# TRENDS OF VIOLENCE AND CONTESTATION IN NEPAL





OCT-DEC 2018 EIGHTH QUARTERLY REPORT

This is the eighth in a series of quarterly reports from the Nepal Peace Monitoring Project (PMP), covering the period from October to December 2018. The PMP uses a methodology similar to Nepalmonitor.org's alert and mapping system, with a focus on gathering data on violence and political contestation. The PMP's goal is to improve our understanding of violence in Nepal to better respond to it and promote peace.



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## **Executive Summary**

In the fourth quarter of 2018, the PMP recorded 582 incidents (453 of them violent and 129 nonviolent incidents of protests, public contestation or threats). A total of 99 people were killed in violence and 203 cases of rape/attempted rape was recorded. This marks a decrease in over all incidents by 32 percent (from 852 to 582) and also a decrease in death by 35 percent (from 152 to 99) when compared to the previous quarter. Similarly, the cases of rape or attempted rape also decreased by 30 percent in this quarter (from 288 to 203).

Gender based violence and disputes of a personal nature have remained to be the main drivers of fatalities with 40 and 31 deaths respectively. Sexual assault was the most common forms of GBV with 212 incidents. The number of incidents of sexual assault decreased by 32 percent in this quarter (from 311 to 212 incidents). In case of domestic violence, 49 incidents were recorded which depicts a decrease in such incidents by 31 percent (from 71 to 49 incidents). Similar to the previous quarter, the rape and murder of 13 year old girl Nirmala Panta brought along several questions regarding the justice system and the accountability of the government. Nationwide protests were organized demanding justice and effective investigation by the police.

Governance, politics and economic issues also triggered nonviolent contestation and public protests in this quarter.

# Gender Based Violence Continue to be the Leading Cause of Violent Deaths

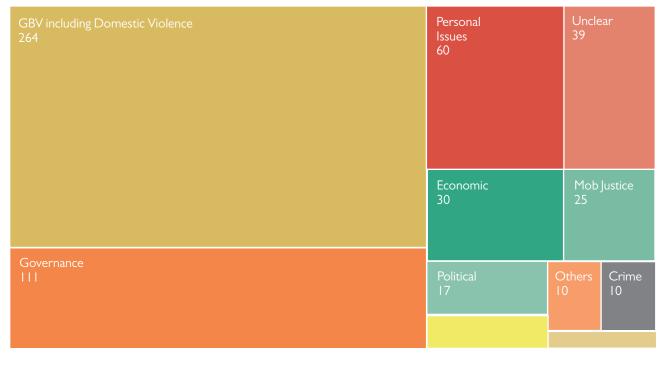
26%
decrease
in violent
incidents

The PMP recorded 582 incidents of which 453 were violent incidents and 129 were non violent incidents which include protests, public contestation and threats. Violent incidents saw a decrease by 26 percent (from 607 to 453) and nonviolent incidents also saw a decrease by 48 percent (from 245 to 129). The level of violent deaths decreased by 25 percent. GBV and disputes of personal nature remained the leading cause of violent deaths killing 40 and 31 people respectively.

FIGURE 1: TRIGGERS OF VIOLENCE RESULTING IN FATALITIES



### FIGURE 2: TRIGGERS OF INCIDENTS

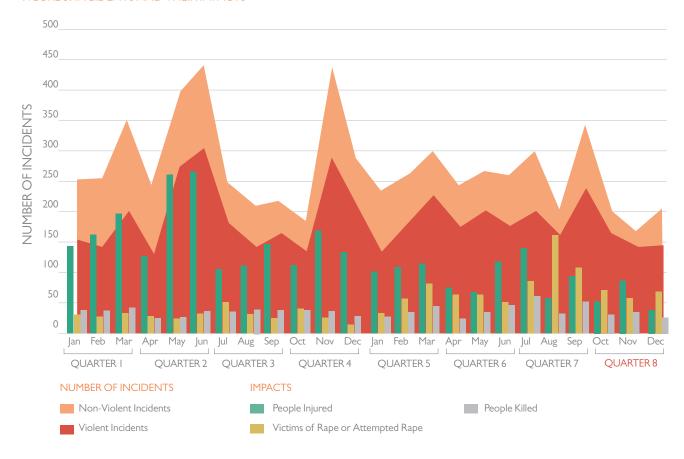


Violence in Institutions (11 incidents)

