

Report on killing on the month of June

(based on INSEConline news)

Background

Killing, abduction and extortion among other problems have plagued Nepal since April Movement 2006. Such activities rampant during the 10 years of conflict were hoped to be vanished after the peace agreement but the development turned it into high hope. Madhesh Uprising in January 2007 and emergence of armed groups claiming to stand up for the cause of Madhesi people and other nationalities have only exacerbated the situation. Now, the state is seemingly heading for a failure with poor track of record in attempts towards curbing anarchy in almost every sector. The political stalemate which is born generally out of party interest has also added to downscale of improvement chance of law and order. The senior police officers and administrators admit that political interference is impeding fulfillment of their duty.

The present report will try to focus on the incidents of killing filed to INSEC's human rights news portal INSEConline on the month of June. This report has tried to omit any individual killings. The killings where the perpetrators are unknown are included. Killing as a result of violence against women and children have been included in the reported. Few cases where the incidents triggered massive public interest and opinions are included.

Summary

INSEConline recorded killing of 17 persons on June. Among them, two were Indian nationals whose identity could not be established. Thirteen of the victims were male while four were female. Two of the killed persons had some kind of link with the political party or group. The perpetrators in the death of six deceased could not be known. Two persons lost lives in unintentional explosion. Motive in eight killings could not be known. Five of the deceased were women and five among 17 were children. Two of the children died in ERW explosion.

State killing

Three persons were killed by the state on the month of May. Among them, one Surendra Mahato was affiliated with UCPN-Maoist. He was killed when he failed to stop at the very point the police asked him to stop. Ganesh Lama of Dhading was a convicted sentenced to prison in Rasuwa jail. He was shot dead by policemen posted at the prison as he was escaping after jail break. Manoj Mandal was killed in police firing which the police claimed triggered when the police team came under fire.

Politically motivated killing

Some facts on the trend of killing on June

Districts: Kapilbastu: 1, Dhanusha: 2, Myagdi: 3, Siraha: 3, Mahottari: 1, Rasuwa: 1, Dang: 1, Bajhang: 1, Jhapa: 1, Nawalparasi: 1, Chitwan: 1

Perpetrator: Police- 3; Husband: 1; Acquaintance: 1; Unidentified: 6,

Sex: Male- 12; Female- 5

Age: Adult- 14; Child- 5

Political affiliation: 2

Motive: Police action: 3, Ransom: 1, Violence against women -3, unknown- 8

ERW- 2

Attempted killing: 2 (1 M + 1F)

Death Threat: 1 (M)

Among the victims, two had any kind of political affiliation. One Sujit Mahato was involved in UCPN-Maoist but he was not killed for being a Maoist. Rather a policeman enraged at him for not stopping the bike at the security point shot him dead. Another one was Manoj Mandal killed by police in exchange of fire. Police said he was a Madhei Silent Killers after pamphlets of the group was recovered from his body. The absence of killing by organized groups seems noteworthy. Though, the acts of abduction, threats and extortion have not subsided, killing is quite less this month. Many analysts are saying the new security policy implemented by security forces in violent-strife Tarai district is making an impact. Besides that, the fake encounter death, though not yet proved, could have played a detrimental role in violent acts of such organized groups.

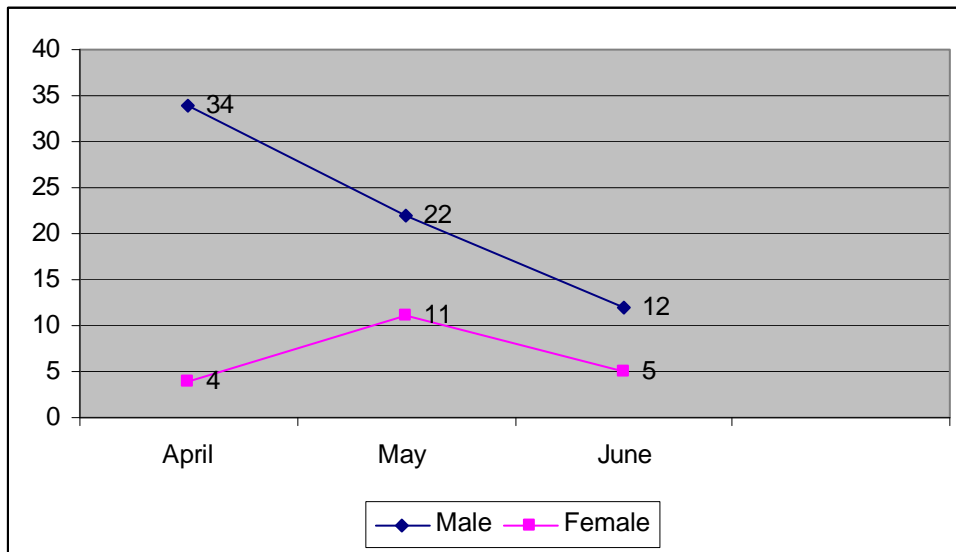


Figure: Number of persons killed in three months (April, May, June)

Violence against women

Violence against women is common across the country. The different forms of violence including misbehavior, beating, polygamy, expulsion from home, dowry violence and trafficking are only to name a few. Violence against women even results in killing many a times. On June, one woman in Myagdi was killed by her husband for not bringing the money he was demanding from her maternal home. She succumbed to the injuries inflicted by the husband when he attacked her with a spade and a baton.

