

# HURON's Annual Report 2018/2019

**Mr. Chairman, members, and all the distinguished ladies and gentlemen!**

It is my immense pleasure to present the Annual Report, 2018 of HURON at this august gathering of AGM. As you all know HURON, Nepal's the pioneering human rights defending organizations in Nepal, and it has been playing a crucial role for promotion and protecting Human Rights, and the restoration of democracy is a mass-based human rights campaigning, recently HURON feels very challenges critical to promoting and protecting the human rights in Nepal. Despite tumultuous time for the human rights defenders. The human rights defenders are facing new threats from the state and non-state equally.



Despite the tumultuous time, I have good news to share with you. HURON boasts 97,000 general members; 3,000 active members and 550 life members in all the 77 districts of Nepal, and with this large networks, HURON has been doing its best for promoting and protecting human rights in Nepal last year. This gives us moral courage and strength to a standstill for human rights and democracy in the

country.

**Dear Members,**

Now, I would like to ask you to permit me to present HURON's engagement in the year 2018 very briefly in thematic wise.

## **A. Expression of HURON Concerns**

HURON has been expressing its serious concern over promoting, protecting and expanding human rights in Nepal. The following were the incidents when HURON expressed its concern last year:

1. On the auspicious occasion of the birthday of Dalai Lama July 5, 2017, Chief District Officer refused to grant permission to organize a program at Namgyal School, Kathmandu and Nepal Police interrupted the program at the monastery of Swayambhunath. HURON expressed its serious concern over the religious and cultural rights of refugee and appealed the government of Nepal to ensure the right to practice faith for refugee in Nepal.
2. Ganga Maya Adhikari has been fighting for justice to her son, Krishna Prasad Adhikari who was killed by Maoist on June 6, 2004, in Chitwan. No justice has been made for Adhikari family to date. HURON submitted a memorandum to Gopal Parajuli, Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Nepal to ensure justice to Adhikari.



3. HURON has been expressing its serious concern over Nepal Police's so-called encounters. In this connection, HURON submitted a legal letter to the inspector general of Nepal Police on the suspicious police encounter of Prabin Khatri in alleged drug dealings. Nepal Police stated that he committed suicide with his firearm whereas his family claimed that police entered in Khatri's house forcefully and encountered him. HURON demanded in the letter send to IGP of Nepal police for proper probe and take legal action against the culprit.

4. HURON has been raising voice for demanding for justices to the family member of the victims of



Enforced Disappearance. During the armed conflict of 1992-2006 in Nepal, the state and non-state parties involved in enforced disappearing cases. About 1500 people have been still missing. HURON issued a press release on the International Day of Force Disappearance Day On August 13, 2017 and made a strong demand for compensation to the victim and their families, taking legal action against the perpetrator of the gross human rights violations in a transparent and standard legal process from investigating the case to final trial on this

issue.

5. HURON issued a statement demanding for the immediate rescue and relief of the flood victims across the country and help to the families of the more than 100 people those who lost their lives. HURON also appealed to the Government of Nepal, all the elected representatives, Nepal Army, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force for effective rescue, relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of nationwide flooding on August 14, 2017.

6. HURON issued a press release demanding for on justice and compensation to Rajkumari Upadhyaya, President of Women's Rights Committee who was physically assaulted in alleged witchcraft on September 23, 2017.

7. HURON issued a statement appealing smooth and uninterrupted health services facilities on September 25, 2017, in connection with the health professional's strike.

8. HURON issued a press communique being mindful of increasing impunities for the powerful people in the country and demanding that whoever involved in crime should be punished and there should not any excuse whosoever involved in crime on October 4, 2017.

9. HURON issued a press release stating the fact that HURON would come for a mass demonstration if the criminal is released and justice to conflict victims is violated in many ways with the signature of all the conflict victims in it.

10. HURON appealed to Nepal Government to take strict action against people responsible for the bomb blast during the second phase of local government election and take all steps for medical treatment to the victims and support the family of deceased.

11. HURON appealed to conduct a serious investigation to find out the actual person responsible for a bomb blast at a Super Gas Factory on December 20, 2017, and to compensate the collateral damage and free medical treatment to the victims and their family.

12. HURON stated dignified release of Dr. Govinda Kc when the Nepal Police took him in custody in charge of contempt of court as per the Supreme Court's verdict on January 9, 2018.

