

संयुक्त प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

काठमाडौं, असोज १८, २०७७

एग्नेस्टी इन्डियालाई जबर्जस्ती बन्द गराइनु भारतमा नागरिक समाजको अवस्था खस्किएको सङ्केत

भारत सरकारद्वारा एग्नेस्टी इन्टरनेसनल इन्डिया (एग्नेस्टी इन्डिया) को सम्पूर्ण बैंक खाताहरू अचानक रोक्का गरेको कारणबाट एग्नेस्टी इन्डियाको नियमित कार्य बन्द हुन पुगेको हालसालैको दुःखद् समाचार दक्षिण एसिया क्षेत्रमा मानवअधिकार, न्याय र विधिको शासनको क्षेत्रमा काम गर्ने हामी अभियन्ताहरूका लागि एउटा गम्भीर चासोको विषय हो ।

भारतमा भएका मानवअधिकार उल्लङ्घनका घटनाहरूको अभिलेखन गर्ने र राज्यको विफलताहरूलाई उजागर गरेर मानवअधिकारको रक्षा गर्दै आइरहेको संस्थामाथि भएको यो घटना मानवअधिकारमाथिको नाङ्गो र निर्लज्ज आक्रमण हो । यो संस्थाले दस्तावेजीकरण गरेको आम नागरिक र विशेषगरी अल्पसङ्ख्यक समुदायहरूमाथि भएका ज्यादती र मानवअधिकार उल्लङ्घनका घटनाहरूमा राज्यका निकायहरू नै संलग्न देखिएका छन् ।

भारतीय अधिकारीहरूले विगत दुई वर्षदेखि बिना कुनै विश्वसनीय प्रमाण “गलत कार्य गरेको” आरोप लगाउँदै एग्नेस्टी इन्डियालाई बारम्बार सताउने कार्य गरिरहेका थिए । यो लेख्दै गर्दा यस संस्थाविरुद्ध कुनै पनि औपचारिक अभियोग दर्ता गरिएको छैन ।

एग्नेस्टीमाथि गरिएको यो पछिल्लो आक्रमण यस संस्थाले भारतमा गरेको मानवअधिकारसम्बन्धी गतिविधिहरूको उपज हो भन्ने कुरा स्पष्ट छ । एग्नेस्टीले आफ्नो काम कारबाहीप्रति राज्यका अधिकारीहरूलाई जवाफदेही बनाउनमा भारत सरकारको विफलताका बारेमा निरन्तर आवाज उठाइरहेको थियो । हालसालै केही समयअघि पनि एग्नेस्टी इन्डियाले दुईवटा महत्त्वपूर्ण प्रतिवेदन सार्वजनिक गरेको थियो । [पहिलो प्रतिवेदन](#) भारतको संविधानबाट धारा ३७० हटाएको एक वर्षपछिको जम्मू र काश्मिरको अवस्थाका बारेमा केन्द्रित रहेको थियो भने [दोश्रो प्रतिवेदन](#) चाहिँ फेब्रुअरीमा भारतको राजधानी दिल्लीमा प्राय अल्पसङ्ख्यक मुस्लिम समुदायका कम्तिमा ५३ जनाको ज्यान जानेगरी भएको दङ्गामा दिल्ली प्रहरीको संलग्नता रहेको कुरा खुलासा गर्दै तयार पारिएको एउटा अनुसन्धानमूलक प्रतिवेदन रहेको थियो ।

मानवअधिकारको रक्षा गर्ने महत्त्वपूर्ण कार्य गर्ने क्रममा भारतको वर्तमान प्रशासनबाट तीव्र दमन खेपिरहनुभएका एग्नेस्टी इन्डियाका कर्मचारी तथा भारतका अन्य सबै मानवअधिकार रक्षकहरूप्रति हाम्रो साथ र ऐक्यबद्धता रहनेछ । आफूलाई विश्वको सबैभन्दा ठूलो प्रजातान्त्रिक मुलुक भनेर गर्व गर्ने भारत जस्तो देशले यसरी खुलेआम अधिनायकवादी व्यवहार अपनाई आफ्ना आलोचकहरूलाई मौन पार्ने र वाक तथा अभिव्यक्ति स्वतन्त्रताको अधिकारलाई कुण्ठित गरिनु एकदमै चिन्ताजनक विषय रहेको छ ।

