



AMNESTY DIALOGUE

A campaign newsletter of Amnesty International Nepal

MARCH - APRIL 2009



IN THIS ISSUE

- President Emphasized for the special effort to end the Impunity
- Meeting with the chairman of the constitutional assembly
- Raised the issue of impunity of Nepal to the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- On the occasion of international women day held worldwide campaign for the security of the woman human rights defenders of Nepal.
- Nepal Government fails to protect women human rights defenders from violent attacks
- Worldwide campaign started to pressurize the investigation of the death of Laxmi Bohara, a woman rights activist of Nepal
- Campaign for pressurize to rectify the international convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance.
- Signature collection from various places for requesting the ratification of the international convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance.
- training related to Human Rights and AI.
- Third National Youth Fair of representative of youth network
- Training about fixation of planning and evaluation of result
- Miscellaneous activities

Cover Photo

Above President of Nepal Dr. Ram Baran Yadav in his residence after meeting with the delegation of AI Nepal on 12 march, 2009.

Down Participantans of The Third National Youth Mela (Camp) held at Sauraha of Chitwan district from 9-11 April 2009

National Executive Committee of AI Nepal

Chairperson- Hem Kumar Khadka
Vice-chairperson- Keshab Sigdel
General Secretary- Shambhu Thakur
Deputy Gen. Secretary- Uttam Sapkota
Treasurer- Rashmila Bhochhibhoya
Members
Mamita Kumari Pun
Yashoda Kumari Upadhyaya
Chetnarayan Bhushal
Deek Prasad Ghimire
Nirmal Babu Shrestha
Rajan Prasad Kuikel
Advisors
Nutan Thapaliya
Lokesh Dhakal

Appeal Committee Of AI Nepal

Coordinator Shyamraj Ghimire
Members
Bimala Devi (Bista) Gautam
Rishikesh Khanal

Published by

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEPAL
Amnesty Marga Basantanagar
P.O.Box 135, Balaju
Kathmandu, Nepal

Phone: + 977 1 4364706
+ 977 1 4365431

Fax: +977 1 4354987

email: info@amnestynepal.org

website: www.amnestynepal.org

WE NEED THE SPECIAL EFFORT TO END THE EXISTING IMPUNITY IN NEPAL-PRESIDENT DR. YADAV

President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav has emphasized on the need for a coordinated effort in order to put an end to existing impunity in the country.

He made this remark at a meeting with a delegation of Amnesty International (AI) Nepal at his office in Sheetal Niwas on 12 March.



A delegation led by AI Nepal's Chairperson Hem Kumar Khadka called on the President to express the organizations' concerns over the rising impunity in Nepal. The organization expressed its concern over the reluctance of the government towards bringing perpetrators of human rights violation and abuses to justice.

During the meeting President Yadav said, "There is an immediate need for the country to end impunity. This need is not only to ensure justice but also to improve our image into international arena as the culture of impunity has left with the negative image of the country internationally". He further added "Like the very vibrant role played by the civil society in the People's Movement, the time has come for organizations like Amnesty International to put

together another coordinated effort to end impunity in the country". Highlighting the importance of human rights campaign, he said, "I realized the importance of campaigns run by human rights organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch while I was held in detention". He also appreciated the role played by AI and AI Nepal to improve the situation of human rights in Nepal.

Talking with members of the delegation, President Dr. Yadav said "It is not appropriate to define human rights differently depending on the economic growth of any particular country. Fundamental rights including right to life are universally the same; whether in the poor or in the rich countries".

The delegation also handed over a memorandum highlighting some key issues related to human rights.

The delegation comprised with President of AI Nepal Hem Kumar Khadka, advisors Nutan Thapaliya and Lokesh Dhakal, former Chairpersons Charan Kumar Prasai and Binod Prasad Nepal, Vice-chairperson Keshab Sigdel, Deputy General Secretary Uttam Sapkota, Treasurer Rashmila Bhochhibhoya, Members Yashoda Upadhyaya, Chetnarayan Bhusal, Nirmal Babu Shrestha, Rajan Kuikel, Director Rameshwar Nepal and officer Indira kharel.

Meeting with the Chairperson of Constitutional Assembly.

Meanwhile, on the 14th of March a delegation met the Chairperson of the Constituent Assembly Mr. Subash Chandra Nemwang to put forward official concern and some recommendations over the culture of impunity in Nepal. The delegation submitted a memorandum highlighting the same 4 issues which was highlighted in the memorandum that submitted to the President on the 13th of March 2009.



Chairman Nemwang, accepting the memorandum, expressed his commitment and support towards fighting against impunity.

President Nemwang expressed his commitment to help actively on the truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) with no provisions of amnesties for cases of violation of international human rights and humanitarian laws. He also expressed his commitment that he will always draw the attention of the government regularly to bring the proposal to

ratify the Statute of the International Criminal Court. He also informed that he had helped the foreign minister to send the proposal of Rome Statute into the cabinet.

On the occasion President of AI Nepal Hem Kumar Khadka and Director of AI Nepal Rameshwar Nepal informed to the president about the campaign of AI Nepal related to the security of women rights defenders. At the meeting the delegation handed over a memorandum to the President including institutional views too.

The delegation went there on the leadership of the president of AI Nepal Hem kumar Khadka, Advisors Lokesh Dhakal, Vice-chairperson Keshab Sigdel, Deputy General Secretary Uttam Sapkota, Treasurer Rashmila Bhochohibhoya, Members Yashoda Upadhyaya and Rajan kuikel, Director Rameshwar Nepal and Officer Indira Kharel were also present on the occasion.

Memorandum presented to the President of Nepal Dr Rambaran yadav on 12 March, 2009.

Date 12 March, 2009
Your Excellency Dr Ram baran Yadav
President's office
Shital niwas
Kathmandu, Nepal

Excellency President Yadav

Amnesty International has expressed deep concern about the deeprooted impunity that is caused by lack of transparent investigation and legal punishment to the person related to the humanrights violation and abuses in the bygone days. It brought hopelessness to the victims, their families and the general public. It promoted to the perpetrators. Continuity of this kind of incidents could reduce the beliefs of people towards national network and it could bring serious consequences.

