



Campaign Period Incidents Prior to the Third Phase Local Elections

Analysis Update – 12

Period: September 6-15, 2017 | Published: September 15, 2017

Summary

There were eleven election-related incidents recorded during the campaign period for the September 18 third phase of local elections that ran from September 6 to 15.¹ This was the lowest number of incidents recorded during all three phases of elections, with 56 incidents recorded during the first phase campaign period, and 89 incidents recorded during the second phase campaign period.²

Of the eleven election-related incidents, eight involved unidentified groups detonating improvised explosive devices (IED), one concerned intra-party conflict, one related to anti-election activity and one entailed attack on a candidate. There were two additional incidents recorded during this period, one related to local-level restructuring, and the other a local-level governance-related incident.

Overview of Incidents

Election-Related Incidents

Incidents Involving Unidentified Groups

- On September 6, an unidentified group detonated an IED on the East-West Highway at Chandranigahapur Municipality in Rautahat. The bomb exploded near the residence of a mayoral candidate from the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) [CPN-MC]. Sources confirmed that there was no loss of life or damage to property from the explosion. Security forces suspect the bombing was carried out by cadres of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN), led by Biplav.

¹ Candidate registration for the third phase of local level elections began on September 6, which marked the beginning of the campaign period across Province 2. The election campaign period ends at the midnight of September 15 with the campaign silence period beginning from September 16.

² Read [Analysis Update 5](#), which summarizes incidents during the campaign period before the first phase elections. Read [Analysis Update 8](#), which summarizes incidents in the campaign period before the second phase elections.

- On September 7, an unidentified group exploded an IED in front of the home of the mayoral candidate for the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) in Dhanushadham Municipality, Dhanusha. Sources have not reported any casualties, and police launched an ongoing investigation into the incident.
- On September 8, an unidentified group exploded an IED near the home of a Communist Party of Nepal – Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML) cadre in Ward 6 of Nijgadh Municipality in Bara. No casualties were reported. Police are investigating the incident.
- On September 8, an unidentified group exploded an IED at the home of a CPN-UML candidate for ward member in Ward 10 of Simara Jitpur Sub Metropolitan City in Bara.
- On September 12, an unidentified group detonated an IED in Ward 8 of Gaushala Municipality in Mahottari. The gas cylinder bomb exploded in the cornfield of a local resident. Police found clothes and a burnt motorcycle tyre at the incident site.
- On September 11, an unidentified group exploded an IED in Ward 10 of Birgunj Metropolitan City. Police reported that the bomb did not result in loss of life or property.
- On September 14, an unidentified group planted an IED near the Triyuga River Bridge in Saptakoshi Municipality of Saptari. Residents informed police after they saw a suspicious object inside a black polythene bag. The Nepal Army defused the bomb. Police said that the IED was planted with the intent to disrupt the local level elections.
- On September 14, an unidentified group attacked a vehicle belonging to a Nepali Congress candidate for Ward Chairperson in Ward 7 of Golbazar Municipality in Siraha. Two persons, riding on a motorcycle, threw a petrol bomb at the vehicle, which was parked at the residence of a party cadre. Though nobody was injured by the incident, the vehicle sustained damage.

Intra-Party Incident

On September 6, two factions of Nepali Congress clashed in Siraha Municipality, Siraha. One faction, led by Upendra Yadav, contested the mayoral candidacy of Subhash Chandra Yadav in Siraha Municipality. Subhash Chandra Yadav leads the second Nepali Congress faction in Siraha. At least ten Nepali Congress cadres were injured in the incident. After Subhash Chandra Yadav was officially given the mayoral candidacy by Nepali Congress, the faction led by Upendra Yadav picketed the district party office, during which the clash started. Subhash Chandra Yadav is the son of Sita Devi Yadav, the central treasurer of the Nepali Congress.

Anti-Election Incident

On September 15, police arrested two CPN cadres from Matihani Municipality in Mahottari charging them of disrupting local level elections. Police filed a public case against the arrestees and launched an investigation.

Attack on a candidate

On September 13, three people beat a CPN-UML ward member candidate for Ward 4 of Saptakoshi Municipality in Saptari. The attackers were arrested by the police but were released the next day. CPN-UML condemned the attack and alleged the police of releasing the attackers on September 14 without taking appropriate action against them.

Local Level Restructuring-related Incident

On September 8, residents of Tribeni Rural Municipality in western Rukum clashed over conflicting opinions on where to place the Ward 10 office. The ward office is currently situated in Barneti. However, a number of ward council members and residents reportedly want to move the office to the former Village Development Office in Gairikhet. The clash began when disgruntled ward members and residents took furniture and documents away from the ward office in Barneti. The incident resulted in seven injuries.

