



तराई मानव अधिकार रक्षक सञ्जाल

TERAI HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS ALLIANCE

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Press Release

Forty political leaders including Naya Shakti Nepal (NSN) Coordinator Baburam Bhattarai, NSN leaders Hishila Yami, Parshuram Tamang, Ganga Chaudhari and CPN-Maoist Revolutionary leader CP Gajurel were arrested by the police from outside the Election Commission today. These leaders were arrested when they went to protest the provision of newly enacted Local Level Election Act, 2017 that bars new political parties from contesting local elections on the basis of party's symbol.

NSN and some fringe parties had submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal on Thursday and had served an ultimatum of 48 hours to amend the controversial law. The protesting leaders were detained when they went to stage sit in at the Election Commission demanding amendment to the Local Level Election Act, 2017. Leaders associated with 64 fringe parties went to stage a sit in at the Election Commission.

These leaders were first taken to Nepal Police Office at Maharajgunj and then to Nepal Police Club, Bhrikuti Mandap. Some cadres of protesting parties were injured when clashes erupted between the protesters and the police.

THRD Alliance opposes detention of political leaders who were exercising their constitutional rights of freedom of expression and right to peaceful assembly. THRD Alliance too believes that there should be no restriction on new political parties from contesting elections on the basis of electoral symbol. Therefore, THRD Alliance urges the concerned bodies to release all the leaders and cadres as soon as possible. If any law is made to benefit only those political parties that have representation in the Parliament and then that cannot be fair. The new Local Level Election Law, 2017 is one such law.

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Collective Voice for Equity and Justice

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