After completion of the popular movement of 2062-63 BS, in comprehensive peace aaccord between Nepal Government and CPN-M, agreement with peoples representative of Terai who were in revolution, marginilazied groups, other groups and the commitment of interim constitution -2063 and other occasion, government commited for special effort to end the impunity, but the government has been failed to fulfil the commitments till now.

There is no serious effort to bring the perpetrators under the justice. For instance, government rarely raised the issue about the crime against women and punish to the perpetrators. Large number of women and girls do not like to register the case like Rape and other violence. it is happening not only by the

risk being excluded in society but they also have no hope that government will do something to the perpetrators. women rights activists who are active in protection and promotion of human rights they are also beaten, threatened or even faced the death like violation.

Government is doing nothing for the protection of these women therefore women Human Rights activists are facing risk.

In this situation amnesty international wants to draw your Excellency's kind attention on the following issues.

1. Formation of the Truth and reconciliation commission (TRC)

As the commitment in Comprehensive Peace Accord between Government of Nepal and Nepal communist party Maoist (CPN-M) that the draft bill of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission stated the proposal to provide amnesty for serious violator and abuser of the Human Rights. This proposal ignores the preface of the same draft which stated that serious violator of Human Rights and criminal against humanitarian law, will bring under the justice to reduce the impunity and aware all about it.,

According to the international Human Rights and humanitarian law TRC should not provide amnesty and recommend for impunity crime like killings, abduction, rape, disappeared events, torture which is binded by the international laws.

Therefore,

- The proposed TRC Bill of Nepal, under Article 25 (1), includes provisions of amnesty for those who have committed crime under his/her duty or to gain the political objectives under international laws. **Article said that commission can recommend to the government for his / her amnesty** .There should be an amendment. crime according to the international law like - mass killings , crime against humanity , extrajudicial

killings, enforced disappearance , torture and so on should remove from the provisions of amnesty list. There should be provisions that those kinds of crime can not get amnesty.

- Except Rehabilitation, compensation and satisfaction commission should recommend various method of reparation for victims. There should not be repetition of the past violations. Method for this like- Law, administrative method, improvements on government practices, consolidation of legal system and improvements of human rights education should be most.

2. Make public the whereabouts of disappeared people

In Peace accord Government and CPN(M) said-people of enforced disappearance and killed during the conflict will disclose their name, surname and permanent address publicly and informed to their family within 60 days of signing of the accord.-but 2 and half year have already passed , happened nothing.

Supreme court of Nepal in its landmark judgement on jesh 18 , 2064(june , 2007) ordered to the government about to investigate the cases of enforced disappearances , make the new law indicating enforced disappearance as criminal work and establish the investigation commission. The government released a draft of the disappearances (crime and Punishment) Bill recently. But till now the commission is not established.

- Government should disclose the whereabouts of disappeared people by both government and Maoist as soon as possible .And there should be investigation about the incident of disappearance and should punish the perpetrators.
- Ensure the full range of appropriate reparations to the victims of disappeared and their families

3. To end the impunity ratification of Rome statute

International criminal court is only independent and fair international body to bring the criminal in justice, linked with crime like mass murder, war crime and crime against humanity .if national government can not or do not punish the criminal linked with serious crime like crime against humanity then the international criminal court can do the work.

Considering the widespread impunity in Nepal the full bench of the house of representative directed the government to ratify the Rome Statute on 9th of saun 2063 (July 25,2006)which is positive and appreciable. And the government established a working team to study the impacts and burden after the ratification of the Rome statute, on 1 kattik 2063(October 18,2006). The team handed over the report to the then deputy primeminister and foreign minister .But till now either it makes public or sign.

Nepal is passing through the sensitive path of transition where we need ensure of the transitional justice, end of impunity and ful of legal and permanent peace. For this state should do more.

If Nepal ratifies the Rome Statute then only the perpetrators of mass murder, crime against humanity and war crime will be punished.

So,

- There is urgent need to be forward looking for the procedures to ratify the Rome Statute and burden to the state after the ratification.

4. End of Impunity on violence against women and security of women human rights defenders

In Nepal violence against women is serious and widespread. According to the latest report of National Human Rights Commission, domestic violence and murder due to the dowry and sexual violence are increasing day

by day. According to the National Women Commission each year tenth thousands of women are facing the violence, among them 80 percent are domestic violence.

On the other part women rights defenders who are raising question about the women rights on domestic violence and sexual violence are facing security risk but the state is not paying attention properly.

On the occasion of women rights day of this year Amnesty international has been launching worldwide campaign for the security of women rights defenders and to end the existing impunity on violation of women rights.

- There should be zero tolerance policy on violation against women and ensure the punishment for security forces and activists of political parties who are responsible for the violation of women rights.
- International and regional treaty, declaration, proposal and recommendation on condemnation and prohibition of violation against women should be applied fully.
- Take all possible measures to ensure the safety and protection of women human rights defenders, particularly in rural areas.
- Develop a national plan of action to implement the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders to enable human rights defenders to carry out their legitimate work without fear of reprisal.

If the state do not apply consolidated measure to bring the perpetrators of human rights violation and crime against humanity into the justice to end the impunity , and aware them about the punishment if they repeat it again then the hopelessness of people could bring the serious implications. In our views state should be aware it in timely manner.

Your Excellency President,

If you make efforts to apply our request of above, we will be very much grateful.

Thank You.

THE ISSUE OF EXISTING IMPUNITY IN NEPAL RAISED TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS

General Secretary of Amnesty International Iren Khan wrote a letter to Navanitham Pillay in March of 16, 2009 and expressed concern about the existing impunity in Nepal. In advance of her forthcoming mission to Nepal, General Secretary Khan urged her to implement effective measures to cross the circle of Impunity.

Letter stated –After the establishment of a new government in Nepal last year, situation provided opportunity to address impunity for the thousands of cases of killings, enforced disappearances, torture and other Human Rights violations and abuses committed during the internal conflict, as well as for cases that have occurred since.

