



Campaign Period Incidents Prior to Second Phase (June 28) Local Elections

Analysis Update – 8

Period: June 12–25, 2017 | Published: July 7, 2017

Note: This analysis update covers the period before the June 28 second phase elections, and is being released after the elections in order to provide additional detail about the full election period. [Factsheet 2 – Local Level Election, Silence Period and Election Day: Second Phase](#) was published on June 30 and provides more detail about the period immediately around election day.

On June 15, the Government of Nepal (GoN) announced that the second phase of local elections would be postponed in Province 2 until September 18, and that elections would go forward as scheduled for June 28 in Provinces 1, 5 and 7.¹ The government said that the decision was taken following an understanding with Rashtriya Janta Party Nepal (RJPN) to allow more time to create an environment for RJPN to participate in elections in Province 2. RJPN, however, denied reaching such agreement and continued to call for elections to be postponed in all provinces. RJPN announced to boycott and disrupt elections across all provinces on June 28, reiterating they would not participate in elections without getting their demands addressed.²

The Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) was the other party that announced it would boycott the elections over its general distrust of Nepal's parliamentary democratic system. The party continued protesting the polls across Provinces 1, 5, and 7.

The number of incidents increased significantly during the campaign period before the June 28 second phase elections as RJPN and CPN scaled up their election protests, and other political parties participating in the elections intensified their campaigns. There were 89 election-related incidents recorded by Nepal Monitor during this campaign period between June 12 and 25, compared to 56 incidents recorded during campaign period before May 14 first phase elections.³

Of the 89 election-related incidents recorded during this period: 40 incidents were related to RJPN's protests against elections; 15 incidents involved CPN; 13 incidents entailed inter-party disputes; 12 incidents involved unidentified groups and improvised explosive devices (IEDs); two incidents involved party members' dissatisfaction selected candidates; and one incident was related to residents protesting against the structure of newly formed local units.

¹ The nomination filing date was also extended to June 18, from June 16, at this time.

² RJPN's main demand was that the GoN address its demands through a constitutional amendment, or postpone second phase elections until an amendment is passed.

³ See [Analysis Update 5 – Incidents During Campaign Period Before May 14 Elections](#)

There were six additional incidents which included: All Nepal National Free Students Union (ANNFSU), student wing of Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) (CPN-UML), protesting in Kathmandu against the government's decision to postpone the elections in Province 2; the spokesperson of a separatist Madhesh movement led by CK Raut being arrested from Gulariya, Bardiya for conducting 'anti-election activities'; two Nepali Congress candidates in Jhapa allegedly trying to bribe voters; a group led by a potential independent candidate in Gaur, Rautahat beat four Dalits threatening them not to vote for other candidates; a Nepal Army Captain and a Police Inspector allegedly threatening a Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist-Centre) (CPN-MC) candidate in Badikedar Rural Municipality in Doti; and police arresting six persons, who were threatening election candidates, from Ghorahi Sub-Metropolitan City in Dang.

Overview of Incidents⁴

Incidents Involving RJPN

- On June 12, RJPN held torch rallies at various places in Sarlahi, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Saptari and Rautahat. RJPN district-level representatives at these rallies said that they would not allow the elections to occur without having their demands addressed.
- On June 13, the police arrested a RJPN district leader when he hurled stones at a vehicle belonging to the Nepali Congress mayoral candidate in Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City of Banke. On the same day, RJPN cadres vandalized vehicles in Ramgram Municipality of Nawalparasi, Janakpur Sub-Metropolitan City of Dhanusha, Biratnagar Metropolis of Morang, and Gaur Municipality of Rautahat, for defying the general strike called by the party. RJPN cadres also vandalized the Nepali Congress regional party office in Ramgram Municipality of Nawalparasi.
- On June 13, a general strike was called by RJPN to protest the local elections. Shops, educational institutions, and transportation services remained closed due to the *banda*.
- On June 13, RJPN cadres beat election officials in Birgunj Sub-Metropolitan City of Parsa. The incident occurred when RJPN cadres disrupted a training being hosted for election officials at Nepal Rastriya Bidhyapith Higher Secondary School in Birgunj. The RJPN cadres also clashed with police when the police moved to disperse them.
- On June 14, RJPN and Sanghiya Samajwadi Forum Nepal (SSFN) cadres clashed in Piradi Chowk of Janakpur Sub-Metropolis of Dhanusha. The District Police Office (DPO) of Dhanusha called it a minor clash. RJPN cadres also attacked the SSFN district office in Mahottari on June 16.
- On June 14, RJPN cadres held 55 election officials who were participating in an election-training program at Mahendra Bindeshwori Multiple Campus in Rajbiraj Municipality of Saptari. The RJPN cadres released the officials after one hour, and after threatening them to halt election-related work. The District Administration Office

⁴ For a complete list of incidents, see [Nepal Monitor's website](#).