एग्नेस्टी इन्डियालाई जबर्जस्ती बन्द गराइनु कुनै एउटा छिटपुट घटना नभई यो भारतमा अभियन्ताहरू, सरकारका आलोचकहरू, पत्रकार, मानवअधिकार रक्षक र नागरिक समाजको सदस्यहरूमाथि भइरहेको बढ्दो दमनको प्रवृत्तिको हिस्सा हो । प्रजातन्त्रको आधारस्तम्भ अभिव्यक्ति स्वतन्त्रता र नागरिक समाजको अवस्था यसरी खुम्चिँदै जानु चिन्ताजनक कुरा हो ।

यो गम्भीर विषयलाई तत्कालै संबोधन गर्न र मानवअधिकार संस्था, अभियन्ता र मानवअधिकार रक्षकहरूलाई स्वतन्त्रपूर्वक र बिना रोकतोका काम गर्ने वातावरण बनाउन हामी भारत सरकारलाई आह्वान गर्दछौं । संयुक्त राष्ट्रसङ्घको मानवअधिकार परिषद्को सदस्य देशको नाताले भारत सरकारले मानवअधिकारको सम्मान गर्न र परिषद्को सदस्य रहन योग्य रहेको प्रमाणित गर्न आवश्यक छ ।

Joint Statement

Kathmandu, October 4, 2020

Forced closure of Amnesty India indicates deterioration of civic space in India

The shocking recent news of the closure of the Amnesty International India (Amnesty India) due to the Indian government's sudden freezing of the organization's all bank accounts is a cause of grave concern to those of us working for human rights, justice and rule of law in the region.

This is a blatant attack on an organization that has played a vital role in protecting human rights in the country by documenting the cases of human rights violations and exposing the state's failure. This has included, in some cases, the very involvement of state agencies in committing atrocities against individuals, particularly those belonging to minority communities throughout India.

For the past two years, Amnesty International India has been constantly targeted by Indian authorities and accused of 'wrongdoings' without any credible evidence. At the time of writing, no formal charges have been filed against the organization.

It's clear that the latest attack on Amnesty is a direct result of its human rights work in India, where it has regularly raised alarms about the state's failure to hold authorities accountable for their actions. Most recently, Amnesty India released two important reports: [an update](#) on the situation of human rights in Jammu & Kashmir following a year since the suspension of Article 370 of the Constitution of India, and an [investigative brief](#) exposing the complicity of Delhi police in the February riots in the capital which claimed the lives of at least 53 people, mostly from the Muslim-minority community.

We stand with the staff and members of Amnesty India and all other human rights defenders who have been facing an intense crackdown on their vital work under the current administration. It is troubling to see a country that prides itself on being the largest democracy brazenly adopt such an authoritarian approach to silence critics and muzzle freedom of speech and expression.

Amnesty India's forced shutdown is not an isolated incident and follows a trend of increased repression against activists, journalists, and any civil society member with a critical voice against the government. This is a worrying sign of a shrinking space for civil society and freedom of expression, the cornerstone of any democracy.

We call on the Indian government to urgently address this issue and to allow human rights organizations, activists and human rights defenders to operate freely and without fear. As a country that sits on the UN Human Rights Council, India needs to show that it respects human rights and is deserving of its seat.

Signed by :

1. Accountability Watch Committee (AWC)
2. Advocacy Forum-Nepal
3. Alliance for Conflict Affected Women (Nispakshya)
4. Alliance for Social Dialogue (ASD)
5. Amnesty International Nepal

6. Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC)
7. Asian Justice and Rights (AJAR)
8. Ashta Jaha Initiatives (Nepal)
9. Centre for Legal Studies (CLS)
10. Civil Rights Association Nepal (CIRAN)
11. Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP)
12. Conflict Victim Women National Network (CVWN)
13. Conflict Victims' Common Platform (CVCP)
14. Conflict Victims' National Alliance (CVNA)
15. Conflict Victims' Society for Justice (CVSJ)
16. Democratic Freedom and Human Rights Institute (DFHRI)
17. Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD)
18. Forum of Women Journalist and Communicators
19. Ganesh Ujjan Memorial Foundation
20. Human Rights and Justice Centre (HRJC)
21. Human Rights for Justice
22. Human Rights Foundation (HURFON)
23. Human Rights Organizations Nepal (HURON)
24. Human Rights Protection and Promotion Center
25. Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)
26. International Institute for Human Rights, Environment and Development (INHURED)-
International Nepal
27. Justice and Rights Institute Nepal (JuRI-Nepal)
28. Law and Policy Forum for Social Justice
29. Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre Nepal (LACC)
30. Maina Bal Bikash Samiti
31. Martyrs' and Disappeared Warrior Children Academy
32. Nagarik Aawaz (NA)
33. National Alliance of Women Human Right Defenders (NAWHRD)
34. National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders
35. National Network of Disabled Conflict Victims
36. National Network of Families of Disappeared
37. Nepal Forum for Restorative Justice
38. Fusion Youth Network, Amnesty Nepal
39. Nepal Law and Policy Centre
40. Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative Nepal
41. Peace Envisioners
42. Public Defender Society of Nepal (PDS)
43. Sancharika Samuha
44. Sankalpa
45. South Asian Forum for Human Rights (SAFHR)
46. Tarangini Foundation
47. Terai Human Rights Defenders Alliance
48. The Story Kitchen
49. Transcultural Psychosocial Organization Nepal

