PRESS RELEASE
March 7, 2021, Kathmandu

Urgent attention of the National Human Rights Commission has been drawn towards a recent Press Release of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Amnesty International (AI) dated March 1, 2021 regarding ‘an ordinance and the appointments’ made by the President at the constitutional bodies in Nepal. The Press Release is entitled—“Nepal: Human Rights Commission’s Integrity in Jeopardy”.

While the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal (NHRC) appreciates the international community for their continued support extended to the human rights cause of Nepal, even during the period of acute rule of law deficiencies and adverse human rights situation, NHRC at the same time would like to assure the vibrant Nepali human rights defenders and the supportive world community that with its growing experiences, staffed with competent and well committed human rights officers and officials, NHRC is determined to ‘protect, defend, promote and enhance human rights’ in Nepal in days to come based on the rule of law, human rights principles and international standards.

However, it is very unfortunate that well known international human rights organizations like ICJ, HRW and AI have hurriedly issued a premature Press Release asking the Government of Nepal to ‘withdraw an ordinance and rescind appointments’ undermining the Nepal’s judiciary and the highest Constitutional Body responsible to recommend nominations for the national constitutional bodies, including NHRC, knowing that there are two sub-judice cases pending at the Supreme Court which has not issued stay-order against the respondents. The press release appears not only interfering in the internal affairs of a sovereign friendly country which places human rights and rule of law at the top of its priority, but it is also questioning the sanctity and credibility of the national human rights institution of Nepal which is a party to most of the fundamental international human rights treaties. It is very surprising to note that the press release tacitly urges the international community in an indirect way not to cooperate with the NHRC which has been working hard to serve the people of Nepal in the human rights field in cooperation with the civil society and international human rights community, including UN System.

At the end we urge the responsible international human rights organizations to kindly restrain and understand that human rights does not flourish in isolation, we all will have to work together. Even the UN System works both with government and the people. Let’s try to appreciate and respect each other’s role and limits.

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