

Rights Activists Call for Effective HR Mechanism in SAARC

Kathmandu: Rights activists of South Asia urged to establish an effective regional human rights mechanism within the framework of SAARC Amidst 2nd Sub-Regional Workshop on HR Mechanism in South Asia organized by Asian Forum for HR and Devt (FORUM-ASIA) and INSEC in Kathmandu on 25-26 July 2011. The workshop was inaugurated by CA Chair Mr. Subash Chandra Nemwang.

At the Workshop, the comprehensive discussion was held on regional human rights mechanism together with the participation of the civil society in SAARC Process which would lead to address challenges faced by the region from the human rights based approach.

Member Gauri Pradhan, on behalf of NHRC-Nepal, shared the experiences for the protection and promotion of human rights and expressed the commitment of the NHRC-Nepal to work with civil society organizations for the establishment of a regional human rights mechanism in South Asia. Since the voice is now being raised via meeting for the establishment of regional Human Rights Instruments and Mechanisms in the South Asia region, concrete initiative would be taken in this concern, observed Member Pradhan.

The workshop concluded to establish an informal working group comprising of eminent human rights experts from South Asia to initiate dialogue and engagement with SAARC on the promotion and protection of human rights in South Asia.

Various NHRIs representatives and eminent human rights activists from across South Asia were present in the workshop.

Dialogue Held on National Budget Allocation in a HR Perspective



Representatives of various stakeholder organizations participating in the programme

Photo Courtesy: NGOs Federation-Nepal

Kathmandu: Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay has said, 'Although the current budget tends to appease all sections of the people, their human rights haven't acquired adequate space in national policies in pinpointed approach.'

Speaking at the programme entitled "Annual Budget for the Government Planning and Policies (FY 2011/12) through ESCR Perspectives" jointly organized by the NHRC and NGOs Federation-Nepal, the Chairperson said, 'Announcement of the budget and mere policies do not guarantee human rights unless it is based on human rights. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, on the other hand, would be detrimental of whether the budget has reached the intended sections of people and has been spent through the human rights based approach.'

Recalling UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon's statement 'Our necessities are not fulfilled because our resources are limited but it is because our expectations are limited', Chairperson said, 'In order to hoist democracy, people's ESC rights should be ensured in the first place and all

government mechanisms should bear absolute will power to make this happen.'

Commissioner Ram Nagina Singh pointed out that the students' rights to education are in jeopardy now, since the fee structure in schools and colleges

mechanisms, the rights to education for students, youths, civil servants, senior citizens and peasants would not be safeguarded.

Dr. Netra Timsina, President of NGO Federation-Nepal presented a paper on "Government Programme and Policies in respect of Economic Social and Cultural Rights."

Dr Jagdish Chandra Pokhrel, former vice-chairperson of NPC, stated that monitoring is pivotal for which the related mechanisms should be strengthened. He, however, speculated that since the budget is highly dispersed, it is too early to bring HRB development to the table. Expressing the lacking of in-depth values of human rights focusing specially on ESCR, he urged the NHRIs to provide human rights orientation to the team formulating budget in the days to come.

Prof. Gunanidhi Sharma, former vice-chairperson of National Planning Commission, said that safeguarding the right to employment is the only way out to uplift the living standard of the people. He observed that the proposed budget also contained

Announcement of the budget and mere policies do not guarantee human rights unless it is based on human rights

have been revised overnight following the announcement of the budget.

He further said that unless the commitments in paper are put into action with utmost sincerity on the part of the government

NHRC to Advocate for Social Reintegration of Girl Bonded Labourer (Kamalaris)

Lalitpur: A 12 member delegation of Kamalari led by Mr. Fakala Tharu, the Programme Manager of a social movement for the liberation of Kamalari in Nepal, submitted a memorandum to the Commission amidst a programme held at NHRC on July 8, 2011. They have urged the Commission to take initiative for the interim relief, long term rehabilitation and social re-integration of the Kamalari who have been undergoing acute suffering in the mid-western region.