International's recent mission to Kathmandu, in March 2009, aimed to identify the priority issues on which the organization should direct its campaigning. In this context we met with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, civil society organizations, the National Human Rights Commission, parliamentarians and the Minister for Law.

Letter also stated that to end the existing impunity in Nepal Amnesty International Nepal and our members around the world will join to campaign in the next year for the authorities to take effective steps on it. So far no perpetrators of human rights abuses (whether committed by state security



forces or members of the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist) have been brought to justice. So people are in mood of despair, letter stated.

Letter also stated concern on that the government has passed by ordinance a law to establish a commission to investigate enforced disappearances. But the law has significant flaws, including no consultation with the concern people and it has also lack of international standard. Amnesty also expressed serious concern about the draft law establishing a truth and reconciliation commission which provides for amnesties even to the violators of human rights and humanitarian law. Amnesty suggested to the High Commissioner to raise the issue to the Nepal Government to reform it. Letter also suggested to the High Commissioner that to make effort to the government of Nepal about the accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

WORLDWIDE CAMPAIGN FOR THE WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS OF NEPAL ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

On the next year of of 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as 10th anniversary of the declaration related to rights defenders, International Women's Day marked on the 8th of March in 2009. Amnesty international, which is also working worldwide for the the rights of women has decided to celebrate women rights day specially focusing on the role of women for positive changes and the hardship beared by them.

This year AI has planned to celebrate Women Rights Day by campaigning about the condition of women rights mainly focusing among the 9 countries namely Laiberia, Haiti, Afghanistan, Iraq, Nepal, Iran, South Africa, Venezuela and Greece .For this, in Nepal, we branches of AI situated in different countries, members and supporters has planned to send letter to the primeminister of Nepal for the security of women rights defenders.

Excerpts further information about the situation of women rights defenders of Nepal and campaign to improve the situation.

Background

In **Nepal**, the mass People's Movement of April 2006 (the so-called Jana Andolan in Nepali) precipitated high expectations for renewed respect for human rights in Nepal – expectations for building a “New Nepal” and placing human rights protection at the heart of the work of the Nepal's new Constituent Assembly elected in April 2008.

Long-standing discrimination on the basis of caste, gender and ethnicity emerged as a critical issue in Nepal. The Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) of November 2006 commits the end of all forms of discrimination. This commitment inspired a range of people

discriminated on the basis of identity .Although there has been little delivery on promises so people including women are in the mood of despair. Mainly in the rural parts of the country and in the Terai police and district administration has been almost failed to ensure justice for victim and punishment to the perpetrators by investigating independently and fairly the incident of human rights abuses . The resulting security vacuum has allowed the proliferation of armed groups engaged in a number of human rights abuses such as abductions and unlawful killings. Crimes against women are going unquestioned and unpunished. Crimes against women are going unquestioned and unpunished. Many women and girls are afraid to

report rape and other forms of violence, not only because of hostility and stigma from their community, but also due to state inaction in ensuring the investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators through the justice system. civil faith towards the mechanism of government reducing day by day which itself is a serious situation.

Women working to protect women's rights are combating violence as they challenge feudal practices and face the most direct threats including beatings; threats and even death. As Women defenders become more vocal, building on new political space to discuss discrimination, they fear a backlash without any protective mechanisms in place to support their work.

Increasing threatens to the Women right defenders and its defence

Women rights defenders of Nepal working for the women of conflict victims subjected to physical assaults and threaten. According to the Women Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) a national level organization working for the women, only in 2008 around 40 women rights defenders faced life threat. Around 200 participants in the national counselling meeting for the women rights defenders held in Kathmandu at November 29 and 30 reported of being issued threats, harassed and faced various kinds of violation existing in the society. Women rights defenders working in the Local level, mainly in rural areas, seems to the vocal against the bad

practices of the society. So they are targeted, attacked and some time they have been killed. They said that in this risky situation too ,they are not feeling defeated and want to work continuously. The change which we are seeking for can be obtained if we provide help to the women rights defenders who are working in this risky situation. If they could get help from all quarters, all the risk could be reduced. Protection of the women rights defenders and punishment to the person who is responsible is responsibility of the state. So AI has planned the worldwide campaign to drag the attention of Government of Nepal in the cases like this , for the security of the women rights defenders and the gurantee of the punishment to the perpetrators. AI stressed in conclusion that Nepal government must said – There should not be the women violation.

What did we do during the campaign?

Members of the AI residing in different countries sent letter to Prime minister of Nepal Puspa Kamal Dahal Prachanda urging him to ensure the security of women rights defenders (mainly working in the rural areas) and take the measure of zero tolerance on those aspects. In Nepal AI local groups and the youth networks have taken part on the campaign by sending the letters after collecting the signatures. Letters have been sent through the Chief of District Office and in some cases letter was sent to the primeminister directly.

VARIOUS PROGRAMMES IN NEPAL ON WOMEN'S DAY

On the occasion of the Women Rights Day, this year Amnesty International Nepal launched worldwide campaign for ensuring the security to the women rights defenders. Similarly, different group and network of AI Nepal organized different programmes throughout the country. Delegates of AI Nepal raised concerns during the meeting with the President Dr Ram Baran Yadav on March 12, 2009 and also with Chairman of constitutional assembly Subash Chandra Nemwang on March 13 respectively. A Memorandum of four points which AI presented to both dignitaries included one points about security of women rights defenders. Apart from it, various programmes were launched in different places.

Youth demonstration in Chitwan

Participants of youth mela organized by AI Nepal on April 9-11 ,2009 (chaitra 27-29) at Souraha of Chitwan also took part in a demonstration in Narayangadh on April 10.They demonstrated slogan and playcards on the occasion. On the occasion, 57 youth represented by 29 youth networks under the AI Nepal,centre working committee members of AI Nepal , representative of National networks of women rights defenders , representatives of local Human Rights organization,journalists , representatives of civil society , social workers and general people took part at this programme . Similarly, group 64 of Ratnagar, group 33 of Narayangadh and youth network of Rampur agriculture

campus in Rampur under The AI Nepal also took part on the occasion.

