



**THE NEPAL  
PEACE  
MONITOR  
ANNUAL REVIEW: 2020**



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Dear Readers,

It gives me great pleasure to present to the Nepal Peace Monitor: Annual Review 2020. This is the fourth annual report of COCAP's (Collective Campaign for Peace) Nepal Peace Monitoring Project. This COCAP publication is a part of our ongoing efforts to monitor conflict and violence dynamics in Nepal in order to contribute to human rights and peace.

The Annual Review 2020 presents data collected by the Nepal Peace Monitoring Project (PMP), an initiative by COCAPINepalmonitor.org. It offers a comprehensive overview of human rights incidents reported in 2020, and examines major trends to help us better understand and respond to violence and conflict in Nepal. The PMP also continues to provide an instrument to measure progress against United Nations 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.

As one of the leading networks of non-governmental organizations working for human rights and peace development since 2002, COCAP continues to promote and strengthen the democratic values and principles in Nepal. Moreover, through its network of 43 organizations in 29 districts, COCAP has also been working to endorse the social protection system, safeguard human rights, encourage voluntarism, and build the capacity of human rights defenders and peace workers to create a fair, just, and peaceful society.

This report contains a summary of all violent and nonviolent incidents from our database that took place in the year 2020. The PMP draws on a diverse set of sources and stakeholders, including national-level mainstream media, district-level newspapers, as well as reports from Nepal police, human rights organizations, international agencies, concerned government departments, and ordinary citizens. According to the report, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), particularly physical and sexual violence against women, is still the leading cause of violence in Nepal, as it was last year. While the Nepalese government has passed some laws and policies aimed at better protecting women and girls from violence, factual data on their implementation does not demonstrate any significant improvement regarding the number of annual GBV cases.

Additionally, the report analyzes issues related to governance, politics, Indo-Nepal boundary disputes, Covid-19 pandemic, impunity, restraint on freedom of expression, and shrinking civic space. The annual review also sheds light upon some popular civic movements and strikes such as the "Enough is Enough" campaign, demonstrations against the PM's unconstitutional move of dissolving the House of Representatives, and protests demanding the restoration of monarchy and reinstatement of Nepal as a Hindu state. Similarly, the report also displays evidence-based data and figures on the



harmful social practices of caste-based discrimination and dowry system, which have exacerbated violence against Dalits and women in Nepal.

I hope this modest endeavor will provide a learning experience and reference resource for all human rights activists, peace-builders, policymakers, development practitioners, media, think-tanks, as well as academics and researchers working in Nepal and abroad to establish peace and protect human rights. COCAP is indebted to our donor organizations, and would like to extend its sincere gratitude to the Peace Brigades International-Germany and the Asia Foundation-Nepal for their continuous support to the project. I would like to express my gratitude to the Nepal Peace Monitoring Project's entire team, as well as other COCAP colleagues who contributed to the development of this annual review. I would also like to thank the District Focal Persons from the project's working districts, who have made a significant contribution to data collection and evaluation; without their help, this would not have been possible. Finally, I would also like to express my gratitude to all the readers who have not only motivated us to continue with this work but have also acknowledged our work and used our reports and available data for their work.

Happy reading!

Roshana Khadka,

Chairperson, Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP)

Kathmandu, Nepal



## INTRODUCTION

In 2020, Nepal witnessed a number of significant incidents concerning human right violations and abuses. The public outrage related to governance failures in providing quality public services and in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic dominated the majority of the incidents. Similarly, the year saw an increase in gender-based violence and went through major changes in Nepal's political system.

The Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's decision to dissolve the parliament on December 20 sparked widespread outrage among other political parties, civil society, and the general public. Other contributing factors towards the instability of politics were the border tension with India and the naming of provinces under Federal Nepal. Besides these, the Netra Bikram Chand-led group, which the government banned in 2019, continued to carry out violent activities to assert its presence. Several anti-federalism protests by groups supporting constitutional monarchy and Hindu states began on Republic Day in May and continued throughout 2020.

The year 2020 brought a tremendous change in global socio-political dynamics due to the worldwide outbreak of coronavirus (Covid-19) that overshadowed all other cross-cutting concerns. In the face of the pandemic, Nepal witnessed several notable cases of human rights abuses and instances of governmental failure to ensure citizens' most basic human rights. The government failed to take adequate precautions to protect Nepali migrant workers who were stranded or otherwise affected by the pandemic in other

countries. The government's lackluster response to the Covid-19 pandemic and citizens' dissatisfaction with these woefully inadequate responses triggered several violent and nonviolent incidents.

