COCAP BIWEEKLY: INCIDENTS SURROUNDING COVID-19 AUGUST 16 - 31, 2020


From August 16 - 31, 2020, COCAP’s Nepal Peace Monitoring Project (PMP) recorded 56 incidents related to COVID-19. The incidents recorded mainly involved prohibitory orders in various parts of Nepal to contain the spread of COVID-19, protest against the government and assaults of health workers. Of the total COVID-19 related incidents eight were violent and 48 were latent incidents of protest (See Fig 2 and 3).

From August 16 - 31, the PMP recorded 60 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) in which 36 victims of rape were women and girls below the age of 26. GBV itself is a crisis in our communities, but the pandemic has made victims furthermore vulnerable to abuse. It is important to note that both males and females face GBV, but according to our data, the majority of victims are women and girls.

This bi-weekly report aims to inform our readers on the added crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected everyone’s livelihood and made some group of people even more vulnerable. Until August 31, the total number of positive cases reached 38561 with 221 deaths.
INCIDENTS SURROUNDING COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN NEPAL (AUG 16 - AUG 31, 2020)

Disclaimer: This map shows incidents which were reported in the media and might not include all incidents around Covid-19 crisis across Nepal.
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<th>Cause</th>
<th>Event Form</th>
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<td>COVID-19 - Government Relief</td>
<td>Latent Protest</td>
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<td>COVID-19 - Irregularities in</td>
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<td>COVID-19 - Prejudice and</td>
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<td>Discrimination</td>
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<td>COVID-19 - Quarantine</td>
<td>Latent Protest</td>
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<td>Management</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**FIG -3 INCIDENTS SURROUNDING COVID-19 (AUG 16 - AUG 31, 2020)**

*EVENT FORM*

- **Banishment / Shunning**
- **Latent Protest**
- **Violent Clash / Assault**
## INCIDENTS RELATED TO PROHIBITORY ORDERS AND PROTESTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Incident Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AUG 18</td>
<td>The COVID-19 patients vandalized an isolation ward in Pokhariya hospital, Parsa accusing the hospital of discrimination in providing water, foods and other essential services.¹</td>
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<td>AUG 19</td>
<td>The locals obstructed the police from constructing a quarantine center at Palpasa Assembly Hall at Hetauda sub-metropolitan city ward no 2.²</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG 21</td>
<td>The District Administration Office in Kanchanpur issued a prohibitory order until August 30 to prevent the spread of COVID-19.³</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG 21</td>
<td>The District Administration Office of Gulmi imposed prohibitory orders to prevent the spread of COVID-19.⁴</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG 21</td>
<td>The District Administration Office in Kalikot imposed a prohibitory order in the district to control the spread of COVID-19.⁵</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUG 22</td>
<td>Residents of Parsa district protested against the decision to convert Asharam Hospital into a temporary hospital for the treatment of COVID-19 patients. The residents opposed it as they feared the spread of COVID-19 in their community.⁶</td>
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<td>AUG 23</td>
<td>The Nepali Congress and the Nepal Student Union staged a demonstration in Rajbiraj, Saptari accusing the government of being indifferent to the problems faced by the people amidst the pandemic.⁷</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG 24</td>
<td>Staff nurses working at BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences staged a protest demanding Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), gloves and mask after a nurse working in the hospital tested positive for COVID-19.⁸</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUG 24</td>
<td>A media person infected by COVID-19 kept in Ganguli isolation center of Nagarain Municipality, Dhanusa received death threats from Nepal Army personnel after he posted about the mismanagement of the center in his social media.⁹</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The District Administration Office, Mugu imposed a prohibitory order at the headquarters Gamgadhi after a meeting of the District COVID-19 Prevention, Control and Management Committee to control the spread of COVID-19.  

All though it was decided by all three districts administration offices to allow food delivery to operate even during the prohibitory order, the police arrested delivery workers and employees of e-commerce companies.

Entrepreneurs affiliated with Dhanusha Chamber of Commerce staged a demonstration at Shivchowk in Janakpur demanding relief from the government.