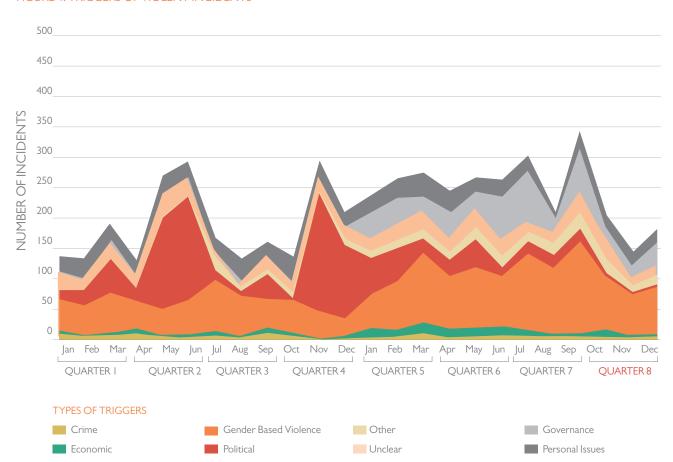
Law and order violence (5 incidents)

In this quarter, governance related incidents decreased by 42 percent (from 189 to 111). The incidents mainly involved protests against issues related to the quality of public services. Incidents related to political issues decreased by 74 percent (from 63 to 17). Whereas, economic issues increased by 43 percent (from 21 to 30).

### FIGURE 3: INCIDENTS AND THEIR IMPACTS



### FIGURE 4: TRIGGERS OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS





# Violence Against Women and Girls Continue

In this quarter, incidents of GBV decreased by 32 percent (from 387 incidents to 264). GBV was still the leading cause of violence which killed 40 people. Sexual assault was the most common form of GBV with 212 incidents including 200 cases in rape or attempted rape in which 165 victims were women and girls below the age of 26.

### Caste Based Discrimination

In this quarter, four incidents of discrimination against dalits were recorded in which two people were injured. The incidents recorded include cases of Dalit students being suspended from school for not cleaning the premises, <sup>1</sup> removing public tube well after a Dalit person drank water from it<sup>2</sup> and members of Dalit community being restricted from performing religious rites.<sup>3</sup>

On December 28, an 18 year old dalit man was kidnapped and severely beaten by the newly elected ward chairman along with villagers for having an affair with a non-dalit girl.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, the victims father was asked to compensate with Rs. 14,00,000. The victim demanded action against the perpetrators and lodged a complaint at National Dalit Society.

I Dalit Student Suspended from School

<sup>2</sup> Tap from Public Tube Well Removed After Dalit Drink Water from it

<sup>3</sup> Members of Dalit Community Barred from Religious Rite

<sup>4</sup> Dalit Youth Beaten by Ward Chair Along With Villagers

# The Nepal Peace Monitoring Project

The Nepal Peace Monitoring Project (PMP) is a joint initiative by Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP) [NepalMonitor.org and The Asia Foundation, with the support of Canada's International Development Research Center (IDRC). Building on the NepalMonitor.org platform, the PMP focuses on violence and contestation, with a view toward improving our understanding of, and response to, violence and conflict in Nepal. The PMP also provides an instrument to measure progress against Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Targets 16.1 (reduction of all forms of violence and related death rates) and 5.2 (elimination of violence against women) in Nepal.

### The PMP monitors:

Violence: any incident involving the intentional use of physical force against another person or group that results or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, or other forms of physical harm to persons or damage to property.

Non-violent contestation: demonstrations, protests or other types of non-violent events that involve collective action and may be of potential significance to violence dynamics in Nepal. This includes strikes (bandh), hunger strikes, padlocking and other forms of political protest. Incidents involving intimidation and threats but no direct physical violence are also tracked.

The PMP uses a broad range of information sources, including national and district-level newspapers (from 25 districts), and reporting from police, human rights organizations, international agencies, civil society organizations, and citizens directly. For each incident, the PMP collects detailed information on the following variables: time and location of the incident, form of the incident, weapons used, reported cause/motive of the incident (political competition, land dispute, communal tensions, crime etc.), affiliations of perpetrators and victims, human impacts (broken down by gender and age) and damage to property.

Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP) is a national network of peace and human rights nongovernmental organizations in Nepal, registered since 2002 with the Government of Nepal as a nonprofit.

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