

Report on the killings in May

(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. 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 present report focuses on the incidents of killing filed to INSEC's human rights news portal INSEConline on the month of May. 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 have been included in the reported.

Summary

INSEConline recorded killing of 17 persons in May. The state was not involved in any of the killing. One of the persons killed was related to the political party. Armed groups were involved in two killings while YCL was accused of being involved in one killing. Seven women were among the 17 killed. One woman was beaten to death by her neighbors on charge of being a witch while dowry reason claimed another life. Four persons were beaten to death while sharp weapon was used to kill two. One of the killed was a boy. There were two incidents each of attempted killing and death threats.

State killing

The state was not involved in any of the killing this month.

Killing of Politically-affiliated Persons

Two persons killed on the month of May were affiliated to political parties. One of them was Sudeep Karki, affiliated to UML. YCL men were accused of killing him by stoning him during the strike called by UCPN-M from May 2. Another political worker killed was UCPN-M's Sapatu Yadav. Yadav, 35, of Bishnupura

Some facts on the trend of killing in May

Districts:

Jhapa: 2, Gorkha: 1, Kapilbastu: 1,
Makawanpur: 2, Rautahat: 1, Rupandehi:
3, Siraha: 2, Khotang: 1, Mahottari: 2,
Morang: 1

Perpetrator: Unknown: 8, YCL- 1,
Relative- 2, Villagers- 2, SSB (India)- 1,
Madhes Rastra Janatantrik Party- 1, Tarai
Janatantrik Mukti Morcha- 1

Sex: Male- 10; Female- 7

Age: Adults- 16, Child- 1

Political affiliation:

2 (UCPN-M, YCL)

Armed Group

Killed: 2

Involvement in killing: 2

Types of Killing

Shot- 3, Beating- 4, Sharp weapon- 2,
Strangulate- 1, unknown- 4, Stoned- 1,

Attempted killing:

2

Death Threat:

VDC-1 and Abadh State Committee member has been shot dead by unidentified gang on May 31 evening. Janatantrik Tarai Madhes Mukti Party owned up the killing. One cadre of Tarai Military Morcha was killed by unidentified persons in Mahottari.

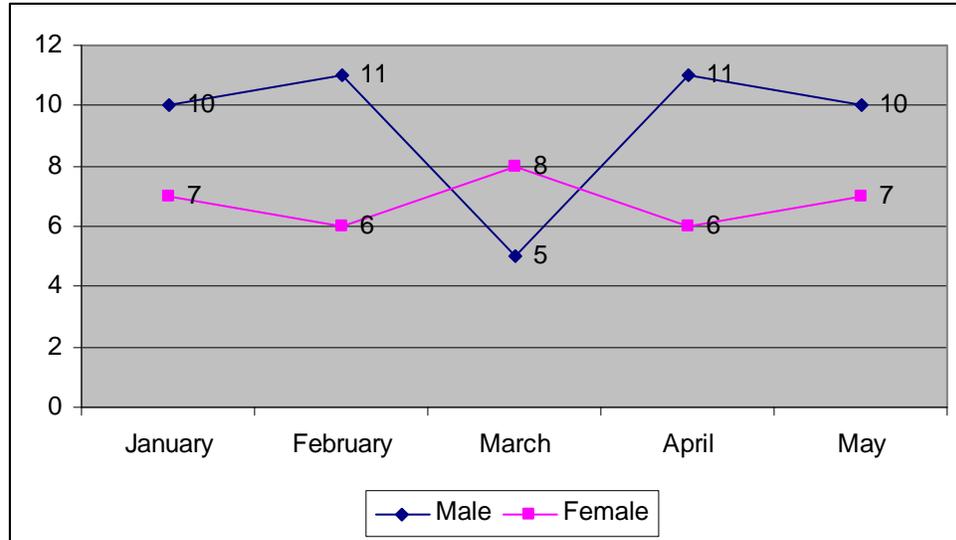


Figure: Trend of killing since January 2010

Violence against women

It is for sure that despite the government declaration of Year 2010 as the year of zero violence against women, the number of violent incidents against women will not come down. Serious matter of concern is that the women are even losing life due to the violence and the dowry system that was sporadic few years ago is now becoming a common tragedy. Woman are insecure in their own houses and their family members are the threats. In May, seven women lost their lives due to violence against them. Among them, two women were killed by their husband and one was killed by family members including husband. Two women were killed after heated debate while one woman in Mahottari was killed for not bringing enough dowries. Police suspected one woman who was found dead of being raped before she was killed. One woman survived attempted killing by her husband who sprinkled kerosene on her and set her on fire.

Death of Children

Out of 17 killings, one was that of a boy in Khotang district.

Types of Killing

Out of 17, three persons were shot dead. Among three persons shot dead, one was UCPN-M's Awadh Madhes State committee member killed by Tarai Janatantrik Mukti Morcha. One man was killed by Madhes Rastra Janatantrik Party (Krantikari). The shooter was beaten to death by locals. One woman was beaten to death on charge of being a witch by

her neighbors in Makawanpur. Four persons were beaten to death. Sharp weapons claimed two lives while one was killed by strangulation. One man was stoned to death while the type of killing could not be known in the death of four persons.