Interaction of Group 34 Kathmandu

Everest Group 34 of Kathmandu under the AI Nepal organized an



interaction programme on March 14, 2009. The topic of the programme was – women rights defenders: security and challenges. On the occasion signature campaign was also done on the letter written to the then Prime Minister of Nepal Puspa Kamal Dahal urging him to pay



attention on the security of women rights defenders.

The programme was inaugurated by the president of AI Nepal Hemkumar Khadka. On the occasion president Khadka informed the participants about the worldwide campaign on 8 march, and the memorandum to the President Dr Rambaran Yadav and the president of Constitutional Assembly Subhash Chandra Nemwang. He emphasized on the special legal provision by the state on the security of women rights defenders.

On the occasion president of forum of women journalists and communicators (Sancharika samuha) Babita Basnet expressed her views that state has failed to provide security to its citizen and expressed grave concern on the poor security condition of the country. She also blamed the sister organizations of ruling parties for the poor security condition. She also expressed concern about absence of punishment to the perpetrators. She emphasized the need to ratify the domestic violence too. Secretary of Federation of Nepali Journalist Ramji Dahal expressed his views that government is weak to provide security to the right defenders. Likewise centre member of FNJ Yashoda Timsina expressed her views that she is unaware about the human rights which is persisted in the country or not. She said present government is more unfriendly than the past regarding the human rights.

Expressing his views founder and the advisor of AI Nepal Nutan Thapaliya said that women have contributed more in the AI campaign and state should be serious on the security of women rights defenders –journalists, lawyer, teachers, and social activists. Vice president of AI Nepal Keshav Sigdel said that the

programme is the a part of worldwide campaign on it and expressed views that in Nepal expression by the women rights defenders is creating problems and they are receiving threats.

On the occasion treasurer of the AI Nepal Rashmila Bhochohibhoya said that women are facing challenges like domestic violence, sexual violence and they are victim of conflict. On the situation AI is campaigning worldwide and paying attention to the security situation of the women rights defenders. This programme was organized to fulfil the objective – she said.

Programme was presided by the officiating convener of AI Nepal group 34 Kulprasad Bhattarai and the secretary of the group Bhesharaj pokhrel welcomed the participants. The programme was conducted by member of the Group Chanda Thapa.

On the occasion president of AI Khadka inaugurated the signature campaign to Prime Minister of Nepal for the security of women rights defenders. Other participants also took part on the signature campaign.

On the occasion, AI National Executive Committee Committee Members and Appeal Committee Members were also welcomed. They were elected on the 17th general meeting which was held in Pokhara on January 28-29,2009 (Magh 15-16, 2065).

Members of the group Sabita Shrestha, Jiban Shrestha , Officiating convener Kulprasad Bhattarai , president of working committee Hem Kumar khadka, Vice President Keshab Sigdel , Deputy General Secretary Uttam sapkota , treasurer Rashmila Bhochohibhoya and

Yashoda Kumari Upadhyaya were welcomed on the occasion.

Group 48 Baglung handed over the memorandum

Group 48 of Baglung under the AI Nepal handed over the memorandum to the Prime Minister through local administration demanding security to the women rights activists and asked to the Prime Minister for implementation of zero tolerance policy on the violation of human rights of women. On the occasion sister organization of different



political parties in local level, representative of different organization,



journalists, students, and general people participated in a rally before handing over the memorandum. the programme was

held on the leadership of convener of the group 48 baglung Dilip Poudel. On the occasion convener poudel emphasized the security of the women rights defenders by the local administration. Taking the memorandum chief district officer Umesh kumar simha expressed commitments to the security of right workers.

On the occasion district president of all Nepal Women Association (**Revolutionary**) Bhabikala Roka, secretary of Nepal Women Association Sakuntala Sharma, Vice President of all Nepal Women Association Mana KC, women development officer Laxmi GC Karki, Secretary of AI group 48 Bikash Poudel ,and Saraswati Kharel participated on the programme .

Memorandum to the Prime Minister by Group 3 Kathmandu

Signatures of people from various walks of life was collected in the Memorandum made for the security of women rights defenders and was handed over to the office of the Prime Minister by the AI Nepal Group 3 under the AI . The memorandum that address the Prime Minister Puspakamal Dahal and the Chairman of the Constitutional Assembly Subhash Nembang , leader of various political parties, various well known personalities from the field of human rights and social life, professional ,





teachers , students and others signed the memorandum .It is informed by the convener of the group Bhabani Prasad Kharel. Convener Kharel , Badri Prasad siwakoti , Birendra Thapaliya , Laxman Nath upreti , Rupadevi Bastola , Ramesh Prasai and member of group 20 kathmandu Binod kumar Biswakarma participated in the handing over ceremony,

Interaction by group 6 Itahari

AI Nepal group 6 Itahari organized a programme on the topic “End violation against Women”. The programme was inaugurated by group convener Narayan Prasad Ghimire. On the occasion Ganesh Khatri, Mohan BK of *Peoples Welfare Society Itahari*, treasurer of *Sayapatri Tole Development Organization* Dhankumari Limbu (Rai)and member of itahari *ladies jacyces* Sabitra Dahal expressed their views. The programme was chaired by founder president of Helpless Children Home , Geeta Gautam.

Women group 68, Nepalgunj

Women group 68 also organized a programme of signature collection for women rights defenders to be

incorporated in the request letter written to the Prime Minister. On the occasion different organization, human rights activists, businessman, journalists, and civil servants took part. The signature has been sent to the office of the Prime Minister-according to the group representative Baijayanti Giri.

On the occasion of international women day on March 8, a programme of lightening candle in front of martyr



Setu Bika was held. Programme was inaugurated by the Constitutional Assembly member and the Former Central Member of AI Nepal Mohammadi Siddiqi.



Seminar and signature collection by Itahari group 63

On the occasion, group 63 of AI Nepal organized a seminar on the topic Access to Justice of women in marginalized community. Chief Guest of



the programme and leader of Nepali congress Sujata Koirala inaugurated the programme and said that marginalized women are ignored by the state so they should be aware about the establishment of their right.