Kamalaris are learnt to have been victimized with perpetual sexual harassment at their work places. Many of them have fallen the victims of rape by their own landlord or the kin of the landlord. After they become pregnant, many of them are forced to marry with the local hooligans after the latter are paid with a bulk of money. As of toady, 46 Kamalaris are learnt to have been killed after they became pregnant. According to Mr. Tharu, 11 Kamalaris live with their illegitimate babies in hand.

In recent days, however, with

the awareness campaign being launched in the region from time to time, many Kamalaris have been rescued and their rehabilitation and social re-integration processes are



Kamalaris delegation representative presenting the memorandum to Members R N Singh and Gauri Pradhan

underway at the initiation of local NGOs and other social organizations working in the field for women's rights.

These ill-fated girls, who have been victimised with such evil practice of Kamalari, are deprived of many basic human rights including the right to live in dignity and right to education.

Speaking at the programme, Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay said that since the delegation has presented a memorandum with great hope, the Commission would do its

Acknowledging the Memorandum, Member Singh assured the delegation that the Commission will look into the issue seriously and ask the Government about the progress on the issue of Kamalaris.

Member / Spokesperson Gauri Pradhan said that the Commission would study the draft guidelines devised by the concerned organization and coordinate with Kailali Office to send in the 'truth finding committee' to acquire information about the development with regard to the interim relief of the Kamalari specially focusing on their rehabilitation and social re-integration. He assured that the Commission would exert pressure on the government to build the minimum standard to address the problem of kamalaris.

At the programme, Chairperson Upadhyay, members duo Ram Nagina Singh and Gauri Pradhan including the representatives of FKDF and NHRC officials were present.

best to have their demands fulfilled by the government.

Member, Justice Ram Nagina Singh said that the Commission had taken up Kamalari issue in the past as well and eventually issued directives in the name of the government upon sending recommendations.

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Dialogue Held on National Budget ...

praiseworthy measures to encourage domestic investment but feared that allowance of foreign investment in stock and apartment areas was unreasonable and would invite negative effects in the long run.

CA Member Sita Poudel emphasized that since the budget allocated to the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare would be too meager, allocating more budget through the Ministry can better contribute to promote human rights of the disadvantaged.

Dr. Trilochan Upreti, Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister pointed out that problems do not

lie in plan and policies but it is their implementation which is in dismal state. He, however, stressed on economic development, rule of law and merit based system which would help uplift the impoverished status of the general people. Dr. Upreti assured about the budget implementation for the court decision and establishment of an award for outstanding contribution in the field of human rights.

D.B. Basnet, Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) informed that "One village - One product" and "Koseli Ghar" are the ones

launched with the human rights perspective focusing on the rural sector.

Moderated by Member Gauri Pradhan, the floor was open for discussion in which the feedbacks were collected from 23 representatives of various participating organizations.

During the discussion, they stressed on the human rights training programme to the budget formulating team, emphasis on ESCR in Karnali, impediment to the land plotting so that irrigation canal can be easily accessed, insurance for the farmers, rights of persons with disabilities and mentally disabled people, good

governance with transparency and accountability and empowerment of the women employees.

The programme was the first in its kind to discuss on the Annual Budget on Government's Planning and Policies through ESCR Perspectives amidst large participation of the stakeholders.

At the programme, Jyoti Baniya, Arjun Bhattarai, Sanjay Banatawa, Devendra Adhikari, Matrika Devkota, Manju Gurung, Sharmila Karki, General Secretary of NFN also shared their views and suggestions.

Home Secretary and Chief of Nepal Police Urged to Expedite Implementation of NHRC Recommendations

Lalitpur: The National Human Rights Commission has drawn the attention of the Home Ministry and Nepal Police towards the implementation of the NHRC recommendations on July 13, 2011. At a dialogue held at the NHRC, the Commission expressed deep concern over the delay in the implementation of NHRC decisions and emphasized on the need of seriousness of the Government agencies.

Drawing attention towards the need of expected improvement in peace and security situation,

incidents of killing and violence in the country, 18 incidents of unlawful killings as furnished in the NHRC report last year, arbitrary arrest, increasing rate of criminal activities in Terai, excessive use of force by the security personnel at Shanker Dev Campus students, NHRC has asked the government mechanisms to be more serious towards the protection of human rights and to develop a mechanism to ensure peace and security in the country.