(DAO) deployed a large number of security personnel in the area after the incident. After the incident Saptari's District Election Officer (DEO) postponed the interrupted training program.

- On June 16, RJPN cadres burned election-related materials in Pipara Rural Municipality of Mahottari.
- On June 17, at least five people were injured when police fired rubber bullets in order to disperse RJPN protesters when they tried to seize election materials of the CPN-UML kept in the office of Mid-Nepal Transportation Committee in Ramgram Municipality of Nawalparasi. Nawalparasi Police personnel said that five rubber bullets and four rounds of bullets were fired into the air. On the same day, police arrested 13 RJPN district leaders when they were about to hold a baton rally from the party office at Tribhuvan Chowk in Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolis of Banke.
- On June 18, police detained 41 RJPN cadres after a clash broke out when the police tried to stop cadres from vandalizing property in Janakpur Sub-Metropolis in Dhanusha. RJPN cadres broke a signboard and also damaged a vehicle parked in the premises of sub-metropolis office. At least six RJPN cadres were reportedly injured as the police charged baton at cadres. Two policepersons also sustained injuries in the clash.
- On June 22, police detained six RJPN district leaders for conducting 'anti-election activities' in Ramgram Municipality of Nawalparasi.

Inter-Party Disputes

- On June 12, six CPN-UML cadres were injured when attacked by Nepali Congress cadres in Ward-5 of Gaumul Rural Municipality of Bajura. CPN-UML sources said that Nepali Congress cadres attacked the CPN-UML cadres with sharp weapons, causing one CPN-UML cadre a serious head injury. The Bajura District Police Office confirmed that CPN-UML has filed a complaint against 48 Nepali Congress cadres.
- On June 16, Nepali Congress and CPN UML cadres clashed after a Nepali Congress cadre beat a CPN-UML cadre in Jirikhimti Bazar of Terhathum. Police arrested four persons involved in the clash.
- On June 18, CPN-UML and Communist Party Nepal - Maoist Centre (CPN-MC) cadres clashed with each other in Latinath of Marma Rural Municipality of Darchula. During candidacy filing cadres of both parties threw stones at each other, resulting in five cadres being injured. Police fired two shells of tear gas in order to bring the situation under control.

- On June 18, a CPN-UML cadre died after being seriously injured during a clash with Nepali Congress cadres at Jogedi in Chededaha Rural Municipality of Bajura. The clash began when both sides were filing candidacy nominations at Chededaha Rural Municipality Election Office. At least 12 more cadres from both sides were injured.
- On June 19, at least four people were injured in a clash between CPN-UML and CPN-MC cadres in Baijnath Rural Municipality of Banke. Police fired 20 rounds of bullets and five rounds of tear gas to bring the situation under control. Two policepersons were also injured.
- On June 22, CPN-UML and Nepali Congress cadres clashed with each other at Patle of Molung Rural Municipality in Okhaldhunga. The clash began when CPN-UML cadres tore Nepali Congress campaign posters. At least three were reported as injured during the clash.
- On June 22, CPN-UML and Nepali Congress cadres clashed in Tusarabada Jhimruk Rural Municipality of Pyuthan during a Nepali Congress election campaign.
- On June 24, Nepali Congress and CPN-UML cadres clashed in Budhiganga Municipality of Bajura. Two Nepali Congress cadres were injured as cadres threw stones at each other while they were campaigning. On the same day, CPN-UML and CPN-MC cadres clashed in Runtigadhi Rural Municipality of Rolpa, resulting in 11 injuries.
- On June 24, CPN-MC and CPN-UML cadres clashed in Sisne Rural Municipality of Rukum, injuring six CPN-MC cadres, three CPN-UML cadres, and an unaffiliated student. The clash began when party representatives accused one another of obstructing their election campaigns.