13. HURON issued a press release to express its serious concern over the life and dignity of Radha Chaudhary who was publicly beaten by Ram Bahadur Chaudhary, and appealed for justice to Radha Chaudhary and to take legal action against the mayor and the police officer involved in human rights violation in Kailali District on March 12, 2018.



14. HURON made an appeal addressing the Government of Nepal and other concerned authorities for not to release Resham Choudhary, who is the prime suspect for the murder of a child and other seven security personnel in Tikapur violence January 3, 2019.

15. HURON appealed to the government of Nepal and other concerned authority to look after medical treatment of Acharya Shree Niwas who was shot by Nepal Police on April 8, 2018, and to carry out a credible probe of the incident.

16. HURON submitted a memorandum to Law, Justice and Parliamentary Ministry for amendment of the law related to transitional justice and enforced disappearance on July 23, 2018.

17. HURON appealed to C.D.O Office, Kathmandu to issue a passport to Ganga Maya Adhikari so she can travel abroad to demand justice at the international level January 1, 2019.

18. HURON made an appeal to Nepal Government and House of Representative not to host an oath of post and secrecy ceremony of Resham Choudhary, alleged for the murder of a child and seven security personnel on January 3, 2019.

19. HURON stated legal action against Bijay Yadav, minister of province number 2 who was accused of physical assaulting Secretary at the Ministry of Industry, Forest and Tourism of the same province, Bidhyanath Jha on January 15, 2019.

20. HURON issued an appeal for protection of the life of Dr. Govinda KC on January 15, 2019, who had staged his 16th hunger strike in Ilam district demanding the reforms in medical education.

21. HURON appealed to deny Bal Krishna Dhungel's remission to all the concerned authorities. He was prisoned since Supreme Court of Nepal denounced Dhungel as a culprit for murder and violence on.....

22. HURON issued a press release on bomb blast at Badganga, Kapilvastu. HURON also appealed Nepal Government to punish those responsible for the blast under legal circumstances and take necessary steps for medical treatment to victims of the blast.

23. HURON appealed Government of Nepal to ask help with our neighboring countries for the rescue of Nepali citizens those are victims of a bomb explosion in the Canadian Embassy of Kabul, Afghanistan.

24. HURON expresses its deepest concern over the bomb explosion in Nuwakot, Dang and Udayapur targeting election candidates and campaign during the election.



### Dharna (Peaceful Demonstration)

HURON has involved in the promotion and protection of Human Rights through a peaceful protest and civil disobedience. It has organized many dharnas in different places. I am briefly listing some of them in below:

1. HURON along with various civil society organizations held a peaceful demonstration on 69th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to express solidarity with Gangamaya Adhikari- mother of Krishna Prasad Adhikari, 17 years old boy who was killed in 2004 in Chitwan by then Maoist rebels during the decadelong civil-war- to draw the attention of Government of Nepal on December 10, 2017.



2. Supreme Court sentenced Bal Krishna Dhungel for life imprisonment as the court found him guilty for murder and violence. However, District Administration Office, Kathmandu made a recommendation to curtail the duration of his prison sentence. HURON, organized dharna to pressure the government not grant amnesty to Dhungel, the culprit of heinous crime June 2, 2018..

3. HURON along with a member of civil society and group of human right activists organized a demonstration on January 20, 2019, in front of the Prime Minister's official residence at Baluwatar demanding justice for deceased Nirmala Panta who was raped and murdered on July 26, 2018, in Kanchanpur district.

4. Dr. Govinda KC sat for a hunger strike demanding for medical sector reforms on July 2018 in Jumla. HURON organized a dharna in Jumla in expressing its solidarity to Dr. KC's hunger strike July 8, 2018.

### Fact Finding Mission

HURON has been commissioning much fact-finding mission in the connection to the human rights abuses. Following are some fact-finding mission as approved by HURON:



1. HURON authorized a fact-finding mission led by Mr. Indra Prasad Aryal, President of HURON comprising a team of an expert along with other human right activists to visit Kanchanpur on the case of



Nirmala Panta who was raped and murdered on July 26, 2018.

2. In the meantime, HURON received the information that many people were arrested and were haphazardly tortured



by Nepal Police regarding Nirmala Pant's case. Hence, Indra Prasad Aryal revisited Kanchanpur leading another fact-finding mission on December 16, 2018.