At the programme, the

discussions were held on the incident of rape of Suntali Dhami by the security personnel, custodial death of Sanu Sunar at Kalimati Police Post, murder of NHRC staff Dayaram Pariyar, incidents of Janakpur killing including Sanjeev Karn, Kotbada of Kalikot, killing of Arjun Lama, killing of Krishna Bahadur Adhikari at Gorkha Phujel VDC and other NHRC recommendations lying unimplemented.

At the discussion programme,

the consensus was reached between the security authorities, Home Ministry and the Commission to have effective collaboration for the human rights training and promotional activities in the days ahead.

At the programme, the members duo Ram Nagina Singh, Gauri Pradhan, Home Secretary Lilamani Poudel, Inspector General of Police Rabindara Prata Rana, personnel of Nepal police and NHRC Secretary and officers were also present.

Rights Bodies Reiterate Ratification of Rome Statute



Chairperson Upadhyay, Member Ram Nagina Singh, Chairperson of INSEC Subodh Raj Pyakurel among others at the book launching programme organized at NHRC

Lalitpur: The book entitled 'Implementation of Rome Statute' published by Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC) was launched amidst a programme held at NHRC on July 21, 2011.

Speaking at the programme, Chairperson Justice Kedar Nath Upadhaya said, 'Some crimes are of serious nature and the state actors often have hand in such crimes. The ratification of ICC Rome Statute would, therefore, ease the way to book those involved in crimes.' He added that the implementation of the statute would help mitigate the culture of impunity.'

At the programme, Subodh Raj Pyakurel, the Chairperson of INSEC said, 'Implementation of Rome Statute has been indisputably

inevitable to strengthen the national judiciary system.'

Raghav Lal Baidhya, Chairperson of National Judiciary Academy said that the publication of the book has helped build the foundation for the ratification of the Rome Statute.'

At the programme, the NHRC Commissioners, representatives from the human rights organizations, civil society members, security personnel, media persons, NHRC officials and other stakeholders were present.

In this concern, it can be recalled that NHRC had published a book containing the rationale with regard to the ratification of Rome Statute and recommended to the Government to ratify the Rome Statute way back in 2008.

NHRC Monitors Sit-in Programme Drug Users urge Resumption of Treatment Benefit

Lalitpur: The team deployed by the NHRC monitored on the sit-in programme in front of the UN House on July 28, 2011. The programme was organized by the IDUS Advocacy Task Force.

During monitoring, the team was informed that there are 46 thousand 3 hundred and 10 drug users. Most of them are said to have been infected from HIV and Hepatitis.

UKAID had brought the programme for the treatment and damage mitigation of drug users under International Development Projects through DFID way back in 2005. The programme was discontinued

from July 15, 2011 leaving so many beneficiaries deprived of the treatment. Following this, demonstrators had organized the sit-in programme demanding the allowance for the entry into the UN premises to present the letter of memorandum.

Amidst tight security arrangement, the demonstrators were reported to have been obstructed to hand over the memorandum to the UNDP Head. Over all, the sit-in programme was found to be peaceful.

The monitoring team comprised of HR officers duo Gita Kumari Dahal and Maya Devi Sharma.



NHRC monitoring team clearing mud slide on their way to Kavre, a district close by Kathmandu

NHRC Observation and Decisions on Transitional Justice System for the Protection of Human Rights

The NHRC is an independent and autonomous body established on May 26, 2000 under the Human Rights Commission Act of 1997. The section 15 of the Interim Constitution of Nepal-2007 has elevated the Commission to a constitutional body. The Article 132 of the Constitution has provided the Commission with mandates. Apart from this, section 9.4 of the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) signed between Government of Nepal (GoN) and the then CPN (Maoists) on November 21, 2006 has given responsibility to the NHRC to monitor human rights stated therein.