Types of Killing

Five out of 17 persons were killed by bullet wounds. Among them, three were shot dead by police while in two cases, the identity of the persons shooting at the victims could not be known. Sharp weapon was involved in seven killings. One 19-year-old student of Biratnagar and currently in Kathmandu became the victim of heinous crime. She was killed by her acquaintance, a former teacher, after he abducted her for ransom. He tried to sedate the girl by giving her sleeping pills but when she did not relax and attempted to make noise, he killed her hitting her with rod. He dismembered the body parts and scattered them at four places. In Siraha too, a 16-year-old boy was killed with sharp weapon after abduction. His body was also recovered in pieces. Type of killing of two

girls whose bodies were recovered few days later after they went missing could not be known. By the preliminary study, the police suspected they might have been killed after rape.

Killing on Geographic basis

On June, killings of nine persons out of 17 occurred in Tarai. Among them, two died at the hand of the state while seven persons were killed by unidentified groups. Two of the persons killed in Tarai were Indian nationals. One of them was killed in Jhapa near the border with India possibly by Indian group while the other was killed by unidentified gang in Mahottari. INSEConline did not record any instance with claim made of any organized group in such killings this month.

Explosive remnants of war

Two boys were killed in separate explosion on June. One boy of Bajhang tried to open a packet that he found in dilapidated home. Two other children sustained injuries in the blast. Another boy of Bardiya was killed in the highway in Dang when he went inside a fenced area of army barrack to answer the nature's call.

Attempted Killing

There were two cases reported in INSEConline on attempted killing. One was in Nawalparasi where a bank staff was shot at as he was returning to office after collecting money from customers. He was treated at Lumbini Zonal Hospital in Butwal. The police assumed some underground Tarai group could have been behind the attempt but there was no progress made in identification of the assailants. Family of a woman attempted to burn her alive in Saptari for a case related to dowry. The husband and his two brothers attempted to set her on fire after pouring kerosene on her. She was taken to BP Koirala Institute of Health and Sciences. Her husband and two brothers-in-law were arrested for attempted murder.

Death Threats

Journalists also become target of death threats, attempts and sometimes even are killed by individuals, groups or authorities. In Myadgi, a newly known group Dhaulagiri Defense Army threatened to kill Surat KC, editor of local Rupse Weekly and vice-president of FNJ district chapter if he fails to pay Rs 2 m. The group is known to have demanded money from other businessmen of the districts too. This group has not been found involved in any other activities, it is possible that some person or group is just trying to cash on the instability and weaken state of affairs of the country.

Some national and international provisions related to right to life

Article 3 of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** says, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person".

Article 6.1 of the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** says, "Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life".

Article 12. 1 of the **Interim Constitution, 2007** has the provision that "Every person shall have the right to live with dignity".

Age and Sex of the Victims

Among 17 killed persons, five were female and 12 were male. Murder was attempted on one woman and one man while one man received death threats. Out of 17 persons killed,

five were children. Two girls were killed presumably after rape. One boy was killed after abduction despite the family agreeing to pay the negotiated amount of ransom. Two boys lost their lives in explosion.

Present Status

There is not much information regarding the unidentified killers. In the case of Surendra Mahato, police administration promised to take action against the involved policeman. At the latest, it is known that a legal procedure has begun against him. Khayti Shrestha's killer's arrest led to the discovery of her severed body parts and his accomplice. Both are currently on trial. Kiran Tilija's husband was arrested on charge of murder. In other cases, where the killers have not been identified, the cases are less likely to be resolved but they will add to the apprehension of the locals. The inactivity of known organized armed Tarai groups can be due to the authority vested upon police administration to take action in such districts or other factors including beginning of agriculture season making persons involved in such activities focus on field work.

Observations:

- Number of killing is higher in Tarai region but it decreased from last month's figure of 36.
- Known Tarai armed groups were less visible.
- Violence against women is leading to death of many.
- Cases get high publicity if the media are deeply involved sometimes even triggering debates as reintroduction of death penalty.
- Police attempt in tackling crime is laudable but it should be ensured that death of suspects is not encounter death, of which the police administration is being increasing accused of.
- There is a need to remain vigilant so that the 'absconded' persons are not roaming fearlessly and with impunity.

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.
- 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.