

## Report on the killings in January 2010

(based on INSEConline news)

### Background

Killing, abduction and extortion among other problems have persisted in Nepal even after the successful April Movement 2006 and Comprehensive Peace Agreement 2006. Activities as those common during the 10 years of conflict were thought of being numbered after the peace agreement but the things did not turn out had expected by the people. Madhesh Uprising emerged in January 2007 and armed groups with the pro-Madhes slogan whether genuine or not, and other nationalities have only worsened the difficulties. Now, the state is struggling to maintain peace and order in the country. The focus of the political parties only in power with utter neglect of their mandate to draft constitution on scheduled date has been giving little respite to people.

The present report focuses on the incidents of killing filed to INSEC's human rights news portal INSEConline on the month of January. This report has omitted any individual killing except for few which drew massive public interest and opinions. The killings where the perpetrators are unknown are also included as well as killing as a result of violence against women and children.

### Summary

INSEConline recorded killing of 17 persons in January. This month, none of the killing was by the state. Five persons were killed by unidentified groups. Four persons were killed by armed Tarai groups while eight were killed by relatives. Four of the killed persons had some kind of link with political parties. Seven of the killed were female and three were children.

#### By Armed Groups

Indra Bahadur Shrestha, Indrapur VDC secretary was shot dead after abduction by Tarai Janatantrik Party Madhes. Three Maoist cadres were shot dead by Tarai Mukti Morcha. Shrestha was killed for being a government employee. It is sad to see someone being killed just because he is holding some post. The armed groups have targeted VDC secretaries in the past for the same reason. The government should have shown some urgency to provide security to the VDC secretaries who are the sole representatives of government at the grass-root level. The apathy of the government has made the VDC secretaries vulnerable to such attacks even in future.

#### *Some facts on the trend of killing on January*

**Districts:** Saptari: 1, Siraha: 2, Bara: 3, Gulmi: 1, Kanchanpur: 1, Morang: 1, Bhojpur: 2, Sindhupalchok: 1, Kathmandu: 1, Sindhuli: 1 Banke: 2, Rautahat: 1

**Perpetrator:** Armed Tarai Group: 4, Husband: 3; Unidentified: 7, UCPN-M:1, Civilian: 2

**Sex:** Male- 10; Female- 7  
**Age:** Adult- 14; Child- 3  
**Political affiliation:** 4

**Motive:** Rape: 2, personal dispute: 1, domestic dispute: 1, dowry: 2, group interest: 3, government staff: 1, unknown- 7

### Killing of Politically-affiliated Persons

Three Maoist cadres were shot dead by another armed group. In Banke, member of Maoist-declared Bhojpur State Committee Ram Prakash Yadav and two other cadres

were killed and other two were injured by Tarai Mukti Morcha. The motive of the killing was not given by the group when it claimed the responsibility for the shooting. But the killing of each other by the groups supposedly fighting for same cause reinforce the notion that armed groups in Tarai are nothing more than criminal nuisance and their actions have little to do with Madhesi cause. One Rastraiya Jana Morcha cadre was killed by unidentified group. His body was found with wounds of sharp weapon. He had gone missing for some days just before the killing.

### **Domestic Violence**

Violence against women is rampant across the country. The different forms of violence include mistreatment, beating, polygamy, eviction from home on various charges, dowry-related violence and trafficking. Violence against women even results in killing many a times. In January, three women were killed by her husband and in-laws. In Saptari and Rautahat, the women were strangled for bringing few dowries. In Bhojpur, one woman was beaten to death by her husband after a domestic dispute. The accused Rautahat case was arrested while the family members were absconding in Saptari and in Bhojpur. One woman in Banke filed a police complaint against her husband accusing him of trying to set her on fire for few dowries. It is necessary for police to keep an eye on the places where the incidents take place so that they can arrest the accused who dare to return thinking the issue had subsided.

### **Death of Children**

Three children were killed in January. A 12 years old girl in Baglung was killed after rape while a 14 years old boy Sanjay Thakur was strangled in Morang. Thakur was killed because his father had some dispute with the killers. One six-year-old boy Santosh Karki died in Kathmandu when hit by bullet fired by some men affiliated with UCPN-M. The firing was ensued following a dispute between locals protested a Maoist affiliated man for dumping the construction materials on road. Three men have been arrested on charge of killing Thakur while the perpetrator in the rape and murder case is absconding. Police arrested two of the accused after much hue and cry from people.

### **Types of Killing**

Six persons were shot dead. Among them, three were Maoist cadres shot dead by Madhes Mukti Morcha. One VDC secretary was shot dead by Tarai Janatantrik Party Madhes. One man was shot dead by unidentified group while a boy was killed when the UCPN-Maoist cadres shot at locals during a personal dispute at Pepsicola, Kathmandu. Three persons were strangled among them two were women killed by their husbands while one boy was killed by persons having differences with his father. One girl and woman were killed after rape while sharp weapon was used in killing of five persons. One woman was beaten to death by her husband.

### **Killing on Geographic basis**

On January, 10 persons were killed in Tarai while six persons were killed in hilly districts. Four persons were killed by armed tarai group while four were killed by unidentified group. Two women were killed by their relatives. Among them, Bara had

three deaths while Siraha and Banke had two each. Among hilly district, Bhojpur had killing of two persons. One boy in Kathmandu hit with bullet and died on the spot in a firing carried out by UCPN-M supporters.

### **Attempted Killing**

There were three cases reported in INSECOnline on attempted killing. One was in Banke where three persons including a couple and their helper were attacked with khukuri. In another case in Bara, unidentified group tried to shoot one person to death in Bara. He was seriously injured when he was shot when going inside the house. In another case, a man tried to killing his wife by setting her on fire after she did not bring sufficient dowry.

### **Age and Sex of the Victims**

Among 17 killed persons, seven were female and others male. Murder was attempted on two women and two men. There was no report of anyone being issues death threats. Three of the killed persons were children. One girl was killed after rape, one boy was strangulated while second boy was shot dead.

### **Present Status**

There is not much information regarding the unidentified killers. There has been couple of arrest of leaders and cadres of Tarai group but it has failed to stop the killing. The VDC secretaries are being taken as easy targets. The women continued to be killed by their relatives on minor domestic dispute and for not brining in satisfactory amount of dowry. Even the children are found caught in conflict of adults. One boy in Morang was killed by those having differences with his father while another was accidentally shot at. Girls have always been at risk. Regarding the killing of the children, killers in Morang were held and confessed to the crime while in Kathmandu two of the persons involved were held but other two were absconding.

### **Observations:**

- Killing in Tarai region was bit higher
- No one was killed at the hand of state.
- Difference between Tarai armed groups and UCPN-Maoists is coming to surface.
- Acts of domestic and sexual violence continue to claim women's lives.
- Police managed to catch some accused but most of them are out of legal clutch.

### **Recommendations:**

- Police mechanism should be upgraded making them able to react in short notice.
- Tarai security problem should be tackled by increasing number of security persons and addressing socio-economic problems.
- Maximum efforts should be put into catching the absconding accused or killers.
- Proper thought should be given to relation between youth unemployment and crimes.
- Women should be encouraged to report any abuse being inflicted on them in any pretext and administration should be mobilized to provide security to them from admonishing family members to providing shelter.

- Winning trust of the locals is quite necessary to get reports on absconding perpetrators or in cases of involvement of organized groups.
- Administration can also take help from media in generating public urge to support the police by remaining vigilant, immediately reporting about the suspicious persons and restraining themselves from taking action on their own.