



राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोग

National Human Rights Commission, Nepal

केन्द्रिय कार्यालय Central Office

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Press Release

May 12, 2020

Request to fulfill the state obligation towards the citizens

The National Human Rights Commission has been monitoring the human rights situation through different levels of Committees in collaboration with the Nepal Bar Association, Federation of Nepalese Journalists and NGO Federation of Nepal in the complex state created due to the global COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic as the country is in lockdown since March 24, 2020.

The Commission draws its attention seriously towards the situation that some of the Nepali citizens have entered into Nepal from the neighboring country India using the alternative pathways as the security forces barred them to enter into Nepal from the regular pathways showing the possibility of transmission of COVID-19 as well as the Nepali citizens repatriating to Nepal are stranded precariously at the borders. They were in India for their employment and are repatriating Nepal as they faced problem in employment, food and shelter due to the execution of lockdown in India too. Similarly, the people living in the quarantine for 6 weeks at the border are also stranded there. This shows the possibility of intensification of the risk of the pandemic as the individuals entering into the country from the alternative pathways lack their health checkup and even live secretly in their own village or city.

The unsafe condition of the citizens stranded at the borders is the violation of the Article 16 right to live with dignity, Article 17 right to freedom, Article 18 right to equality as provided by the Constitution of Nepal and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 in which Nepal is a state party and it also shows the lack of enforcement of the directive order of the respected Supreme Court of Nepal.

Thus, the Commission draws attention of the Government of Nepal to keep in quarantine as well as in the isolation as per the WHO standards to the Nepali citizens stranded at the Nepal-India borders rescuing them immediately as well as arrange necessary health testing and fulfill state obligation protecting and promoting the citizens' fundamental rights and human rights in accordance with the Article 52 of the Constitution of Nepal.

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Bed Bhattarai

Secretary/Spokesperson