The period of armed conflict (1995 -2063) has remained extremely painful. During this period, estimated 16,719 people lost their lives and 3,347 people were said to have been disappeared. Based on the Commission records, the whereabouts of 835 people among the total disappeared is still unknown. The prolongation of the situation still persists. Around 80 thousand people are found to be displaced, 964 people are found inflicted with torture and the land properties and house of thousands are claimed to have been arbitrarily confiscated.

The conflict related data depicts gloomy picture of human rights situation of Nepal. Amidst such scenario, the signing of CPA was done between the conflicting parties (GoN and the then CPN (Maoists)) in order to address the situation. The formation of the transitional justice mechanisms such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission on Enforced Disappearance stipulated in the CPA in the Article 33 (L) of the Interim constitution is delayed.

Thousands of complaints are registered at NHRC on the violation of human rights that took place during and after the conflict period. The Commission has been carrying out monitoring and investigation on these cases. As a part of the procedures, NHRC receives statements from victims and stakeholder concerned, collects proof and evidence including the activities relating to the exhumation of human remains. Accordingly, the Commission has been sending its recommendations to the GoN to provide relief and compensation to the

victims. In addition, Commission recommends for legal action against the perpetrators.

The Commission has been encouraged by

The intent of such communications would

- intervene in the NHRC mandates and their implementation.
- intervene the investigation activities on the complaints remaining pending and registered prior to its elevation to the Constitutional body.
- Serve as an obstacle to the fulfillment of the NHRC's main responsibilities stated in sections 9 and 11 of the Human Rights Commission Act, 1997.
- Hinder the monitoring on the investigation of human rights situation as stated in section 9.4 of the CPA – 2006.
- Paris Principles endorsed by the UN Commission on Human Rights and the UN General Assembly - 1993 has provided wider mandates to the Commission. It also provides that that the Commission should be competent to work for the protection and promotion of human rights enabling to drawing attention of the Government to human rights issues including making recommendations as deemed necessary.
- The victims would face the deprivation of justice due to the obstruction in the relentless activities of the Commission on the incidents of grave violations of human rights that took place during the insurgency period.
- It would go against the spirit of Supreme Court verdict which states that it is the duty of the Government to comply with the recommendations and orders passed by the Commission.

the statement of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister on May 27, 2011 about the progress made by the present government on the implementation of NHRC recommendations and GoN's commitment

for the protection and promotion of human rights. However, some of the state authorities haven't registered complaints on the incidents of human rights violations that occurred during and after the conflict period. In addition, the increasing practice of withdrawing the court cases by the government has reversely affected in implementing NHRC recommendations. The incidents of giving rewards to the perpetrators of human rights violations have altogether encouraged the violation of human rights and culture of impunity.

In some cases, some GoN authorities have corresponded to the Commission stating that TRC mechanism would be appropriate to carry out investigations over some complaints registered at the Commission. The nature of the content of letter impliedly tends to limit the constitutional mandates of the Commission. The attention of the Commission has been drawn to those correspondences. The Commission, therefore, would like to clarify on the issues.

Even after 4 years and 6 months of Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA), neither the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) nor the Commission on Enforced Disappearances has been formed. In addition, NHRC-Bill has not been passed. The governments formed one after another withdrew the criminal cases that deserved the legal action and punishment. More cooperation is expected from the Government for the investigation proceedings by the Commission in which the responsible state authorities are found to be involved in the commission of offenses and crimes against humanity. Although, limited 'interim relief' has been distributed, the Commission expresses concern over the worrisome situation pertaining to the Government being dispirited to deliver justice to the victims and legal action against the perpetrators.

The directives of the government officials can not limit the Commission's mandates under Article 132 of the Interim Constitution. The Supreme Court on June 21, 2011 has also clearly pronounced that the country cannot be pushed to the legal or institutional vacuum by giving the statement that the Commission doesn't deserve the liability to carry out

Excerpts of the NHRC Decision

investigation activities on the complaints filed during the armed conflict and eventually the TRC would look into those complaints which is yet to be formed. The Commission, however, in coordination with Nepal Police has given continuity to its constitutional responsibility in various activities including the exhumation of human remains of five victims including Sanjeev Karn in September 2011 and February 2011 who were said to have been killed by the Army personnel. The Supreme Court verdict states that the

international instruments on human rights to which Nepal is party shall be equal to the national laws, in accordance with Article 9 of the Nepal Treaty Act – 1990.