3. Huron President, Mr. Indra Prasad Aryal and team, went for the field visit on the case of Nishan Khadka, 11 years old boy who was strangled to death after being kidnapped in August 2018.

### Workshop and Seminar



HURON has been organizing workshops and seminar for promotion and protection of human rights in the country. The following are the workshops and seminars hosted by HURON:

On the occasion of 70th anniversary of universal declaration of human rights, Human Rights Organization, Bhaktapur conducted the interactive workshop on justice, security, and human rights. HURON member of Bhaktapur, national President and General Secretary of HURON and

police officials and other human right activist attended the seminar.

### Capacity building and Training for Human Rights Activists

HURON organized training and capability building programs they are listed as below:

1. Human Rights Organization of Nepal (HURON), Makwanpur organized a capacity building program on human rights on June 9, 2018. The plan was started in the presence of Makwanpur Secretary, Mr. Shree Krishna Prasad Dahal, President of HURON, Mr. Indra Prasad Aryal, General Secretary of HURON, Mr. Mahamunishwor Acharya and local police officer Mr. Shree Dev Narayan Yadav. The discussion was made on country's focus on political rights of the citizen, exploitation of India over people of Nepal and role of human rights activist who is sincerely working for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Awareness program on the situation of human rights in Nepal and efforts to be taken to improve the



position was held on January 8, 2018, as organized by HURON, Rasuwa. In the programming role of human rights activists was discussed and also, the discussion panel on contributing to the nation as being activist for justice was conducted. HURON team, Kathmandu and members of HURON, Rasuwa attended the training.

and HURON team, Kathmandu along with some other human right activist attended the training.



2. Training on the issue related to the human right was organized on November 11, 2017, in Kaski, Pokhara. HURON members of Pokhara

3. HURON organized interaction and training session on the human right, Rupandehi on October 31, 2017, which was attended by HURON members of both Kathmandu and Rupandehi including some chief district officers and human right activists.

4. A HURON team involving other human right activists attended a discussion program on the topic "Contributing to Build Rape Free Society" organized by HURON, Kavre District chapter on November 25, 2018.

5. HURON Shankhuwashava District chapter organized a human rights awareness program at Sankhuwasabha on September 18, 2018. The HURON members and members of various civil society and other human right activist have attended the program.

6. One day program was organized to discuss the human rights situation in Kanchanpur district on September 15, 2018. HURON President, Mr. Indra Prasad Aryal, and General Secretary, Mr. Mahamunishwor Acharya attended the program.

7. The human rights awareness programs were organized in different places of a country namely, Kailali, Mugu, Udayapur, Taplejung where HURON members and other human right activists of the respective districts expressed their concern towards the situation of human right in the country on different dates.

## National and International Visit

### 1. National visit:

a. HURON Nepal and INSEC jointly organized a national visit program for situation analysis in the eve of the parliamentary election on June 18, 2017. The President of INSEC, Mr. Subodh Raj Pyakurel and Mr. Indra Prasad Aryal, President of Human Rights Organization of Nepal (HURON) and journalist Dr. Rajesh Ahiraj along with numbers of human rights activists went on a pre-preliminary visit before the election. The national visit program was targeted to Dadeldhura, Kanchanpur in the far west, and Sunsari and Morang in East. The mission visited Terai Madhesh and gathered information about the situation. The team tried to identify the causes of the problems and consequences of conflict and some reliable

solutions were presented in a memorandum which was submitted to Prime Minister Office, Singha Durbar, Kathmandu after completion of the mission.

b. HURON team with members of organization along with some human right activist visited many districts in 2018 such as Nawalparasi, Jajarkot, Mugu, Mahottari, Parsa, Kanchanpur, Sindupalchowk (Kavre), Dolpa, Gorkha, Tanahu, and Kaski held discussion on the human rights situation in the respective district and also discuss the HURON's membership situation and also discuss how to expand the membership of HURON. The mission also visited C.D.O officers, Government Officers, and District Police Chief and explained the human rights situation.