The government's perceived inefficiencies in delivering public services and access to justice led to many nonviolent protests. Amongst these were the protests for justice for sugarcane farmers, victims of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), caste-based discrimination, and improving health services to respond to the pandemic.

The civic space situation in Nepal has continued to shrink this year as evidenced by the ongoing violence against human rights defenders (HRDs) and journalists, as well as police interference during peaceful demonstrations.

GBV, primarily against women and young girls, has continued unabated. Despite political commitment and a supportive legal and policy framework, violence against women remains a significant problem in Nepal.

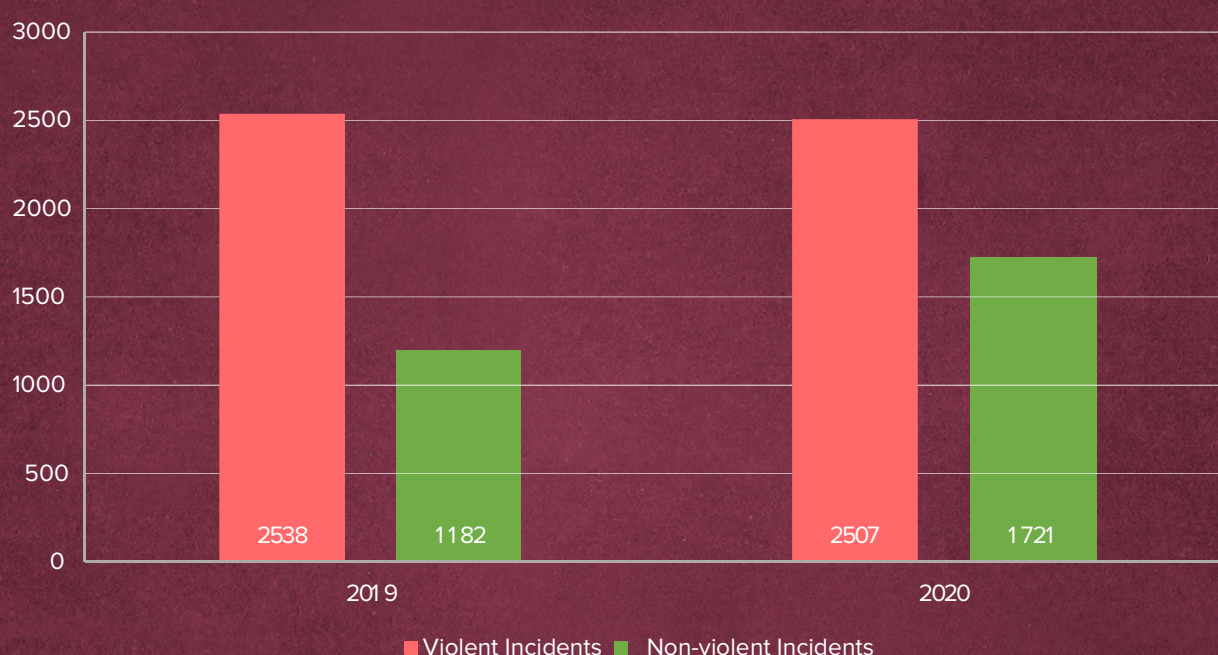
Likewise, dozens of abuses against Dalit people were reported, and such abuses were frequently enacted with impunity. The issue of caste-based discrimination came into the spotlight this year after the murder of a Dalit youth and his five friends in West Rukum over an inter-caste love affair. This incident sparked nationwide protests of the Dalit community members, civil society, and the general public over the government's failure to tackle widespread discrimination.



## TRENDS OF INCIDENTS IN 2020

- In 2020, the Peace Monitor Project (PMP) recorded a total of 4,227 incidents (59 percent violent and 41 percent nonviolent) in Nepal,<sup>1</sup> an increase of 14 percent compared to the previous year (up from 3,720 incidents in 2019).
- Non-violent incidents increased by 31 percent compared to the previous year (from 1,182 incidents in 2019 to 1,721 in 2020) while the number of violent incidents saw a slight decline by 1 percent (see Fig 1).