The NHRC mandates would not be limited in the context of specific jurisdiction delineated for TRC. After the formation of TRC, the Commission would unquestionably extend necessary support to it.

As the NHRC has been working under its

mandates, it reiterates that the Government ought to contribute to fulfill its work for the protection and promotion of human rights. The delays in the passage of the bill would develop negative feeling among the people in general as that may encourage the state of impunity in the country. The commission maintains its confidence about the presumption of the concerned officials of the GoN on the consequences of dilly dallying in the judiciary process at the end of the day.

To read the full text in English and Nepali visit www.nhronepal.org

Training for HR Defenders Held in Far West

Kanchanpur: Human rights defenders including the media persons of far-west attended human rights training in Kanchanpur on July 25-26, 2011 organized by the NHRC Regional Office, Dhangadi. The objective of the programme was to train human rights defenders and media persons in the district and surrounding.

participants expressed their expectations on various issues and areas of human rights including the NHRC activities, monitoring and investigation, difference between human rights violation and crimes, relationship between police administration and human rights, functions, duties and rights of the HR defenders, child rights,

participants towards end of the programme.

At the end of the training, the participants, expressing their

thanks, suggested to have the follow up programme in near future and also take such training to the remote districts of the country.



HR Defenders and Media Persons taking a group photo after the training session

The training was intended for those human rights defenders who hadn't undergone formal HR training in the past. The selection criterion of the training was based on the institutional representation, gender and inclusiveness. A total of 32 participants attended the training programme. Acting Director Tikaram Pokharel and HR Officer Pawan Bhatta including other two local human rights workers of the area facilitated the sessions of the training.

Prior to the training session, the

women's rights and caste based discrimination.

During the training, the group sessions were held on national and international laws, local human rights issues, human rights monitoring, investigation and facts finding on the incidents of human rights violations, human rights and civil society.

The participants were learned to have enriched their knowledge on human rights and the role of NHRC. Feedbacks were collected from the

Stakeholders Familiarised with Justice to Victims in West

Pokhara: The training entitled 'Human Rights' was organized by the NHRC Western Regional Office, Pokhara on July 8, 2011.

The objective of the training was to familiarize the stakeholders with 'Declaration on Basic Principles on Crimes and Abuse of Authority and Justice to Victims-1985' including national laws and mechanisms for the protection of human rights of victims.

Honorable justice Kishore Silwal and the chief of the Office of the District Attorney Shiva Ranabhat presented paper on the stipulated topics.

Following the paper presentation, the floor was open for the participants for their comments and feedbacks. The participants came up with the view that there hasn't been clear definition about the victims and laws with regard to mechanism for the protection of rights of victims. They unveiled that though there exist laws in this regard, they are vague and scattered. Similarly, there hasn't been any laws and mechanism

for the protection of witness. The stakeholders pointed out that the concerned stakeholders were not aware about the prevalence of the Declaration on Basic Principles on Crimes and Abuse of Authority and Justice to Victims, 1985.

At the programme, it was made known that the Declaration contained the clear definition of the victims including the protection and rights of victims, provision of compensation as per the articles ranging from 1 to 21. The participants unanimously stressed that publicity of this is inevitable along with the formulation of national laws and mechanism. The participants also came up with the view that such a programme should be taken to all the regions for the protection and promotion of human rights.

At the programme, 22 participants including the chief and representatives of Nepal Bar Association, representatives of NGOs, media persons and the all the staff members of NHRC regional office participated in the training.



Int'l Day against Torture observed Rights Bodies organize programmes to mark the Day in East

Biratnagar: Like past year, NHRC Eastern Regional Office, Advocacy Forum and INSEC jointly organized a programme on June 26, 2011 to mark the International Day against Torture in support of victims of torture. The participants of the programme comprised of the officials from security agencies, human rights defenders, legal professionals, chiefs of the health sector and the NHRC staff members.