50. Voice of Women Media (VOW Media)
51. Women for Human Rights (WHR)
52. Women's Rehabilitation Centre Nepal (WOREC Nepal)
53. Agrima KC, Activist (Enough is Enough)
54. Alam Khan, Human Rights Activist THRD Alliance
55. Amish Mulmi, Writer/Editor
56. Amisha Adhikari, Human Rights Advocate
57. Anita Thapaliya, Human Rights Activist
58. Anurag Acharya
59. Ashmita Sapkota, Activist
60. Baburam Giri, Senior Advocate
61. Badri Prasad Bhusal, Advocate
62. Bal Krishna Ghimire, Advocate
63. Barun Ghimire, Human Rights Advocate/Academician
64. Bashana Bajracharya, Advocate
65. Bhagiram Chaudhary, Human Rights Activist
66. Bhakta Bishwakarma, Human Rights Activist
67. Bhawani Prasad Kharel, Human Rights Activist
68. Bidhur Dhakal, Journalist
69. Bijay Raj Gautam, Executive Director, Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC)
70. Bikash Basnet, Human Rights Advocate
71. Binita Khadka, Human Rights Protection and Promotion Center Banke (HRPPC)
72. Binod Sijapati, Columnist
73. Bipin Budhathoki, Deputy General Secretary, Amnesty Nepal
74. Bir Bahadur Bista, Human Rights Advocate
75. Birendra Thapaliya, Human Rights Activist
76. Bishnu Pd. Pokhrel, Human Rights Advocate
77. Bishnukala Bhandari, Social Activist
78. Chandan Goopta, Computer Engineer
79. Daman Nath Dhungana, Former Speaker, House of Representatives, Nepal
80. Deepak Adhikari, Journalist
81. Deepak Rauniyar, Filmmaker/teaching artist
82. Deepesh Shrestha, Artist/Activist
83. Deepesh Shrestha, Lawyer and Activist
84. Dev Bahadur Maharjan, Human Rights Activist
85. Devi Sunuwar, Human Rights Activist
86. Dewan Rai, Journalist
87. Dinesh KC, Human Rights Activist
88. Dinesh Tripathi, Senior Advocate and Human Rights Activist
89. Discharged People's Liberation Army Nepal
90. Dr Vishnu S. Rai, Poet and Author
91. Dr. Gaurishankar Lal Das, Former Commissioner of Human Rights Commission
92. Dr. Gopal Krishna Siwakoti, Human Rights Activist
93. Forum for Protection of People's Rights Nepal
94. Ganesh Mandal, Chairman Madesh Nagarik Samaj.