## **2. International visit:**

A. HURON President, Mr. Indra Prasad Aryal and General Secretary, Mr. Mahamunishwor Acharya visited India on November 2, 2018, for a meeting Human Rights defenders of India and discussed with Indian Human Rights Activists on following issues:

- The situation of human rights in Nepal; to discuss the problems and challenges and the efforts that are being carried out to address the promotion and protection of human rights in Nepal.
- Discuss to exchange the ideas and experiences of the human rights movement
- Discussion the current status of Tibetan Refugees living in Nepal and possible engagement with Indian human rights activists in Nepal.
- To discuss an open border between Nepal and India.



B. HURON President, Mr. Indra Prasad Aryal visited Thailand on November 26, 2017, to attend the Global Advocacy Learning Program on Human Rights and Development. Respected HURON President discussed the situation of human rights and ongoing activities in Nepal related to the promotion and protection of human rights.

C. HURON President, Mr. Indra Prasad Aryal visited Sri Lanka on July 25, 2018, to understand the socioeconomic status of the people after the long-standing civil war with Tamil militants. HURON President visited rehabilitation center during his visit and had meaningful discussion and interaction with Human Rights Organizations of Sri Lanka.

## **Human rights abuse reporting**

HURON has been reporting the incidents of human rights abuses in the country. The following were HURON said last year.

### **To NHRC**

- a. The case of Ganga Maya Adhikari who is struggling for justice to her son, Krishna Prasad Adhikari who was ruthlessly shot to death in Chitwan during Maoist insurgency period in Nepal has been timely reported to NHRC.
- b. Report of investigation on Nirmala Panta who was raped and then murdered in Kanchanpur district was reported to NHRC.
- c. The situation of Tibetan refugee was reported to NHRC, and ways for the promotion of their rights were discussed.

### **To International Communities including United Nation**

- a. HURON reported to United Nations addressing resident co-ordinator, Miss Valarie Julliard on transitional justice process in Nepal in the involvement of civil society, human right activist and victim community on November 27, 2018.
- b. F.I.R filed and registered against torture concerning rape and murder case of Nirmala Panta, raped and killed after on July 26, 2018, in Kanchanpur was reported to respected British Ambassador and Ambassador of USA.
- c. Some of the findings from field visit of HURON President, Mr. Indra Prasad Aryal and team in the case of Nirmala Panta, raped and murdered in Kanchanpur was reported to the United Nations.

### **To Police**

- a. The case of Dipendra Lamichhane who was physically tortured regularly in the rehabilitation center by Superintendent of the center was reported to NHRC on September 6, 2018.

### **Central Council Meeting**

HURON held its Central Council in Lumbini on March 8 –10, 2018. Human rights activist from all 77 districts participated in the council meeting. The Central Council was held after 14 years. The issues discussed in the council were: the current situation of the country, transitional justice, working procedure, state's political and social situation, challenges for democracy and its implication. After a brief discussion on these issues, the organizational manifesto was issued.

### **District General Meeting (DGM)**

The first general annual meeting of HURON, Kavre district chapter was held in Panauti. HURON Central Executive members, Kathmandu and HURON members of Kavre, attended the meeting. Many issues related to human rights were discussed in the conference and certificate was distributed to the members of the organization.

### **Miscellaneous**



a. On occasion of International Human Rights Day, December 10, 2018, HURON organized a discussion program on 'sustainable development, the role of citizen and needs of the nation.'

b. HURON strongly demanded to stop the impunity of the criminalization of politics and politics of criminalization. HURON issued a statement demanding to hold accountable the culprit responsible for violation of human rights and not to make candidate in any election those who are involved in the crime. Many criminals get elected due to political access, power, and position. Instead of providing justice to the victim, actual culprit is often protected by the politicians. Human rights violation has been made when a political representative is involved in securing culprit's wrongdoing.

### **HURON's Commitment**

I am, at last, but not least, looking forward to more human rights solid year ahead. We are hoping to build capacities of local executives targeting elected women representatives from Metropolitan Cities,



Municipalities, Rural Municipalities, and Ward Members. The One Day Educational Program is expected to be conducted in a dozen of remaining districts of Nepal with the objective of teaching human rights education to youths, women, security personnel and interested participants. Bordering districts with India and China will be focused.

HURON is also committed to the human rights activism of in issues about transitional justice, refugee rights, and minority rights and all socio-political matters in conflict with the rule of

law in Nepal.

Thank you very much for your valuable time and kind attention.

Sincerely your

Mahamuniswar Acharya

Secretary-General