Incidents Involving CPN

- On June 17, CPN cadres kidnapped a Nepali Congress candidate when he was on his way to file his candidacy in Faktanglung Rural Municipality of Taplejung. The Nepali Congress candidate was released after six hours.
- On June 18, CPN cadres hung black flags at the homes of candidates from several parties in various places across Dang district.
- On June 22, two cadres of CPN were arrested from Ward-3 of Pauwadung Rural Municipality of Bhojpur. Police said that they preemptively arrested the CPN cadres to prevent anti-election activities in the area. On the same day, police arrested five cadres from Falgunand Rural Municipality-5 of Panchthar for allegedly conspiring against the local elections.
- On June 25, police arrested a CPN cadre from Birtamod Municipality of Jhapa as he was hanging posters containing anti-election slogans.

Incidents Involving IEDs

- On June 18, a bomb explosion in Gajehada of Banganga Municipality of Kapilbastu left nine people injured. The incident occurred near the election office when Nepali Congress and CPN-MC cadres were filing their candidacy.
- On June 19, a pressure cooker bomb was discovered at the house of the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) mayoral candidate in Siddharthanagar Municipality of Rupandehi. The Nepal Army and police jointly defused the bomb.
- On June 20, an unidentified group hurled a bomb at the residence of the CPN-UML ward chairperson candidate in Rupakot Majuwagadhi Municipality of Khotang. The bomb explosion seriously injured the candidate's daughter-in-law.
- On June 23, an unidentified group exploded a bomb at the home of the CPN-MC mayoral candidate for Godabari Municipality of Kailali. The bomb damaged the window pans and a door of the house but did not cause any injuries.
- On June 24, the Nepal Army and police disposed two bombs at two different places in Ward-6 of Kanepokhari Rural Municipality of Morang.
- On June 25, a bomb planted by an unidentified group at a campaign rally of CPN-MC in Sunawal Municipality of Nawalparasi injured seven CPN-MC cadres, with two sustaining serious injuries.