On the programme Member of Constitutional Assembly Bodh Narayan Sardar, Director of Eastern Regional Office of National Human Rights Commission Subarna karmacharya , Local Development Officer Guru Subedi , Member of Appeal Committee of AI Nepal Rishikesh Khanal , Former Deputy General Secretary of AI Nepal Rajnarayan Mandal , Ganesh Khatri of Group 6 , social worker Amar Bahadur Gouli , Sunsari District President of Federation of Nepali journalist Yam Pradhan , President of Nepal Women Association Uma Satyal , Centrel Treasurer of the Nepal Student Union Rajib Dhungana, Sunsari District President of the same organization Bikash KC , District Secretary of Nepal women Association Binda Karki ,

Programme Coordinator Dil kumari Rai and group convener Kabindra Mandal also expressed their views.

The group organized separate programme for the letter written to the Prime Minister demanding the security to the women rights defenders. The programme was inaugurated by the then deputy general secretary of AI Nepal Rajnarayan Mandal. On the occasion group convener Kabindra Mandal , convener of Itahari Youth Network Ananda Pokhrel , convener of Duhabi Youth Network Shiba Rimal , Members of AI , students , bussinesman



, social worker and the general public signed on the letter written to the primeminister.

Signature collection by group 54 pokhara

Group 54 of AI Nepal residing in Pokhara organized a programme of signature collection at Chipledhunga of Pokhara on March8,2009(Phalgun 25 , 2065). Programme started after the Deputy Convener of organizing group Dilliram Bhusal, Programme Coordinator Shobha Poudel, outgoing convener Durga Prasad Timilsina and President of



The programme was presided by the group convener Shyam babu Shah and was conducted by Rabi Goyanka, the group secretary. This programme was broadcasted live by the Janakpur FM 1001.8. According to the group convener journalist Ram Ashish Yadav and journalist Rajesh Karna helped in organizing the program to go live. On the occasion three members of

women development office Purna Shrestha gave their signatures on the letter. On the occasion total 329 people signed. It is informed the secretary of the organizing group Bimal Dawadi.

Constitutional Assembly Surita Shah, Minakshi Jha and Ramshila Thakur, Former central member of AI Nepal

Signature collection in Lamjung

Signatures were also collected at Sundar Bazar of Lamjung on the occasion. The programme was jointly organized by group 27 of AI Nepal and Sundar Bazar Youth Network.

The signature was handed over to the Prime Minister through the local administration office. Convener of group Ramkrishna Bhandari and Deputy Convener of Network Alina Adhikari handed over the memorandum to the Assistant Chief District Officer.

Interaction in Janakpur

Group 57 of AI organized an interaction programme on March 8, 2009 (25th of Phagun 2065). On the occasion two members of Constitutional Assembly, women police, women teachers, women health workers, business-women, home maids, girl students, women lawyers, female journalists were invited and they expressed their views on security of women rights defenders.



Sharad Chandra Prasad, District president of Human Rights and Peace Society Dhanusha Kamal Shah, senior journalist Rajeshwar Nepali, Members of AI Nepal Bijaya Thakur, Shailesh Lal Das, Rajanish Pandey, Renu Shah and Asha Thakur were also present.

Signatures collection in Pokhara by Group 82

Group 82 of AI Nepal organized a programme on 8th March for signature collection. On the occasion Chief of National human rights commission western regional office Achyut Acharya, Local Development Officer of Kaski Narahari Baral, Representative of



Ganeshsthan Chowk. On the occasion 44 representatives from Dhankuta participated in the program. Apart from them, teachers, students, intellectuals, and general people signed on the letter.

An interaction programme was also organized. Group convener Thakur Prasad Baral expressed his views about the role played by the AI on women rights defenders. On the

various human rights organizations, Professionals, students, Members of AI, intellectuals and general public gave their signatures according to the convener of the group Purna Prasad Poudel.



Rally, Interaction and Signature collection in Dhankuta

Group 1 of AI Nepal Dhankuta organized three different programmes in Dhankuta. Among them, the first programme was rally with play cards and banner for the security of the women rights defenders.

occasion teacher Krishna Govinda Chemjong, farmer Buddhikanta Ghimire, and civil servant Purna Yakha expressed their views.

The second programme was signature collection on the letter to the Prime Minister. The programme organized at

Senior member of the group Dr. RK Shah and women member Phoolmaya Tamang also expressed their views. The programme was presided by the Group convener Bigendra Yakha.



Signature collection In Bhaktapur

Group 50 of Bhaktapur also organized a signature collection programme on the same topic. The programme was held

on the premises of a local temple. Group convener Mangala Magaju, Secretary Niru Talcha Bhadel, Convener of group 17 Suresh Lakhe, Secretary Satya Tyana and former central member Bikram Dhukuchhu were also present.

Signature collection in Dang

Signature collection program was also held in Dang on March 27, 2009 (14th of chaitra 2065). The programme was organized by the group 66 of AI Nepal. On the occasion group convener Madhab Prasad Lamichhane, Secretary Pramod neupane, advocate Padam Prasad Baidik and Gokarna Dangi expressed their views on the problems faced by the women rights defenders.

Signature collection in Birtamod

On the occasion of international women’s day, group 58 of AI Nepal organized a programme on 8th march on signature collection. The programme was convened by the coordinator of the programme Suresh Agrawal and sub coordinator Menuka Siwakoti and secretary Padmasundar Lamichhane.

Signature collection at Trichandra College by LaliGurans Network

Laligurans youth network of Kathmandu under the Everest group 34 of AI Nepal organized signature collection programme on March 6, 2009 (23rd Phalgun 2065). During the programme, professors, civil servants and students gave their signatures to be incorporated in the letter to the Prime Minister. The



program was held on the issue of security of the women rights defenders.

Similarly, in another separate programme, the network distributed copies of worldwide declaration of Human Rights and subject matter published related to women rights. On the occasion Professors and Staff of the college appreciated the programme and said the the programme was fruitful for



the students. Both the programmes were coordinated by convener of network Bharat Khadka, and subconvener Shanta Asthani.

