the state of impunity diminished and for making human rights friendly constitution. Only through collective effort can we imagine the society with the decorum of human rights culture.'

Addressing the interaction programme organized by The NHRC regional Office Pokhara on the overall human rights situation and impunity on December 16, 2011, the Chairperson said, 'The Commission is well aware of the difficulties and frustration existed among the civil servants due to the transitional situation and increasing rate of impunity. The Commission has been incessantly doing its utmost for the emancipation from such a juncture.'

The Chairperson stressed that the government officials need to overcome these challenges and perform their duties for the sake of protecting human rights.

The interaction was held among the representatives of the government agencies and civil society respectively. Organized with the objectives to have the larger coordination and collaboration with the stakeholder government agencies and civil society for the protection and promotion of human

rights in the region, the programme included the review session on the overall human rights situation and the prevalent state of impunity.

The interaction was held in two different sessions involving the participation of the chiefs and representatives of various state agencies situated in Pokhara, representatives of civil society, political parties, human rights workers and media persons among others.

During the first session held with state agencies, the interaction was focused on the realization of human rights in the present scenario. With regard to the fulfillment of the commitment by the state players, the representatives informed that they are as sensitive as ever to comply with the human rights provisions while discharging their duties. It was also made known that the zero tolerance has been the maxim of the Army towards the human rights violation if at all there occurs any. The stakeholder representatives, however, mentioned that they have to undergo various difficult situations while discharging their duties due to the political intervention, political tug of war and the widespread impunity.

The representatives of the stakeholder agencies lamented that they literally lack the resources to meet the human rights standards.



NHRC Regional Head Yagya P. Adhikari addressing an interaction programme held on Impunity and Human Rights situation in West

Photo: NHRC Office, Pokhara

They urged the Commission to conduce the environment whereby the collective initiative could be launched to have these grievances meted out through the state.

The participants also stressed that the role and responsibilities of national institution like NHRC become more pivotal than ever in the scenario of extension of OHCHR tenure being terminated.

The participants also expressed in unison that the Commission was incepted with the concerted effort of the civil society and, as always, it is obligated to extend support to the Commission for the entire activities of the Commission for the respect, protection and promotion of human rights.

42 participants representing the government agencies took part in the workshop on behalf of the regional administration office, Pokhara, Regional Police Office, Western Brigade of Nepal Army, District Administration Office, District Police Office, District Prison, Office of the District Development Committee, Public Health Department, Courts and the Office of the District Attorney. Whereas, representing the civil society, as many as 45 participants underwent the workshop. They included the representatives from district level human rights NGOs, various organizations and agencies, human rights workers, civil society members, representatives of the political parties as well as media persons.

Media Persons Trained on HR Education

Chitwan: The NHRC Sub Regional Office, Butwal conducted a three day workshop on 'Human Rights Education to Media Personnel' from Dec 13-15, 2011 at Chitwan. The programme was a part and parcel as laid out in the annual work plan. Having the sole objective of internalizing the concept of human rights, the workshop was held among various local level journalists of Lumbini zone and Chitwan district.

Media persons, known as the voice of voiceless, play critical role to touch upon human rights issues in their reporting that ultimately inculcate pressure on the government mechanisms to be accountable towards human rights issues. The workshop was held on the basis of participatory approach for skill development through experience-sharing, case study, group work, practices and presentations. Various facilitators including Mr. Uddhav Lohani, Mahendra Pandey, Mukunda Dahal, Chandrakant Chapagain, Dinesh Thapaliya, Janak Aryal and the NHRC Sub Regional Head Deepak Dhvaj Jung Karki provided the training on different themes during the workshop.

Comprehensive discussions were held followed by interactions among the facilitators and participants on different human rights education based themes. They included concepts of human rights, rights vs. duties, definition of human rights, issues of non-discrimination, history and evolution of human rights including fundamentals of human rights, the role of human rights defenders on monitoring of human rights, UDHR-1948 and major seven treaties, linguistic framework of human rights, NHRC's mandates, functions and activities and introduction of Paris Principles.



Trainees representing various local media at a Training Workshop held by the NHRC Office, Butwal

Photo: NHRC Office Butwal

Meanwhile the discussions were also held on the role of journalists in the protection and promotion of human rights, human rights and journalism, international mechanisms of human rights and UN system, IHL/International Criminal Tribunals, Media Freedom vs. Responsibility.

28 participants took part in the workshop.

Finnish Minister visits NHRC



Ms Heidi Hautala, Finnish Minister of International Development and the NHRC Chairperson Upadhyay including the Finish delegates and NHRC officials at a meeting held during the Finnish Delegation's visit to NHRC

Photo: Umesh Rana Magar

Lalitpur: The Finnish Delegation headed by Ms. Heidi Hautala, Minister of International Development of Government of Finland paid a goodwill visit to the NHRC on December 5, 2011.

Amidst a programme held during the Delegation's visit, Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay said, 'NHRC is immensely pleased that the Government of Finland, as one of the key supporters, has been extending support to the NHRC since long for the protection and promotional activities.'

Acknowledging the technical support including the facilitation of forensic experts extended by the Finnish Government right from Shivapuri investigation to Godar exhumation, the Chairperson said that the Government of Finland and NHRC have recently signed a comprehensive project aimed at promoting human rights education in the country.

NHRC Secretary Bishal Khanal, on behalf of the Commission, welcomed the delegates to the NHRC. He said that it is always worth mentioning that Finland has been a vital support to the NHRC for human rights promotional and protection endeavors. He also stressed on the continuation of professional relationship between the NHRC-Nepal and the Government of Finland.