At the programme, District Attorney Punya Pathak presented a paper on the legal provision and the present situation with regard to the health check-up of a person prior to sending the person/s to detention. The security officials, human rights workers and legal professionals offered their comments and suggestions on the content of the paper.

At the programme, comprehensive discussions were held in which the Chief District Officer, Binod Singh - Superintendent of Police, Koshraj Neupane - NHRC Regional Head, Dr. Bidur Wosti - Noble Medical College,

Umakant Jha - Medical Superintendent of Koshi Zonal Hospital, Manjita Upadhyay - human rights worker, Chandramani Neupane - Senior Advocate unanimously expressed their view that the torture is absolutely and universally prohibited. They opined that the difficulties faced in the practical term would be mitigated if due respect is given to person's fundamental rights. The programme was facilitated by Balkrishna Acharya of Advocacy Forum.

The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment came into force on June 26, 1987. It was an important step in the much-needed process of globalizing human rights and acknowledging that torture, and all forms of inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, are absolutely and universally illegal. In 1997, the United Nations General Assembly decided to mark this historic date and designated 26 June each year as International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.

VDC Secretaries Oriented on HR in East

Biratnagar: NHRC and WOPERDEC jointly organized two day orientation programme on Human Rights from 6 to 7 June, 2011 in Biratnagar. The secretaries from various Village Development Committees of Morang district and the representatives of human rights NGOs participated in the interaction programme.

The programme covered various areas and issues such as concept and development of human rights, enforcement mechanism of human rights and monitoring and investigation process including the role of human

rights defenders.

Participants of the programme said that the orientation programme was a learning forum for them. The concluding ceremony of the programme was chaired by the WOPERDEC Chairperson Sanju Shah. NHRC Deputy Director Kosh Raj Neupane, in his closing remark, mentioned that NHRC has been frequently organizing orientation and education programme on human rights. He also stressed on the need for collaboration with the civil society and various organizations active in the area.

Teachers undergo HR Education workshop in East

Biratnagar: NHRC Regional Office, Biratnagar, in collaboration with the District Education Office (DEO), Jhapa, INSEC and IDF Jhapa organized a one day workshop on "HRE in School: Practice and Challenges in Birtamode, Jhapa on June 11, 2011.

During the programme HR Officer Nanda Prasad Kishor Yadav presented a paper on

theoretical aspects and Human Rights. Similarly, Nilmani Khanal, Officer from DEO, presented a paper on HRE in schools. The workshop was concluded with various suggestions to improve the existing school curriculum and teaching method on human rights. Forty five representatives including high school teachers participated in the programme.

NHRC Initiative in Monitoring Rights of Mentally Ill Persons

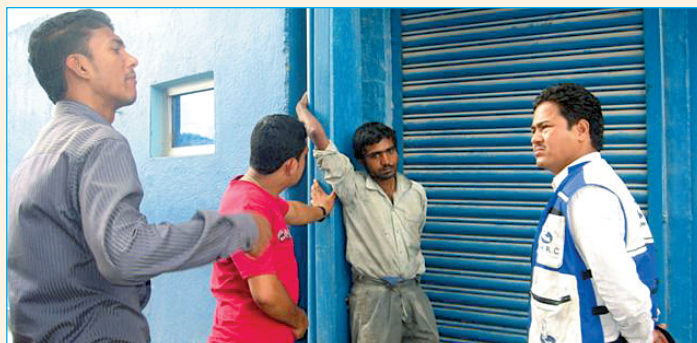
Kathmandu: The monitoring team deployed by the NHRC carried out monitoring on the condition of a mentally ill youth at Tinkune, Kahtmandu on July 3, 2011. The youth was reported to have been discarded by the family. As per the locals, the youth depended upon the wasted food stuffs of the roadside hotels for the last couple of years. The team also had discussion with the security personnel of the Tinkune police post.

During the monitoring, the youth was found to be mentally ill and neglected by the family. On being requested, the officials

of the Tinkune police post said that they could take the youth

advice form NHRC, however, the officer concerned said that

provision for the betterment of the ill-fated youth.