Rally and interaction in Kakarbhitta

Krishnamaya Khadka and Bimala Khadka. The programme was presided by Tulsiram Poudel.



On the occasion of International women's Day, a rally and an interaction programme was held in Kakarbhitta. The programme was organized by group 87 and participants were group 22, 70 and 86. Chief Guest of the programme was Maiya Prasai, former central member of AI Nepal. The rally started from Kakarbhitta and ended at Dhulabari. Secretary of group 87 Lambodar Poudel said more than hundred people participated in the interaction. The speakers in the rally were Lambodar Poudyal, Kumar Dahal, Dharmananda Khanal, Kusum Koirala,

Rally and signature collection in Birgunj

On the same topic, youth network of AI Nepal Birgunj organized a rally and interaction programme on March, 2009. On the both programmes former central member of AI Nepal Dipak Rajbhandari, convener of group 16 Suresh Upadhyaya, Chairman of Nepal Human Rights Organization, Representative of Nepal Lawyer Association,



businessperson, teachers, and members of women networks participated. It is said by the member of network Ajaya Kumar Swarnakar.

NEPAL GOVERNMENT FAILS TO PROTECT WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS FROM VIOLENT ATTACKS

Amnesty International has said that Nepal government has failed to

protect women human rights activists from violent attacks. Amnesty

International secretariat released a press statement after one year of election of constitutional assembly on April 10, 2009 (28th of chaitra 2065). Constituent Assembly election was committed for a new Nepal and promised that special programmes for the upliftments of backyard community including women would be started. Amnesty stated- Evidence of this failure can be found in the treatment of women activists campaigning for human rights who are the victims of beatings, sexual attacks and murder, with no significant effort made to bring the perpetrators to justice.

“When the Maoist Government came to power it made commitments to protect women’s rights but now it seems that the party made false promises,” said Madhu Malhotra, Amnesty International’s Asia-Pacific Deputy Director.

“Now that they are in government, all the revolutionary rhetoric has not resulted in real improvements in women’s lives,” he added.

AI should play a crucial role in Nepal, where many women are unaware of their rights and are afraid of confronting social and government authority,” said Madhu Malhotra.

“Women activists are singled out, and Women activists are subjected for violent attacks and this trend promotes a culture of silence and discourages women experiencing violence to speak out.”

Amnesty International has found that, in spite of the election promises made by the government, women human rights activists continue to be at high risk of attack because they

dare to challenge Nepal’s patriarchal divisions. Many have become social outcasts for raising the issues of domestic and sexual violence and are targets of intimidation, beatings and even death. The Nepalese police often refuse to file a complaint or to fully investigate attacks and offer no protection.

Two women’s rights activists in Nepal have been murdered since the new government came to power, with no significant attempts made to investigate or prosecute the crimes. The most recent case was that of Uma Singh, a journalist for Radio Today FM who was a member of the Women’s Human Rights Defender Network. She was attacked on 11 January 2009 by a group of men armed with sharp weapons. She was severely mutilated and died on her way to hospital in Kathmandu.

In June 2008 Laxmi Bohara, from Kanchanpur, was severely beaten and then reportedly murdered by her husband and mother-in-law who were not happy with her working to defend human rights.

Amnesty International urges the Nepali Government to take urgent action by ensuring the safety and protection of women human rights activists, particularly in rural areas, develop a national plan of action, including the establishment of safe shelters/homes and other facilities for women survivors of violence.

Similarly AI urges the government to take all possible measures to ensure justice, truth and reparations for crimes of violence against women committed during and after the conflict.

WORLDWIDE CAMPAIGN FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF MURDER OF WOMEN RIGHTS DEFENDER LAXMI BOHARA

Amnesty International has started worldwide request campaign for the investigation and punishment to the perpetrators on murder case of women human rights defender Laxmi Bohara of Kanchanpur district. Laxmi Bohara lost her life because of domestic violence in her own home.

Campaign started from last April and in this campaign members and supporters of AI worldwide will write letter (request on Postcard) to the President of Nepal Dr. Rambaran Yadav. The demands to be written in the postcard are as follows:

- Conduct a prompt and independent investigation into Laxmi Bohara's death.
- Develop a national plan of action to implement the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders to enable human rights defenders to carry out their legitimate work without fear of reprisal.
- Take all possible measures to ensure the safety and protection of women human rights defenders, particularly in rural areas.



Laxmi Bohara

- take all possible measure to ensure justice, truth and reparations for crimes of violence against women committed during and after the conflict .

AI Nepal will handover these postcard sent from worldwide on June 6 ,2008 on her first death anniversary.

Women activists, Laxmi Bohara, died in the morning of 6 June 2008 after being severely beaten by her husband and mother-in-law. She was forced to drink poison.

She was being beaten frequently by the two family members for being involved in te women's rights activism.

A postmortem conducted by a distant relative of her husband attributed her death to suicide. However, an examination carried out by the hospital stated that Laxmi had died due to poisoning and noted that her body had severe bruising. Laxmi's father filed a complaint stating that his daughter had been murdered by her husband and mother-in-law. The police were initially hesitant to lodge the complaint but were forced to file the FIR due to pressures from national and international rights group. A year since Laxmi Bohara's death, the case is still pending in the district court.

CAMPAIGN TO RATIFY CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL PERSONS FROM ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

In the course of the decade-long armed conflict between the security forces and the Communist Party of Nepal CPN Maoists, at least 900 people disappeared after they were detained by the security forces. The CPN (M) was also responsible for several hundreds of killings, abductions and torture of people seen as opposing their cause. Hundreds of families still anxiously await news of their missing relatives.

Notwithstanding the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) of 21 November 2006 which states to end the conflict, and the election of a Constituent Assembly which promised to bring a 'New Nepal', the process of delivering truth, justice and reparations for violations committed during the conflict has not progressed. A climate of impunity persists and there is a real danger of Nepal's recent tragic history repeating itself. So close to the repetition of such incident in future, effective measures should be implemented.

International coalition against enforced disappearance where AI is also a member, has been launching campaign focusing one country in a month for the ratification of the international convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance. This network launched programme in Nepal from April to June 2009.

