

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE TERAI

Situation update

June 14, 2017



Focus on:

- **Strike before the second phase of local election**

The general strike called by Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal (RJPN) against the second phase of local elections scheduled for June 28 was effective in most of the Terai districts. The RJPN demands, among other things, that a revised constitution amendment bill be passed and the number of local levels be increased in Madhes in proportion to the population of the region. Public vehicles were off the road and schools were closed in many districts. Markets were also closed in most of the big cities. RJP cadres were seen protesting at various places of Terai districts; however no serious untoward incidents were reported so far. Some vehicles of political leaders and of others were reportedly vandalized by protestors and some protestors were arrested by police in some districts. Heavy security deployment has been observed in the markets and on the road in Terai districts. Details as per the districts are as follows:

Morang: In Biratnagar and Rangeli, the public vehicles were off the road; markets and school institutions were closed, some vehicles were vandalized by protestors in Biratnagar. However, motorbikes, ambulances, electric rickshaw and private vehicles plied on the road. No confrontation has been reported.

Saptari: The market of Rajbiraj was completely shut down. There was not a single vehicles plying on the road. Vehicles plying on the Mahendra Highway came to halt. Even the small shops were shut down. Overall, the protest was peaceful.

Dhanusha: Fourteen vehicles were vandalized by the protesters in different parts of the district. Movements of motorbikes and Rikshaw were, however, unaffected.

Mahottari: In Aurahi, the RJP cadre pelted stones at CPN- UML lawmaker Dip Narayan Sah's vehicle. The police intervened and took the situation under control. No other incidents of confrontation were reported.

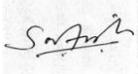
Banke: In Nepalgunj, the RJPN cadres vandalized a Scorpio for defying the strike. The Scorpio belongs to Dr. Suresh Kanudia, who is Nepali Congress' candidate for Mayor of Nepalgunj Sub- metropolitan City. The incident took place during his election campaign. The police took RJPN leader Lalit Rauniyar in custody for vandalizing the Scorpio. Later in the evening Kanudia requested police to set him free. However, the police have filed a case of public offence against Rauniyar.

Nawalparasi: RJPN cadres vandalized a bike which was used by CPN-UML cadre for the election campaign. The police took RJP cadres in custody for four hours.

Sarlahi: The district election office closed its office. The activities related to election have been postponed until further notice.

The strike called by RJPN crippled the life in most of the districts of the Terai. The protestors vandalized private vehicles during protest in some district while in **Sunsari, Siraha, Rautahat, Dang, Bardiya, Bara** and **Parsa** protests were peaceful. However, there was no effect of strike in Kanchanpur and Kailali district. Throughout the day, RJPN cadres protested by burning tyres on the road. The government has kept these districts in high alert. Police personnel are deployed in massive scale.

The situation in these districts is worrisome clashes could occur anytime between political parties and agitating forces and the security personnel. There is high chance of confrontation between RJPN cadre and police personnel. It is going to be very difficult for the government to conduct local polls in this part of the country without addressing the demands raised by the RJPN.



Satish Chandra Shah
Media and Communication Coordinator

Terai Human Rights Defenders Alliance

Tinkune, Koteswor, Nepal

Phone no: 977-1-5199352

Email: thrdalliance@gmail.com

Web: www.thrda.org, www.teraijustice.org.np

Terai Justice Center provides secretariat to Terai Human Rights Defenders (THRD) Alliance that works to promote equity and justice in Nepal by conducting research and litigations on issues of human rights violations and discrimination with a special focus on Terai.