Respect citizens' right to peaceful assembly

National Human Rights Commission central, provincial and provincial branch offices have been monitoring the general strike and demonstration called by the Nepal Communist Party (Prachanda-Madhav group) from 4 February, 2021.

The police arrested the demonstrators from various parts including 64 persons from Kathmandu, 1 person from Bhaktapur and 2 persons from Lalitpur, in Janakpur both sides people are injured in the clash between police and demonstrators, few vehicles have been broken down and arson, the daily waged labours, the pregnant women who needs regular health check up and the examinees are severely affected and the freedom of movement of the general public was affected as the monitoring shows.

Articles 13, 17 and 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, the articles 12, 17, 21, 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 and the articles 17 and 25 of the Constitution of Nepal provides the freedom to assemble peaceably and without arms and freedom of opinion and expression, freedom to move and reside in any part of Nepal, freedom to practice any profession, carry out any occupation, every citizen subject to law, have the right to acquire, own, sell, dispose, acquire business profits from, and deal with property. The arrest to the citizens staging peaceful assembly by the police, make people injured by the use of excessive force, deprive people from their freedom of movement are acts against the principles and values of human rights, so the Commission requests to concerned all to be sensitive towards this.

Thus, the Commission draws attention of the government of Nepal not to curtail the citizen’s fundamental freedom and rights of the citizens, and respect citizen's freedom to assemble peaceably and freedom of opinion and expression. Similarly, the Commission requests to the persons who called on the general strike to seek solution from negotiation and talks as the general strike like protest program creates obstacle to the enjoyment of citizen’s rights.

Dr. Tika Ram Pokharel
Spokesperson
(Joint Secretary)