In this campaign mainly organizations related to this network, their members and supporters have written letter to the Prime Minister to sign and ratify the convention.

ACTIONS OF GOVERNMENT ON CONVENTION

Nepal has not signed the international convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance. The process of signing/ratification has not yet started. Nepal was not among the sponsors of the UN resolution on the adoption of the Convention.

The Supreme Court of Nepal in 2007 ordered the government to enact legislation that would criminalise enforced disappearances and take into account the new International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

The draft of Nepalese Bill on Disappearances (Crime and Punishment) Act, 2065 does not comply with several provisions of the Convention.

WHAT WE WANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL?

Nepal should sign and ratify the Convention at the earliest opportunity as it is a signal that it is committed to prevent future enforced disappearances.

The most positive achievement in the near future would be a statement by the government of Nepal committing to ratifying the Convention within the given timeframe.

We want commitments from the government of Nepal for the ratification of the convention and if the government is feeling any hardship to do it, we want to know – what is it?

SIGNATURE COLLECTION REQUESTING TO THE RATIFICATION OF CONVENTION ON ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

Kathmandu

Inarawa Youth Network Sunsari, Raniban Youth Network Kathmandu and Laligurans Youth Network Kathmandu jointly organized a programme at Basantapur on April 18, 2009 (Baisakh 5 of 2066) for the collection of signature on the letter requesting to the Prime Minister Puspa Kamal Dahal Prachanda for ratification of international convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance.

Banepa

On the same topic youth network of AI in Banepa organized a signature



collection programme on 8th of Baisakh 2066. According to the convener of the network Suman Dhun Shrestha 500 signatures were collected.

Kohalpur

Similarly a programme for collection of signature was organized on April 19, 2009 (6th of Baisakh 2066) at Kohalpur. The programme

Programme was coordinated by Ranjit Singh and Amit Mehata of Inaruwa Youth Network, Barun Sigdel and Laxmi Joshi of Raniban Youth Network and Bharat Khadka and Pratikshya Adhikari of Laligurans Youth Network.

was jointly organized by the group 26 and Kohalpur youth network of AI Nepal. On the occasion local intellectuals, teachers, youth and students participated in the program. The programme was coordinated by the convener of the youth network.

Raniban Youth Network, Kathmandu

Similarly, Raniban youth network also organized a programme on the



same topic. Programme was organized at Nepaltar Gramin Adarsha Campus on April 19, 2009 (6th of Baisakh 2066). On the occasion professor, staff and the students of the campus participated. Programme was coordinated by the coordinator of the network Barun sigdel and vice-convener Laxmi joshi.

Laligurans Youth Network, Kathmandu

For the ratification of the convention 720 person of Trichandra campus including professors, staffs and the students has requested to the Prime Minister. Laligurans youth network organized a programme on April 19, 2009 (6th of Baisakh 2066) and collected their signature.

On the occasion convener of the youth network, subconvener Shanta asthani and other members expressed their views on the topics.

Parasi

Group 31 of AI Nepal has organized a programme at Sunbal of Nawalparasi district. On the programme 330 signatures were collected. On the occasion convener of AI Nepal appeal committee Shyamraj Ghimire, officiating convener of group 31 Laxman Prasad Yadav, secretary santosh kumar sribastab, working committee members bijayakumar jayaswal, nasarullah ansari, sreedhar basyal and sanjaya shrestha were present.



Rampur chitwan

Rampur Youth Network has organized a signature collection programme at Rampur agriculture campus on April 19, 2009 (6th of Baisakh 2066). On the occasion Dean of agriculture prof. Dr. Sundarman shrestha, president of Nepal professor association at

this campus Dr. youbak Dhvaj jisi and others supported to the campaign by signing the letter. Programme was coordinated by convener of the network Rama poudel.

Sunsari

Duhabi Youth Network, Dharan Youth Network and group 63 of AI Nepal organized signature collection programme in different places. According to the organizer, the programmes were held in Itahari, Inaruwa, Dharan, Jhumka and Biratnagar in the same days on April 20, 2009 (7th of Baisakh 2066).

A 9 member signature collection team was constituted under the convener of the convener of Duhabi youth network shiba rimal. Members of the campaign team who convened the programme in their section were Rita Shrestha and Suman Swarnakar for Duhabi section, Sristi Priyadarshini and Manakumar Tamang of Dharan section Dwarika Ghimire for Itahari section shakti bikash lamsal for Jhumka section Hemaraj Dahal and Raju Choulagain Inaruwa section and Ganesh Neupane for Biratnagar section.

ORIENTATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND AI

AI has been organizing orientation programme for its members time and again to inform them about Human Rights and Amnesty International. We have received news from different parts of the country about the programmes.

Banepa Youth Network

Youth Network of AI in Banepa is organizing such programme by going to



the local schools in the near future. Members of the network organized a consultation programme about how to

start these kinds of programmes in school. On the occasion Director of AI Nepal Rameshwar Nepal suggested the subject matter should be suitable to the school level.

The network is going to organize such programme in the local school dividing its team at different schools.

Laligurans youth network Kathmandu

A training workshop related to the human rights and AI was organized for the youth network under the group 34 of AI on April 4, 2009 (22nd of chaitra 2065). On the occasion deputy general secretary of AI Nepal Uttam Sapkota and Director Rameshwar Nepal informed them about human rights and institutional structure and working system of Amnesty International. They



authorities responding human rights violation and abuses.

At the programme Deputy General Secretary of the AI Nepal Uttam Sapkota and Programme Officer Bhola Bhattarai facilitated the session. 25 members of the network were participated at the programme. Treasurer of AI Nepal Rasmila Bhochohibhoya and Former

also informed about the campaign launched by AI and its effectiveness. On the programme 36 members of the network were participated.

Director Raju Sarkar also participated on the occasion.