The resident of Teenkune briefing about mentally ill youth to the NHRC monitoring team

to the mental hospital/Asylum at the most. Expecting the

they would take some initiation if there exists any legal

The team discovered that the state hasn't made any arrangement for the mentally ill people and at the same time the hospitals, though in existence, wouldn't easily agree to take unattended mentally ill person for necessary care and treatment. The team, therefore, urged to write to the concerned government offices with regard to the mentally retarded people and their care. The monitoring team comprised of HR Officer Bhim Prasad Oli and Intern Sunita Tamang.

Director General of Prisons called on to NHRC

Attention drawn to miserable condition of the prisons

Lalitpur: In a bid to evoke the sense of responsibility of the concerned authority, NHRC summoned the Director General of the Prison Management Department on July 7, 2011 and drew his attention towards various problems faced by the prisoners in the central jail and other prisons located nationwide.

Having monitored in the central jail, NHRC unveiled that the central jail utterly gives the impression of a place for torture rather than a place for reformation of the inmates.

During the discussion, the

those prisons. Similarly, there has been cases of homicide inside the prison that have been reported from time to time. The recommendations on the prison reformation made by NHRC hasn't been implemented accordingly.

Days after the dialogue with Bishal Khanal, senior management - NHRC and Durga Prasad Bhandari, the Director General of the Prison Management Department, the latter issued a circular to all the detention facilities and prison (prisons) across the country directing them to provide full

administrative staff never had had the opportunity to undergo the formal human rights training

inmates. No inmates were found to be inflicted with physical or mental torture.



NHRC team and prison official during the monitoring on the condition of district prison in Tanahun in West



NHRC officials having discussion with the prison administrative officials at Tanahun District in West

Director General was also made aware that the NHRC monitoring team wasn't given the access to the prison in Pyuthan.

Similarly, the prison accommodated more inmates than its capacity in many districts including Banke, Morang and Nepalparasi. The inmates of the Jajarkot prison suffered from inhuman treatment in the name of law enforcement. The prison's record revealed that they were not regularly monitored by the concerned CDOs or other judiciary authority. The prisons lack other amenities such as the library, communication, recreation and sanitation.

Security inside the prisons was found to be very weak. It is learned that the emergence of criminal offenses is frequent in

access to NHRC teams to monitor the rights of the prisoners and detainees in confinement.

In addition, expressing his full commitment, the DG of the Prison Management informed the Commission that he would work hard to ensure the rights of inmates for which the long term and short term strategies and activities would require.

Meanwhile, the team comprising of the Deputy Director Yagya Prasad Adhikari and Public Relation Assistant Khimlal Subedi of NHRC regional office, Pokhara conducted monitoring from July 22 -25, 2011 on the condition of the prison in Tanahu district.

During the monitoring, they found that the prison

in the past. Most of the minor internal activities of the prison were performed by the inmates assigned as Chowkidar (Guard), leader and his associate.

It was found that the personnel deputed for the security of the prison and the prison administration didn't have adequate coordination. However, the official records of the inmates and their activities were found to be well documented. As per the monitoring team, it wasn't that shocking to discover that 95 inmates including the mentally ill and the sick were accommodated in the space of 25 inmates. The prison administration was learnt to have informed about this to the higher level authority but no action is taken to sort out the problem as per the prison administration. Also, the security situation of the prison was found considerably vulnerable and weak.

However, the training for income generating or life -skill learning such as handicraft product was made available to the inmates. Nonetheless, the prison administration was found to be liberal in arranging for the legal counseling, access to the court, and initiation for the prompt justice delivery to the

NHRC Regional Office Pokhara, in its report, has recommended the national and international laws with regard to the rights of prisoners and implement them accordingly, establish the separate prison for the female inmates, allowance and awareness raising programme for the inmates.

Meeting held with Peace and Reconstruction Ministry Victims of Disappearance to receive Interim Relief

Lalitpur: NHRC held a meeting with the officials including the Secretary of Peace and Reconstruction Ministry on July 19, 2011. In the meeting, it was discussed that interim relief would be disbursed to 43 victims of disappearance from Godar (Dhanusha), Bahiravnath Gana and others. Further discussions were held to resolve the decision on the provision of compensation with regard to the conflict related cases. In the meeting, comprehensive discussions were held on the implementation of the NHRC recommendations.