Ms. Seikh Chand Tara, Chairperson of National Women Commission, Mr. Bijul Kumar Biswokarma, and Chairperson of National Dalit Commission were also present at the programme. Thanking the Minister, the Chairpersons duo said that it was pleasure to learn that she expressed her desire to call on the Chairpersons of all the three national institutions of Nepal at one place.

Both the Chairpersons briefed about the mandates of the respective Commissions together with human rights situation. They also shared the problems and challenges faced by the Commissions in the present scenario.

Human Rights Officer Mr. Shree Ram Adhikari made a presentation on the role, functions and mandates of the NHRC. He elaborated the mandates for the protection and promotion of human rights and NHRC's role in UN, Asia Pacific Forum and ICC of NHRIs. He also threw light on how NHRC is collaborating with NGOs, INGOs and both NDC and NWC.

'Finland and NHRC is geographically apart but human rights have no frontiers. Whenever we talk about human rights, Government of Finland and NHRC have been in close and warm proximity to work for the betterment of the human rights of the people,' said Mr. Adhikari.

HR Officer Adhikari also shared the major achievements and challenges of NHRC.

Delegation head Minister Hautala commended the performance of NHRC for the protection and promotion of human rights within the prolonged transitional period. Stressing over the realization of economic and social rights, she said that these rights are crucial to improve the life of the poor. She also emphasized that compensation along with prosecution, if determined and delivered, will minimize the state of impunity in the country.

Expressing her admiration for the hospitality shown by the NHRC, she expressed her thanks for arranging the meeting together with NDC

and NWC. She concluded with assurance that the Government of Finland support to the NHRC will continue in future as well.

At the programme, Minister Hautala responded to the queries posed by the NHRC staff members. Chairperson Mr. Upadhyay and Member Ram Nagina Singh presented the memento and NHRC publications to the Minister. She also gave her signature in campaign against untouchability and caste discrimination organized by the NHRC.

NHRC Office bearers, staff members, Finnish delegates including Excellency Ambassador of Finland to Nepal, representatives of various NGOs and Civil Society were present at the programme.



HR Officer Shree Ram Adhikari making his presentation on the introduction of NHRC and its activities at the meeting held during the courtesy visit of the Finnish Delegation

Photo: Umesh Rana Magar

Issues on Rights of Women and Children Discussed

Lalitpur: Former UN Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, Kul Chandra Gautam visited the NHRC office bearers to draw their attention towards the protection of rights of children and women against statelessness.

Mr. Gautam, presenting the two page letter, requested the Commission to work upfront for the inclusion of the provisions with regard to the issues related to the fundamental rights of the women and children so that they would be protected from being stateless on various grounds.

The letter says that there are flaws in the line of decisions drawn in the meetings of high level political committee as seen in the report on fundamental rights and directive principles. The decision on the issuance of citizenships is far too bleak and narrow to be consistent with the international human rights conventions, Interim Constitution of Nepal -2007, and Comprehensive Peace Accord in terms of issuing the citizenship to the women and children

The state can't afford but have the necessary change made in the provisions in order to protect the rights of child and women from being stateless, the letter says.

The provision made for the issuance of citizenship contrary to the lines enshrined in the internationally recognized HR conventions, protocols including the Interim Constitution and CPA has sent in fear among the rights bodies and organizations. If the provision as such is not altered with due care, the status



Former UN Asst. Secretary General Kulchandra Gautam with the NHRC office bearers at a meeting held at NHRC central office

Photo: Umesh Rana Magar

of the Constitution would be graded as an insensitive constitution of the world from the perspective of women's and children's rights. In this regard, voice has been raised incessantly through various national dailies ever since, the letter reads.

Underlining the significant role played by the NHRC as the constitutional body to provide advice and suggestions for the rights of the general citizens to the concerned government and CA members, Mr. Gautam has appealed to the Commission to strongly recommend for the inclusion of the provisions facilitated

through the Interim Constitution 2007 in new constitution in order to protect the rights of women and children against statelessness.

Meanwhile, following the discussion held in the meeting, the NHRC has forwarded the copy of the letter to the Government urging the latter to take necessary action on the issue raised in the letter.

Commissioner Ram Nagina Singh, Member / Spokesperson Gauri Pradhan and the child rights activist Indu Tuladhar were also present in the meeting.

Rights of Persons with Disabilities Stressed



Member Gauri Pradhan addressing a programme on Rights of Persons with Disabilities organized by NDF in Kathmandu

Photo courtesy: NDF

was also presented by the research team. As the Guest of Honor, NHRC Commissioner Mr. Gauri Pradhan launched a new website

Kathmandu: National Disabled Federation (NDF), which is working for the rights, dignity and social justice of persons with Disabilities has held a programme to review the highlights of the year in Kathmandu in December 30 2011. During the programme, a review research report on discrimination of persons with disabilities in the national law and policies

of the Federation for public knowledge and information. The website will serve as a resource hub for the information dissemination on the status and situation of the rights of persons with disabilities in the country.

Speaking in the programme, Commissioner Mr. Gauri Pradhan said, "Despite the ratification of the "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" (CRPD), Nepal needs to progress a lot to end all forms of discrimination of persons with disabilities and to respect their rights, dignity and freedom in practice."

He further said, "The essence of democracy and federal republic will not be realized in action unless the state determines to root out causes and effect of discriminations of marginalized and deprived groups including the persons with disabilities."

He also assured that NHRC is more than happy to have partnership with the civil society organizations including NDF for the rights, dignity and justice of the persons with disabilities in the country.



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