

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE TERAI

Situation update

February 07, 2017



Focus on:

- *UML Mechi-Mahakali Campaign and Saptari incident*

THRD Alliance Human Rights Monitors have gathered alarming information of confrontation and clashes in Terai districts. Three people have been confirmed dead by the police firing in Saptari district on 06 March 2017. Out of three, one died at the spot while other two died while taking them in BPKIHS Dharan. The police opened fire when UDMF protestors were protesting against the CPN-UML led Mechi-Mahakali Campaign in Saptari district Maleth VDC (Industrial Area Compound). Due to serious gunshot injuries 16 injured persons were sent to BPKIHS Dharan for further treatment while other 23 injured persons received treatment in the Sagarmatha Zonal Hospital, Saptari Rajbiraj. It is reported that the post mortem has not been done of all the three dead bodies.

Background

The media reports says that District Administration of Saptari has claimed that the protestors tried to throw petrol bomb and then the police opened fire in self defense, however, the locals and the witnesses have said that there was no reason for opening fire as the protestors were barred by police far away from the program spot of CPN-UML. Most of the injuries are gunshot injuries and the big number of injured persons (42 Reported by THRD HRM), shows that the security forces have done indiscriminate firing. It is also reported that the police beat up the people entering inside their houses and damaged their private properties in nearby areas. The injured person consists of two juveniles below 18 years and three women also. Some of the injured persons received treatment in the Sagarmatha Zonal Hospital Rajbiraj while the other seriously injured persons were sent to BPKIHS Dharan for further treatment.

In reaction to the incident in Saptari district on 06 March, the UDMF has decided to organize for Banda in Terai/Madhes for 07 and 08 March. The banda is observed very effective in most of the Terai districts **Morang, Sunsari, Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusa, Rautahat, Mahottari, Parsa and Bara**. Public vehicles, shops and schools are completely closed. There have been reports that Saptari DAO has clamped curfew in Rajbiraj Municipality of Saptari district. The UDMF protestors were reportedly surrounded the DAO, Saptari in terms of their protest. Office of UML has been reportedly vandalized in Siraha district and some vehicles have been damaged in other parts of Terai districts. The APO, Lahan has reportedly arrested 13 UDMF cadres.

There have been reports that the protestors in Jankpur and Gaur including other areas have been protesting demanding resignation of the Home Minister Bimendra Nidhi. According to media reports, the Chief District Officer and the district chief of Nepal police and Armed Police Force of Saptari district has been called back by the Government of Nepal due to their role in yesterday's incident. CPN-UML has decided to postpone the Mechi- Mahakali Campaign for three days.

Details of the death and injuries

Names of protestors who died

1. Pitamber Mandal
2. Anand Sah
3. Ranjan Mehta

Protestors sent to for Medical Treatment in BPKIHS Dharan

1. Sanjan Mehata
2. Digamber Yadav
3. Birendra Yadav
4. Jitan Sah
5. Inar yadav
6. Dilip Yadav
7. Surendra Sah
8. Pashupati yadav
9. Arun Kumar Yadav
10. Dinesh Sah
11. Birendra yadav
12. Pappu sah
13. Laxman Yadav
14. Kabita Mehata
15. Ramdas yadav
16. Shovalal Yadav

Protestors Received Treatment in Sagamatha Zonal Hospital, Rajbiraj, Saptari

1. Bhimraj yadav
2. Niraj Sah
3. Surendra Yadav
4. Damber Sah
5. Mukesh Kumar Yadav
6. Radheshyam Mandal
7. Satish Kumar Singh
8. Mausam Chaudhary
9. Bishnu Yadav
10. Damodar Dhakal
11. Shankar Kumar Mandal
12. Jay Narayan Yadav
13. Damodar Sah
14. Punam Yadav
15. Sadhna Jha
16. Indra Kumar Chaudhary
17. Bhupendra Prasad Prasad Yadav
18. Rajendra Prasad Sah
19. Dinesh Yadav
20. Bisheshor Mandal
21. Md. Raji
22. Ram Narayn Yadav
23. Bhogendra Yadav

Conclusion

It is likely that the protest will continue for more days if an amicable political solution is not reached. The government must ensure the interim relief and adequate compensation to the family of deceased, free treatment to the injured and take action against the authorities involved in the excessive use of force. The incident must be investigated fairly. The post mortem should be done immediately and all the evidences must be protected.



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