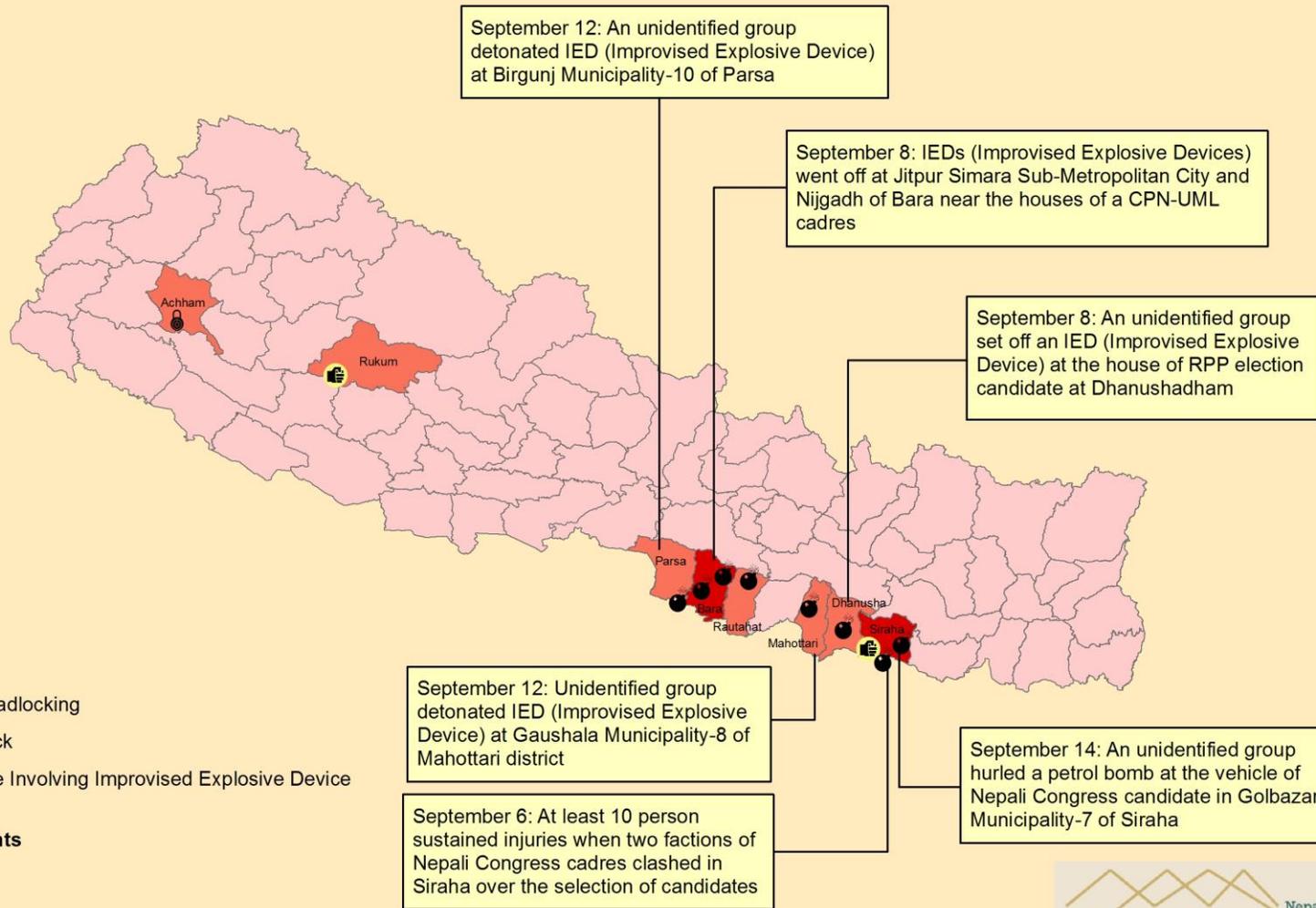
Local Governance-related Incident

On September 10, elected officials of Wards 2,3, and 5 of Dhakari Rural Municipality in Achham padlocked the rural municipality office. The officials accused the rural municipality chairman of sabotaging the development projects officially proposed by the ward committees.

Note: Please look below to see the map of incidents enlisted in the report.

This is the twelfth in a series of periodic analysis updates that Democracy Resource Center Nepal (DRCN) and the Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP) | NepalMonitor.org will be releasing during the upcoming elections period. This project receives financial and technical support from The Asia Foundation and The Carter Center.

Election Related Incidents, September 6 - September 15, 2017



Legend

Event form

-  Gherau/Dharna/Padlocking
-  Group Clash/Attack
-  Symbolic Violence Involving Improvised Explosive Device

Total number of Incidents

-  0
-  1
-  2