Perpetrators

YCL was involved in one killing that of a Youth Force cadre in Makawanpur during the strike called by the UCPN-M from May 2. In one case, Seema Suraksha Bal or border police of India shot dead one person in Morang. Similarly, armed groups Madhes Rastra Janatantrik Party (Krantikari) and Tarai Janatantrik Mukti Morcha were responsible for one killing each. In eight killings, the perpetrators could not be established. In one case, the villagers beaten to death the cadre of Madhes Rastra Janatantrik Party (Krantikari) was beaten to death soon after he gunned down one in Siraha.

Killing on Geographic basis

On May, killings of 12 persons out of 17 took place in seven districts of Tarai. There were three persons killed in Rupandehi and two each in Jhapa, Siraha, Morang, and Mahottari. One person each was killed in the districts of Kapilbastu and Rautahat. In Morang, one of the two persons killed was by Indian border police who came in the Nepali territory and shot dead a man during the scuffle about smuggled tin of edible oil. Five persons were killed in hilly districts. Among them, one was a boy. Two persons were killed in Makawanpur while one was killed in Gorkha. One of the killed persons in Makawanpur was Youth Force cadre killed by YCL cadres after dispute during the strike called by the UCPN-M.

Age and Sex of the Victims

Among 17 persons killed, seven were female and 10 were male. One among the killed persons was a boy killed in Khotang district by unidentified persons. Among the killed woman, one was beaten to death by her neighbors on charge of being witch while dowry reason claimed the lives of one in Rautahat and one in Rupandehi where the woman was beaten and then strangulated. Four of the women were found dead and the killers could not be identified.

Involvement of Tarai Armed Groups

Two of the killed persons were affiliated with Tarai Armed Group while two persons were killed by such groups. Tarai Janatantrik Mukti Morcha claimed the killing of a UCPN-M affiliated Awadh Madhes State Committee member. In Siraha, a Madhes Rastra Janatantrik Party (Krantikari) cadre shot dead a local man but could not escape the ire of the locals who beat the Krantikari cadre to death soon after the shooting. In Mahottari, Tarai Military Morcha military commander was shot dead by unidentified gang. He was accused of being involved in the

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".

killing of Nepal Sadbhawana Party (Anandi Devi) district vice president Saukhilal Yadav. He was also incriminated in two abductions, two killings and two robbery cases in Dhanusha. SJTMM cadres were involved in the attempted killing of Birgunj businessman Gopal Kedia. In Nawalparasi, the Janatantrik Tarai Madhesh Mukti Party issued death threat to Gremi VDC secretary.

Attempted Killing

There were two cases reported in INSEConline on attempted killing. One was in Rupandehi where a man tried to set his wife in fire after sprinkling kerosene. She managed to survive after the neighbors heard her screams. In another case, a businessman of Birgunj was shot at by unidentified group. Husband fled the scene and was absconding. In another case, a journalist was attacked in the pretext of asking about a news item. A Youth Force cadre was later arrested on charge of attacking the journalist.

Death Threats

There were two incidents of death threats reported in INSEConline this month. In one case, the journalists trying to gather information regarding networking business run by Unity were threatened with death warnings. The staff of the business were upset that a local radio had reported the sloganeering against its chairperson at a program by the members demanding their money back. In another case, secretary of a VDC bordering India in Nawalparasi district got death threats along with the demand for Rs 50,000 by Janatantrik Tarai Madhes Mukti Party. The same VDC secretary's house came under attack when the same underground group detonated a bomb there.

Present Status

In the case of killing of woman on charge of being a witch, there were a number of persons arrested. Five of them have been sent to jail on remand. In a dowry related death in Rautahat, the deceased's two of her in-laws were held while search was on for others including the husband. In Rupandehi, a husband and parents-in-law were arrested in relation to a murder of a woman while the man who attempted to murder his wife by setting on her in fire was arrested. Bandh was called by UCPN-M demanding the arrest of killers of its Awadh Madhes State Committee member. The murder was claimed by Tara Janatantrik Mukti Morcha. There is not much information regarding the unidentified killers.

Observations:

- Number of killing similar to that of last month
- Killing in Tarai was higher as in general
- None of the killed were at the hands of the state
- Involvement of Tarai armed group increased this month with two murders, one attempted murder and one death threat
- Violence against women is a cause of death for women
- Killers in many cases remained unidentified and the cause unknown.

- There is a need to remain vigilant so that the 'absconded' persons are not roaming fearlessly and with impunity.
- Indian police was involved in killing of a Nepali national.
- One man was beaten to death soon after he shot dead one villager.

Recommendations:

- The sudden increase in the activities of Tarai armed group should be investigated.
- Tarai security problem should be tackled by increasing number of security persons.
- While demanding action against the Indian policeman for shooting a Nepali to death, the government should ensure no repetition of such incidents in future.
- Maximum efforts should be put into catching the absconding accused or killers.
- Death threats against any individuals should be investigated and the perpetrators should be arrested.
- 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.
- 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.