



राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोग

National Human Rights Commission, Nepal

केन्द्रिय कार्यालय Central Office

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Press Release
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NHRC opinion regarding the Information Technology Bill (IT Bill)

National Human Rights Commission concerns seriously towards the news report that the Parliamentary Development and Technology Committee has passed the Bill recently curtailing the freedom of expression.

The freedom of expression is recognised as a fundamental human right by the various international human rights laws. Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights guaranteed people's right to express their opinion without any restrictions. The Commission reminds that interpreting these Articles the UN Human Rights Committee in General Comment No. 34 states that since freedom of opinion and expression is imperative for overall development of individuals and the basic foundation for the establishment of democratic society and such rights cannot be restricted even during the state of emergency. The freedom of opinion and expression are constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights. Similarly, the Commission also reminds the Supreme Court's verdict issued on 19 April 2017 that to restrict the freedom of expression there must be rational correlations between the action of restriction and the intended objectives of such action.

The Commission also requests to be sensitive towards if freedom of expression is restricted contrary to established principles, it goes against the norms of human rights. Similarly, the Commission believes on the new law shall ensure the full freedom of expression and would be friendly to the provisions of international and national laws mentioned above and requests concerned all to enact law ensuring full enjoyment of the freedom of expression only after comprehensive discussion with the stakeholders.

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Bed Bhattarai
Secretary/Spokesperson