



FS02/CPR-HRD-01/2007

Unidentified group beat up Rights activist associated with INSEC

Nature of incident: Beating
Date of incident: 27 July 2007
Place: Rajapur, Bardiya
No of victim/s: One
Identification of victim/s: Madan Rimal, 37
Identification of perpetrator/s: Unknown

Background

As the country is passing through a transitional period, there has been a rise in the incidents of rights violations from various groups. The government is yet to establish law and order situation in the country, even after Communist Party of Nepal (Maoists) joined the political mainstream renouncing the 10-year long armed struggle behind which had claimed the lives of over 13,000 people. Various unknown groups are taking benefit of the frail law and order situation whose acts are adding up to the incidents of Human Rights violation. Not only general public but also Human Rights activists are also facing threats from such groups. CPN-Maoist has also been continuing violent activities even after signing the Comprehensive Peace Accord with the Government of Nepal on 21 November 2006. Maoists, expressing commitment to renounce violence and come in the peaceful politics in the Comprehensive Peace Accord, joined the Interim Legislature-Parliament on 15 January 2007 and the Interim Government on 1 April 2007.

Madan Rimal, who has been working as facilitator in a programme titled "**Campaign for Peace**" run by INSEC in Bardiya district. Six unidentified persons abducted Rimal from Khairichandanpur VDC of Bardiya district on 27 July and beat him up badly. The group has also warned Rimal not to lead any campaign going against their interest.

Details

A boy called on Rimal in Bagiya area of Khairichandanpur VDC, while he was returning to his room from Taparabazar of Manpur on 27 July 2007. The boy told Rimal that one of his friends was waiting for Rimal at 'Bajeko Pasal' in Khairi VDC. Rimal went to the shop but there was nobody. Rimal inquired with the shopkeeper about the person and the shopkeeper replied that there was nobody waiting for him, so Rimal decided to return to his room. When Rimal was walking back to his room, six people were waiting for him at the roadside. The group stopped Rimal and asked him to go to Sangharshanagar, Rajapur VDC- 4, saying that their 'sir' boss is waiting for him in the area. They did not introduce themselves but forced Rimal to go to the area and warned that he has to face dire consequences if he did not obey them. Rimal had informed one of his colleagues Shyam Narayan Chaudhari about the incident. He did not flee due to the fear that they might take action against him in the future as well. They took Rimal to the nearby

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Chediya forest of Rajapur VDC and beat up him saying Rimal was becoming the leader in the area and doing activities against their interest. They said that as he was leading the other campaigns why he and INSEC (the organization) were not leading the campaign for the rescue in the flood-hit area of the district. Despite repeated requests of Rimal, the group did not disclose their identity. They again brought Rimal back to his room and also tortured him. They had beaten them with stick and sickle. They said that it is mental torture to Rimal for leading the campaign in the district that is against their interest. The group left Rimal after he fell unconscious.

The group had also tried to attack Rimal in Khallajayur area of Badalpur VDC on 20 July 2007, but Rimal managed to escape at that time.

Concern

Following the success of People's Movement in April 2006, there has been rise in rights violations from unknown groups. Though the country is moving towards peace and stability following the signing of Comprehensive Peace Accord between the Government of Nepal and the CPN-Maoist, various unidentified groups are engaged in rights violations. Such groups are targeting Rights activists to threaten general people. Attack against rights activists has also raised suspicion about holding of elections of the constituent assembly (slated for 22 November) in a free and fair manner. Human Rights defenders would not be able to monitor the activities in rural parts of the country if the security situation did not improve. There have been repeated attacks against the rights activists in recent days. The attack against the rights activists shows the security level of the country. The security forces have failed to nab the culprits and take any action against them. If the government failed to maintain law and order situation in the country, general people will not be able to cast vote in a fearless manner during the upcoming elections of the constituent assembly.

Maoists have been continuing their high-handedness even after they joined the interim parliament and interim government. Maoist's Khotang district in-charge Pasang Rai threatened INSEC's Khotang district representative Loknath Ghimire on 4 July 2007 that Ghimire would be barred from travelling in inner parts of the district while expressing dissatisfaction over his reporting.

Further planning:

INSEC has taken attack against rights activist seriously. INSEC has reached to the conclusion that the attack is an attempt to silence the rights activists from raising the issues of people. INSEC also believes that the attack is targeted to impede rights activists from monitoring the activities during the upcoming elections of the constituent assembly. Taking the issue seriously, INSEC Mid-Western regional office is organizing series of activities in this regard. INSEC Mid-Western Regional Office, Nepalgunj organized a meeting of rights activists and journalists in Nepalgunj on 30 July to discuss the issue of attack against rights defender. The

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meeting unanimously condemned the attack and appealed concerned authorities to take action against culprits. The meeting also appealed concerned authorities to be serious and ensure no repetition of such incidents in the future. INSEC Nepalgunj also organized a meeting of rights activists, political parties and members of civil society in Gulariya, the district headquarter of Bardiya. The meeting also condemned the attack. INSEC Nepalgunj has also decided to organize a public hearing programme in Rajapur area to get feedback from public about the ongoing activities of INSEC in the district.

5 August 2007

Subodh Raj Pyakurel
Chairperson

Update on Madan Rimal

9th August 2007

Madan Rimal, who was beatn up by unidentified group on 27th July is staying at his home in Naurang village of Manau Village Development Committee-8 of Bardiya district. Though Rimal is not getting threats from any groups after he returned to his home, he is still not been able to move freely in the village due to psychological fear. He is moving in the village with other people, as he is not feeling secure due to the previous incident. According to INSEC District Representative Narayan Subedi, many people of the village visit Rimal to give consolation to Rimal and to condemn the attack. People associated with various social organizations have been assuring Rimal that they would help to find out the culprit. Maoists have also said that the attack might be the poly of some forces that are trying to disrupt the elections of the constituent assembly. A 'Public Offense' case was filed at Area Police Office Rajapur but the police is yet to find any clue about the persons involved in the case.

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Oppose Impunity, Uphold Human Dignity

A group of unidentified people abducted and attacked Mr. Rimal one of the activists associated with INSEC's 'Campaign for Peace'. The group attacked him saying Mr. Rimal's activities are not in favour of their interest.

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