Police assaulted the operator of Ganesh Opticals in Janakpurdham sub-metropolitan city 2 for operating his store during the lockdown. Following the assault local business people protested demanding an explanation to their behaviour.

**INCIDENTS OF BLACK MARKETING**

A team of the District Administration Office, Ramechhap arrested a businessman from Okhreni on the charge of blackmarketing chemical fertilizer during the lockdown.

A joint monitoring team of Commerce Supplies and Consumer Protection Office, the District Administration Office and the District Police Office in Parsa fined three store owners after customers complained of price hike during the lockdown.
INCIDENTS OF ASSAULT AGAINST HEALTH WORKERS

**AUG 23**
The junior resident doctors at BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan organized a protest demanding better management of cases of COVID-19 in the institute, better allowance and the institute should stop assigning junior doctors to manage the dead body of COVID-19 infected patients.16

**AUG 24**
The police arrested a health worker from Birgunj on the charge of black marketing of a medicine prescribed to patients of COVID-19.17

**AUG 24**
The human rights and peace society staged a protest in Jorpati against the growing assaults on doctors and health workers across the country amidst the increasing cases of COVID-19.18

**AUG 24**
The staff nurses working at BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences staged a protest demanding personal protective equipment (PPE), gloves and mask after a nurse working in an ICU contracted COVID-19.19

**AUG 25**
After the police in Parsa district physically assaulted the employees of Trishakti Medical Hall all the medical stores in Birgunj remained closed in protest against the assault.20

INCIDENTS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

From August 16 - 31, the PMP recorded 60 cases of gender-based violence (GBV). As seen in the previous reports, sexual assault was the most common form of gender-based violence (GBV) with 53 incidents (See fig 4 and 5) out of which 43 cases were of rape in which 36 victims were women and girls below the age of 26.
Salyan district had the highest cases of GBV followed by Saptari and Morang. The lockdown imposed across Nepal has made women and girls facing abuse even more vulnerable as amidst the pandemic it is difficult to reach out to the support system and many of them might be trapped with their abuser.
ENDNOTES

1. See: COVID-19 Patients Vandalize Isolation Ward in Birgunj
2. See: Locals Obstruct Quarantine Constitution in Hetauda
3. See: Kanchanpur DAO Enforces Prohibitory Order in District Until August 30
4. See: Week Long Restrictive Order Imposed in Gulmi
5. See: Prohibitory Order Issued in Kalikot From Friday
6. See: Locals Obstruct Making of a Temporary COVID Hospital in Parsa
7. See: Nepali Congress Demonstrates Against Government Apathy in Rajbiraj
8. See: Nurses of BPKIHS Staged Protest Demanding PPE
9. See: Corona Infected Media Person Threatened for Making Public About the Mismanagement of Isolation Center
10. See: Mugu District Headquarter Gamgadhi Sealed for a Week
11. See: Police Obstruction in Essential Services, E-commerce Operators Arrested from the Office
12. See: Entrepreneurs Stage Demonstration in Janakpur Demanding Relief from the Government
13. See: Police Assaults Businessmen for opening Shop in Dhanusha
14. See: Businessman Arrested for Black Marketing in Chemical Fertilizer
15. See: Three Shops Fined for Black Marketing in Parsa
16. See: Junior Resident Doctors of BPKIHS Fighting COVID Agitated
17. See: Health Worker Arrested for Black Marketing of Remdesivir
18. See: Demonstration Against Assault of Health Workers in Kathmandu
19. See: Nurses of BPKIHS Stage Protest Demanding PPE
20. See: Assault on Medical Store Vendors Lead to the Shutdown of Medical Stores in Birgunj
The PMP gathered data on violent and latent incidents past 15 days of the lockdown period by compiling reports from all major online news portals, national dailies, local newspapers from 20 districts, and incidents reports directly submitted to us. The goal of the report is to deliver an update and understanding of the incidents surrounding the pandemic of Coronavirus to better respond to the situation and to promote peace. The numbers recorded in this report are based on the reports mapped by Nepalmonitor.org.