Orientation to NHRC Interns

Lalitpur: The NHRC organized an orientation programme among the second batch of interns on June 9, 10 and 11, 2011 respectively taken under SCNHRC project. The programme was organized with the objective to orient and integrate the fresh interns into the NHRC functions, mandates, overall working system on human rights and various other HR related issues.

The internship programme, which covered a period of six months, completed successfully in 2010. Having found the effectiveness of the internship programme on human rights among the aspiring youths on human rights, the second batch of 10 interns has been selected and deployed in various departments under NHRC beginning June, 2011.

Following the orientation



Shree Ram Adhikari, HR Officer facilitating HR training to the fresh batch of interns

programme, the interns underwent an intensive training on wide range of human rights issues through a participatory and interactive approach.

The training was provided on various themes and areas including NHRC's structure, mandates, functions and activities, Human Rights Investigation and Monitoring

Process, Evolution of Human Rights, International Human Rights Instruments, UN Conventions on Protection of Human Rights (Core Conventions), NHRC's Role on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, Human Rights Promotional Activities (Education and Training) Investigation and monitoring,

Civil and Political Rights, Rights against Torture, Racial Discrimination, Fundamental and Constitutional Rights, Unlawful Killing, NHRC's Role in Advisory Services to the Government on International Human Rights Obligation and National Laws Relating to Human Rights, Trafficking in persons specially on Women and Children, Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC), Situation of Nepalese Women and NHRC activities for Women's Rights and so on so forth.

NHRC had followed the principle of inclusiveness while selecting the Interns. They belong to various marginalized castes and ethnic groups representing the communities of Dalit, Madhesi, Adivasi and Janjati (Indigenous ethnics). Of 10 interns, 8 of them are females.

College Students Enrich HR Knowledge

Lalitpur: With the slogan 'Promoting Human Rights and Culture of Peace through Youth Initiative,' a workshop-cum-interaction entitling 'Awareness through Mass Teaching' was held among the students of various colleges of the Capital who visited NHRC on June 16 June, 2011.

The participating students expressed their expectations with regard to various aspects of human rights cases and the activities that the Commission carries out.

HR Officer Suresh Malla presented the paper on the role of NHRC. Secretary Khanal posed some queries before the participating students for 'reflecting sharing.' Secretary Khanal made it clear that incidents of human rights violations and crimes are not analogous as is perceived by the people in general.

Responding to the queries and concerns raised by the participants, Director Bed Bhattarai and other HR officials enumerated on various aspects of human rights. During the programme, the students were learned have enriched their knowledge on human rights and the role of NHRC. Expressing thanks the participants suggested to have this type of programme for the youths that would help them work for human right and humanity in future.

38 students from KMC College R.R College Shanker Dev Campus, White House College, Bard College GGIC Tri Chandra College, Global College of Mgmt, Thames Int'l College, Padmakanya College, Kathmandu University, Conflict, Peace & Development and Studies participated in the programme.

HR Culture Promoted through Radio

Lalitpur: NHRC in coordination with Radio Sagarmatha (RS) FM 102.4 M Hz. has commenced human rights related radio programme entitled Sachetana since March 2010 through RS and its 11 network radio stations located at different regions of the country. In the first year of broadcasting, there were only 9 radio stations to broadcast this programme; but with the beginning of the 2nd year, three more radio stations have been added. The half-an-hour weekly programme, supported by Strengthening the Capacity of National Human Rights Commission (SCNHRC) Project, is based on NHRC's strategic objective of promoting human rights awareness and education in society by developing and disseminating human rights friendly information, education

and communication (IEC) materials. Sachetana covers diverse issues of human rights through various segments such as radio features, reports, news and discussions. The major objectives of the radio programme are to spread knowledge of NHRC mandates, role and activities among the general public, reinforce the implementation of NHRC recommendation, and to contribute in building a human rights and peace-friendly society.

Radio Sagarmatha is the first community radio station in South Asia and has been raising issues of public concern since its establishment in 1997.



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NHRC e-Newsletter publication supported by SCNHRC Project

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