Letter writing training for the members of Banepa youth network

Banepa youth network of AI Nepal organized a workshop on letter writing. The programme was held at Biddha Sagar School on April 4, 2009 (22nd of chaitra). The programme mainly focused on how to send the letter through the internet to concerned



Youth in AI campaign

THE THIRD NATIONAL YOUTH CAMP OF REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUTH NETWORK

The Third National Youth Mela (Camp) held at Sauraha of Chitwan district from 9-11 April 2009. AI



has been organizing such programs since 2007 every year. The three-day Youth Camp was hosted by AI Nepal Group-64 of Chitwan. The main objectives of the camp was to introduce Amnesty International to its youth members and provide theoretical and practical knowledge about its campaign,



techniques and its kind. Participants were informed on theoretical and campaign oriented activities.

On the occasion vice president of AI Nepal Keshab Sigdel, Deputy General Secretary Uttam Sapkota, Director Rameshwar Nepal and Programme Officer Bhola Bhattarai informed the participants about the organizational

introduction, role of youth networks .They also informed about the campaign of AI, techniques of campaign and so on. Likewise, Marie KO representative from AI's Asia Pacific Office Hongkong informed about the demand dignity programme of AI and techniques of online campaign.

As part of the outdoor activities, the participants of the Mela participated in a demonstration demanding protection of women human rights defenders. The demonstration was held in Narayanghat on 10 April. The participants were also taken to visit beautiful places of chitwan.



Prior to this, President of AI Nepal Hem Kumar Khadka inaugurated the programme. The inaugural session was held on the chairmanship of convener of

the group 64 chitwan Ramchandra Mishra. On the occasion Marie Ko representative from AIs Asia Pacific Office Hongkong , advisor of AI Nepal Lokesh Dhakal , Vicepresident Keshab Sigdel , Director Rameshwar Nepal , Group Secretary Dhana Prasad Regmi , member Shasikala Adhikari , Ambika Bagale , district president of Human rights and peace society Ananta Dhungana , representative of the National Nature Conservation Trust Ram kumar Aryal , representative of Nepal redcross society Samar bahadur Malla , representative of Regional Hotel Association , Souraha Haribhakta ghimire ,representative of Pyara legal Committee Mina Giri also expressed their views.

On the occasion, General Secretary Shambhu Thakur, Deputy General Secretary Uttam Sapkota, Advisor Lokesh Dhakal, NEC Members Chet Narayan Bhusal, Nirmal Babu Shrestha and Yashoda Upadhyaya were present in the programme.

AI started distribution of membership on youth network since November of 2006. Till now around 3 thousands youth have taken membership of youth network to contribute to the human rights campaign.

A total of 57 (28 male and 29 female) youth representatives from 29 Youth Networks of AI Nepal situated in different part of the country participated in the programme.

TRAINING ON PROJECT PLANNING AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT



Two days training on project planning and impact assessment held on March 7-8, 2009 (24th and 25th Phagun). The programme held on the assistance of AI international secretariat international project team.

On the occasion representative from AI International Secretariat Helen Nelson and Alison McGinley informed about the considerable things on the planning of project and how to evaluate the impacts of it. On the occasion NEC members and staff of national secretariat were also present.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Interaction at Rampur, Chitwan

Recently established youth network of AI participated by the student of Rampur campus organized an interaction



programme on April 9 2009 (27 of chait 2065). Topics of the programme was AI campaign for truth, justice and reparation .on the occasion dean of Rampur campus Dr. sundarman shrestha , campus chief of the campus Dr. IP Dhakal , deputy chief Narayan joshi , vice president of AI Nepal Keshab Sigdel and deputy general secretary of AI Nepal Uttam sapkota also expressed their views. The programme was presided by the convener of the network. On the occasion General secretary of AI Nepal Shambhu Thakur , members yashoda upadhyaya and Nirmal Babu panta were also present. like wise professors of campus , staffs, members of AI youth network, students were participated.

Well wishing programme of youth network baglung

On the occasion of New Year 2066, Baglung youth network of AI Nepal

organized a well wishing programme. Chief guest of the programme, women rights workers and member of federation of journalist Bhasha Sharma expressed concern about the attack on human rights and press freedom time and again. She emphasized on to end the impunity and gurantee of human rights in the upcoming constitution.

On the occasion campus chief of Mahendra multiple campus Ram Prasad Upadhyaya appreciated the role of AI on protection of the human rights. on the programme member of group 48 of AI



Harihar sharma , vicepreident of free student union of mahendra multiple campus Himal kc , kul gharti Magar , Deepa tiwari , Umesh gautam , Rachana acharya from youth network expressed well wishes to all for the new year. The programme was presided by

gobinda poudel and kamala sharma welcomed all participants. Binod poudel conducted the programme.

Program on 'safe school for girls' in Dang

Group 66 of AI Nepal Dang organized a programme on the topics of safe



school, rights of girl. The programme was held in the great Araniko higher secondary school on April 6, 2009 (24th of chaitra 2065). On the occasion convener of group Madhab Prasad Lamichhane, secretary pramod neupane, advisor Padam Prasad Baidik and principal of the school Lambodar Lamichhane expressed their views.

A similar programmms also was held at the Rakshya Chaur Higher Secondary School on April 8, 2009 (26th of chaitra). On the occasion trainer of the educational training centre Bishnu KC, Coordinator of Rakshya chour higher secondary school Rajendra Basnet,



resource person Bishnu Acharya and saraswati Gupta also expressed their views. On the programme 150 girl students were participated.

Blood donation in Butwal

Youth network of AI Nepal butwal organized a blood donation programme on December 30, 2008 (15th of push 2065). On the occasion then convener of the group 12 of AI Nepal Balakrishna Tiwari and members of youth network and group donated the blood. According to the convener of network Bikash Nepal programme organizers also informed about the AI and its campaign .The programme was convened by shrihari pokhrel.

Signature collection in Kakarbhitta demanding to ratify the Rome Statute

Signature campaign was held in Kakarbhitta requesting the government of Nepal to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court for end the impunity on April 18, 2009(5th of Baisakh 2066). Mechi youth network of AI Nepal



organized the programme. On the occasion 420 people signatored the request letter to the prime minister Puspa kamal Dahal. According to the Bhoomika Subba convener of the network the programme was inaugurated by the president of AI Nepal Hem Kumar Khadka signing on the request letter.