

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. A new wave of Madhesh Uprising emerged in January 2007 and sprouting armed groups calling for the cause of Madhesi people and other nationalities have only added to the difficulties. Now, the state is struggling to deal with the groups and address their logical demands and checking on untoward activities. The political scenario and the political parties' struggle to grab and remain in power have also contributed to the chaos.

The senior police officers and administrators admit that political interference is impeding fulfillment of their duty as the political interference is blatant in some cases.

The present report focuses on the incidents of killing filed to INSEC's human rights news portal INSEConline on the month of March. This report has tried to omit any individual killing but a few cases where the incidents triggered massive public interest and opinions are included. The killings where the perpetrators are unknown are also included. Killing as a result of violence against women and children 16 years of age or below have been included in the reported. This report also includes the killing attempts and threats recorded in INSEConline.

Summary

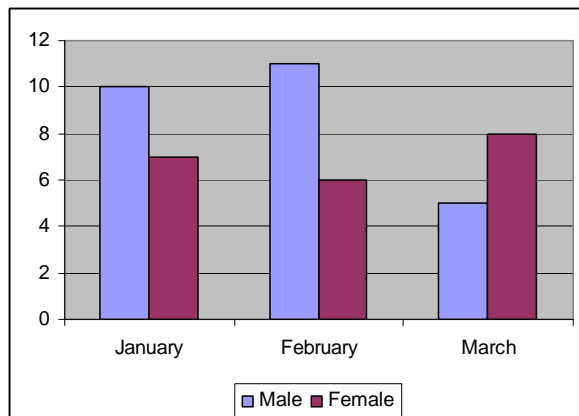
INSEConline recorded killing of 13 persons in March. Among them, four were killed at the hands of the states while four persons were killed by unidentified groups. Three persons were killed by husband or relatives while acquaintance killed two. Seven persons were shot dead and three died when being attacked by sharp weapon. One of the killed persons was UCPN-M affiliate. Eight of the killed were female and two were children.

State killing

Four persons were killed by the state in the month of March. Among them, three were killed by Army and one was by police. The persons who died when shot by army were all female and among them, two were mother and daughter. The women were inside the Bardiya National Park adjoining Surkhet. Hailing from bordering VDC of Surkhet, the women had gone inside the Park reported along with their male folks to collect bark of a tree called Kaulo when a patrol team of soldiers and game scouts arrived. The women were shot. Though there is controversy over the killing and probe panel was established, it is yet to bring out the report. One 17-year-old man was killed by police in Bara. The police claim he was killed in retaliatory action but the family said he had gone to the town for family business and was killed in fake encounter.

Killing of Politically-affiliated Persons

One politically-affiliated person was killed this month. He was Ram Ayodhi Yadav of Siraha, pro-UCPN-M trade union's Mithila Sub-state Committee in charge who was shot dead by unidentified persons.



Some facts on the trend of killing on February

Districts: Dhanusha:1, Saptari:1, Palpa: 1, Morang: 1, Bara: 1, Dang: 1, Surkhet: 3, Kapilbastu: 1, Panchthar: 1, Siraha: 1, Banke: 1

Perpetrator: Army: 3, Police- 1; Husband + Family members: 3; Unidentified: 4, Acquaintance: 1

Sex: Male- 5; Female- 8
Age: Adult- 10; Child- 3

Political affiliation: 1
Armed Group: -0

Attempted killing: Kathmandu: 1, Morang, 3, Saptari: 1, Sarlahi: 1, Rautahat: 1,

Death Threat: Makawanpur: 1, Khotang: 1, Morang: 2, Sindhupalchok: 7, Salyan: 1, Sunsari: 1, Palpa: 1, Kalikot: 1, Dhankuta: 1

Figure: Number of persons killed since January 2010

Violence against women

There were more women killed this month than men. Out of 13 killings, eight were female and five male. Some women were killed due to domestic violence while some were killed in indiscriminate firing. Women are insecure because of the sex predators and also at home. The women became victims at the hand of her husband or relatives for voicing her stand or. One six-month pregnant woman in Kapilbastu died after beating by her husband and father-in-law after a fight with her husband.

Death of Children

Three children under the age of 16 were killed this one. Among them, one girl was killed by army firing inside the protected National Park while one was killed by father, enraged after his chickens were preyed by an eagle. One girl died when her neighbor hit her during a dispute.

Types of killing

Seven out of 13 persons were shot dead. Three were killed by sharp weapon and two were beaten to death. One woman was strangulated after rape. Out of seven persons shot dead, one was media entrepreneur, the publisher of Janakpur Today who was killed by unidentified gang. The UCPN-M cadre was also shot dead by unidentified group. In total, four persons were killed by unidentified gang while three each were killed by army and relatives. Two persons died at the hand of the acquaintance while one was shot dead by police.

Killing on Geographic basis

On March, killings of eight persons out of 13 occurred in Tarai and five persons were killed in hilly districts. Three were killed in Surkhet. There were one death each in Saptari, Dhanusha, Kapilbastu, Siraha, Palpa, Morang, Bara, Dang, Panchthar, Siraha and Banke. Among the deaths in Tarai, one occurred at the hands of police that is in Bara. In Surkhet, three women were killed in army patrolling the protected forest area.

Attempted Killing

There were seven cases reported in INSEConline on attempted killing. In Morang, there were three attempted killing while there was one each in Kathmandu, Saptari, Sarlahi and Rautahat. Among the victims, two in Morang and one in Saptari were affiliated with UML.

Death Threats

This month, INSEConline report death threats to 16 persons. Among them, six teachers were threatened to be killed by local after a dispute over appointment of management committee members while a college chief in Dhankuta resigned following repeated death threats. Two journalists, one in Khotang and one in Sindhupalcok were threatened for writing or airing particular news.

Present Status

The killing of the women in Bardiya National Park sparked much rage among the rights activists and dalit activists among others. It was reported that the relatives of the victims signed a paper agreeing to withdraw murder charge in exchange for some money and other goods. There has been no information regarding the action or withdrawal of appeal in this case. Man who killed his daughter was taken into custody. The relatives of the woman killed for bringing fewer dowries are arrested. A Youth Force who attacked a local journalist in Morang was arrested few days later.

Observations:

- Number of killing went down by four
- Attempts on life and death threats increased
- Army killed three persons in protected forest area
- More women were killed this month than men
- There was a claim of fake encounter
- Known Tarai armed groups were less visible

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".

Recommendations:

- Government should ensure that there is no arbitrary killing in the name of tackling crime
- Domestic violence is should be given proper attention
- Dowry system should be discouraged
- Tarai security problem should be tackled by increasing number of security persons.
- Police and other concerned stakeholders should be motivated to find out the unidentified killers