95. Gaurav Chandra Gurung, Communications
96. Geeta Rasaili, Human Rights Activist
97. Ghanashyam Bagale
98. Gopal Bahadur Shah, Human Rights Activist
99. Govinda Bandi, Lawyer and Activist
100. Hari Prasad Subedi, Senior Advocate
101. Harihar Dahal, Former President Nepal Bar Association
102. Hari Sharma, Writer and Activist
103. Indira Acharya, Human Rights Advocate
104. Indra Prasad Aryal, advocate and Human Rights Advocate
105. Janak Bahadur Raut, Human Rights Activist
106. Kala Koyu, Activist
107. Kanak Mani Dixit, Senior Journalist
108. Kapil Aryal, Associate Professor and Researcher
109. Kashiram Dhungana, Human Rights Advocate
110. Khemraj Regmi, President, Transparency International.
111. Krishna Prasad Adhikari, Human Rights Activist
112. Kumar Prasad Thapaliya, Human Rights Lawyer
113. Kunjani Pariyar Pyasi, Human Rights Lawyer
114. Lhakpa Lama, Activist
115. Lisha Dangol, Human Rights Activist
116. Mahamunishwor Acharya, Human Rights Activist
117. Maina Karki, Human Rights Activist
118. Mandira Sharma, Human Rights Activist
119. Mohan Pariyar, Human Rights Activist
120. Mukesh Jha, Technocrat
121. Narayan Wagle, Writer and Journalist
122. Nirajan Thapaliya, Human Rights Activist
123. Nutan Thapaliya, Human Rights Activist & Founder of Amnesty International Nepal
124. Om Prakash Sen Thakuri, Human Rights Advocate
125. Omprakash Aryal, Human Rights Advocate
126. Pankajlal Karna, Lawyer and Human Rights Activist
127. Parbata Acharya, Vice Chair, Amnesty Nepal
128. Pasang Sherpa, Lecturer, Former National Board Member, Amnesty Nepal
129. Phadindra Luitel, Human Rights Activist
130. Prabin Subedi, Advocate
131. Pradip Pokhrel, Former Chair, Amnesty Nepal.
132. Prajwol Bikram Rana, Coordinator, Fusion Youth Network, Amnesty Nepal
133. Prashant Tripathi, Activist
134. Praveen Kumar Yadav, HR Researcher & Journalist
135. Prof. Birendra Mishra, Former Commissioner, Election Commission
136. Prof. Kapil Shrestha, University Teacher and Human Rights Activist
137. Puru Shah, Founder, Madhesi Youth
138. Purushottam Dahal, Editor, Himalayan Times Daily (Nepali)
139. Pushpa Raj Poudel, Human Rights Advocate

140. Raj Kumar Mahaseth, Human Rights Advocate
141. Rajan Prasad Kuikel, Journalist and Former Chair, Amnesty International Nepal
142. Raju Prasad Chapagai, Constitutional & Human Rights Advocate
143. Ram Lal Pokharel, Advocate
144. Rameshwar Nepal, Former Director, Amnesty International Nepal
145. Randhir Chaudhary
146. Ranjeeta Silwal, Human Rights Advocate
147. Rashmi Kandel, Social Activist
148. Ravindra Karn, Associate Professor, University Teacher and Rights Activist
149. Rita Thapa, Human Rights Defender
150. Roshani Giri, Human Rights Advocate
151. Rukamanee Maharjan, Human Rights Activist
152. Rukmina Dahal, Human Rights Advocate
153. Sabin Shrestha, Lawyer and Activist
154. Sabitri Shrestha, Human Rights Activist
155. Samiksha Koirala, National Board Member, Amnesty Nepal
156. Sammar Basnet, Human Rights Advocate
157. Sanita Upreti, Activist
158. Santosh Sigdel, Digital Rights Nepal
159. Sarita Khadka, Activist
160. Shachita Kuikel, Board member, Amnesty Nepal
161. Shailee Chaudhary, Activist/Content Creator
162. Shailendra Ambedkar, Human Rights Advocate
163. Shambhu Thapa, Former President, Nepal Bar Association.
164. Shiva Bisangkhe, Activist
165. Shiva Gaudel, Human Rights Advocate
166. Shobhakar Budathoki, Human Rights Activist
167. Shraddha Pokharel, Human Rights Researcher
168. Shree Kumari Roka, Human Rights Activist
169. Shreejana Pokhrel, Executive Director, INHURED International
170. Sita Sharan Mandal, Advocate
171. Som Niraula, Human Rights Activist
172. Srijana Shrestha, Human Rights Activist
173. Subin Mulmi, Human Rights Lawyer and Researcher
174. Suman Adhikari, Human Rights Activists
175. Sundar Bahadur Sheni, Human Rights Advocate
176. Sunita Khatri, Student and Activist
177. Suraksha Joshi, Activist
178. Surendra Khatri, Human Rights Activist
179. Surya Bahadur Adhikari, Former Chair of Amnesty International Nepal
180. Susan Risal, Activist
181. Tanka Prasad Dulal, Senior Advocate
182. Tapan Kumar Bose, Secretary General, South Asian Forum for Human Rights
183. Taranath Dahal, Former President, Federation of Nepal Journalists Association.
184. Tej Bahadur Bohara, Human Rights Advocate

185. Tirtha Koirala, Senior Journalist
186. Yuda Dangi, Human Rights Activist