Incidents Related to Local Restructuring

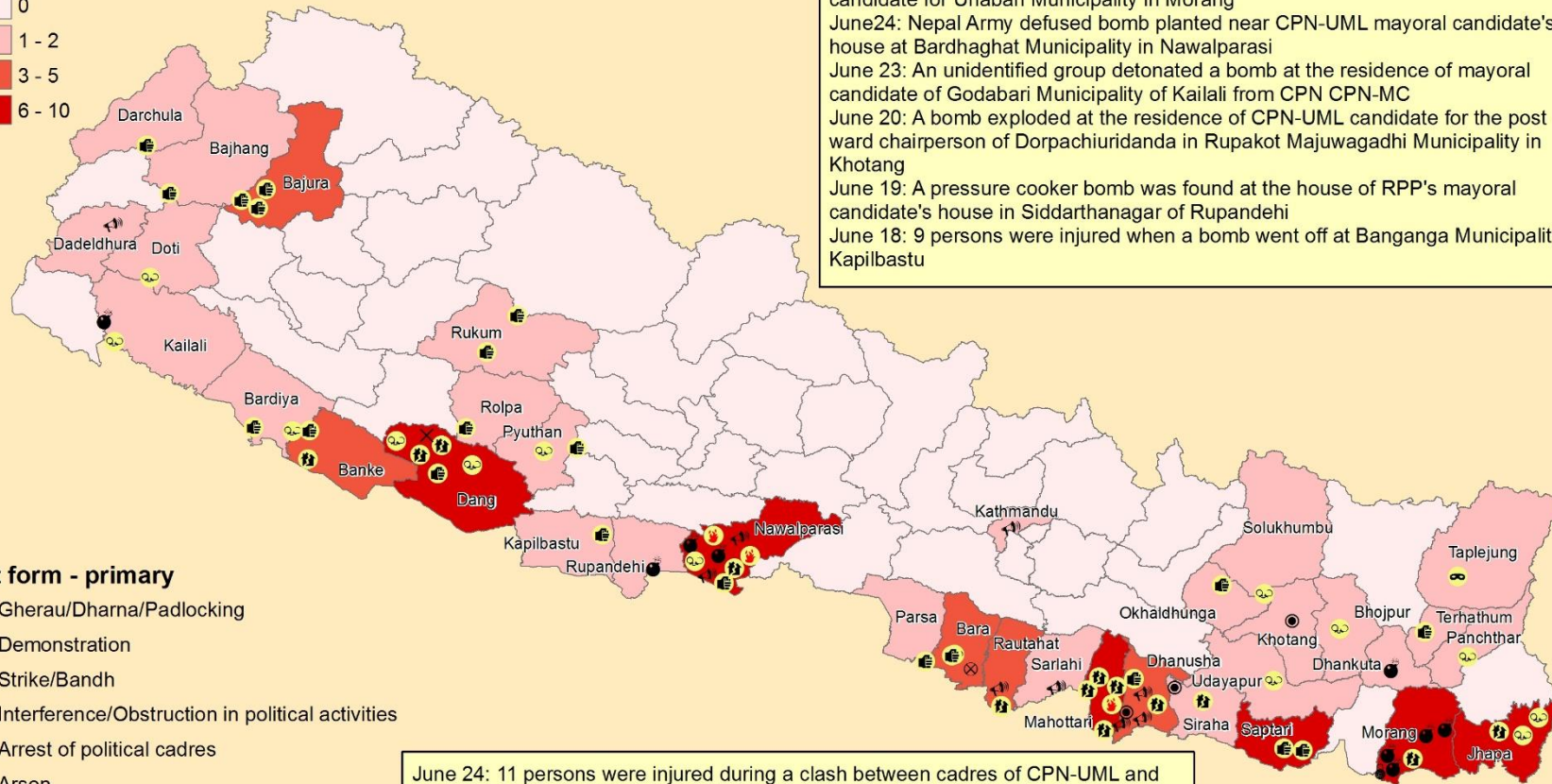
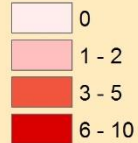
- On June 22, residents of Banau, Shalija, Nanglibang, Dhairing and Lekhphant villages of Jaljala Rural Municipality in Parbat protested at their respective ward offices and padlocked them, demanding to change the rural municipality centre from Mallag of Majhphat to a more convenient place. The residents said that Mallag is not an accessible place for wards 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

Note: Please scroll down to see the map of incidents enlisted in the report.

This is the eighth of 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 election period. This project receives financial and technical support from The Asia Foundation and The Carter Center.

Election Related Incidents, June 12 - June 25, 2017

Total number of Incidents



Event form - primary

- Gherau/Dharna/Padlocking
- Demonstration
- Strike/Bandh
- Interference/Obstruction in political activities
- Arrest of political cadres
- Arson
- Abduction
- Group clash/Assault
- Remote/Symbolic violence involving IED
- Vandalism
- Other violent form

June 25: 11 persons were injured when an IED exploded at CPN-MC's rally in Sunwal Municipality of Nawalparasi
 June: An explosion rocked the residence of Khadga Phago, Nepali Congress mayoral candidate for Uurlabari Municipality in Morang
 June 24: Nepal Army defused bomb planted near CPN-UML mayoral candidate's house at Bardhaghat Municipality in Nawalparasi
 June 23: An unidentified group detonated a bomb at the residence of mayoral candidate of Godabari Municipality of Kailali from CPN CPN-MC
 June 20: A bomb exploded at the residence of CPN-UML candidate for the post of ward chairperson of Dorpachiuridanda in Rupakot Majuwagadhi Municipality in Khotang
 June 19: A pressure cooker bomb was found at the house of RPP's mayoral candidate's house in Siddarthanagar of Rupandehi
 June 18: 9 persons were injured when a bomb went off at Banganga Municipality of Kapilbastu

June 24: 11 persons were injured during a clash between cadres of CPN-UML and CPN-MC in Runtigadi Rural Municipality-8 of Rolpa
 June 24: 6 CPN-MC cadres and 3 CPN-UML cadres were injured during a clash at Sisne Rural Municipality-7 in Rukum
 June 22: 3 persons were injured during a clash between CPN-UML and Nepali Congress cadres in Molung Rural Municipality-7 in Okhaldhunga
 June 18: Police fired 20 rounds of bullets and 5 rounds of tear gas after situation turned tense due to a clash between CPN-UML and CPN-MC cadres in Banke