FIG 1: YEAR-WISE COMPARISON OF INCIDENTS (2019-2020)

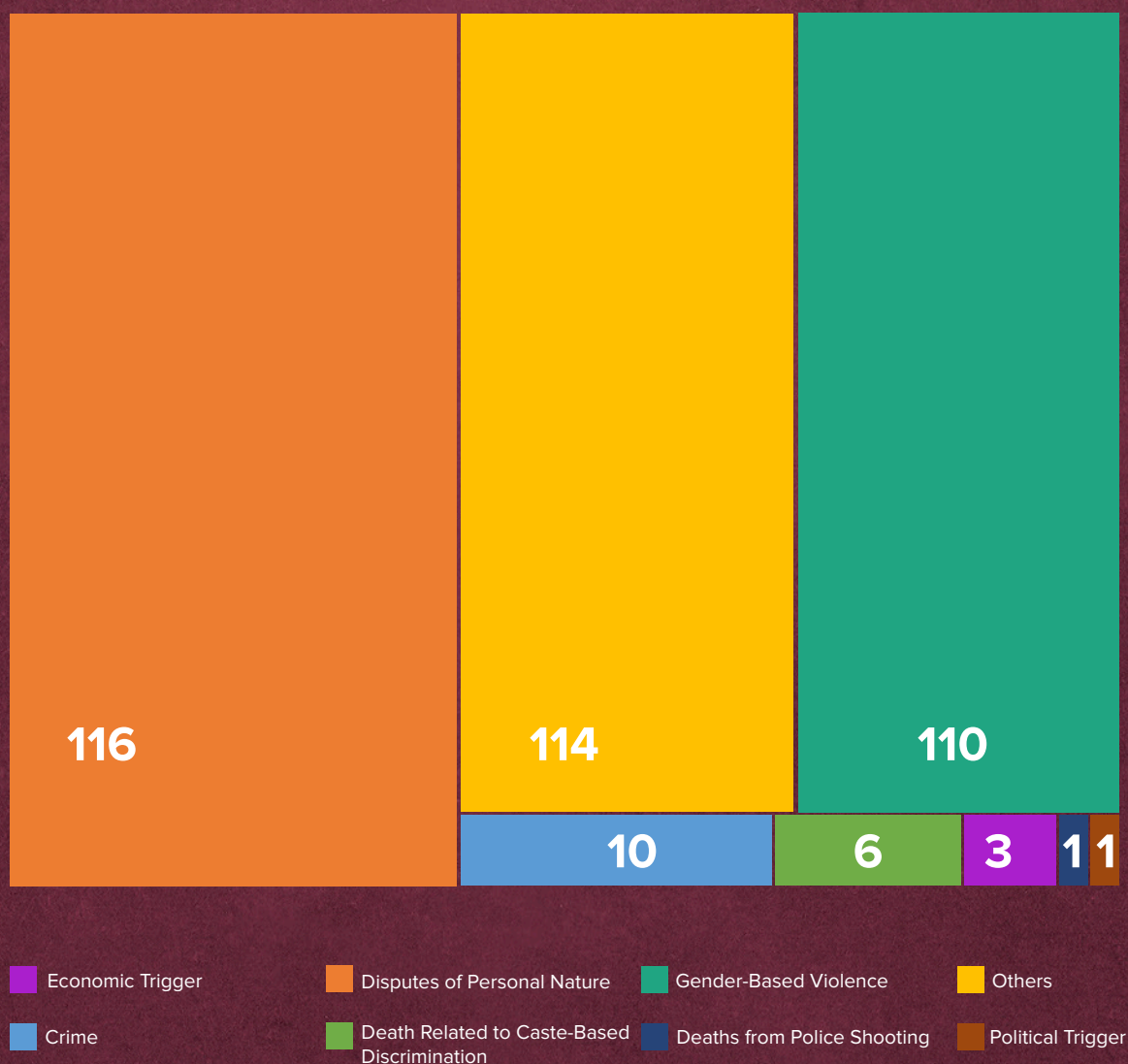


- Different violent incidents took the lives of 441 people and injured 2,538 in 2020, staying approximately at the same level as the previous year.<sup>2</sup>
- The leading cause of fatalities due to violence were personal disputes, accounting for 38 percent (166) of all violent deaths, followed by GBV accounting for 25 percent (110 deaths; 108 females and 2 males). In 22 percent of the cases (99 deaths) the trigger for the fatal violence remained unknown. Violence and fatalities due to crimes such as robbery or drug trafficking were low, and there were no incidents related to armed conflict or international terrorism in Nepal in 2020.
- GBV had the largest share of violence recorded in 2020 with 1292 incidents of which 1278 were violent. In contrast, 1229 incidents of GBV were observed in 2019 of which 1225 were violent. There was an increase of 53 violent incidents or 4.3% rise from 2019. However, cases of GBV are likely to be much higher as many of the incidents go unreported.<sup>3</sup>

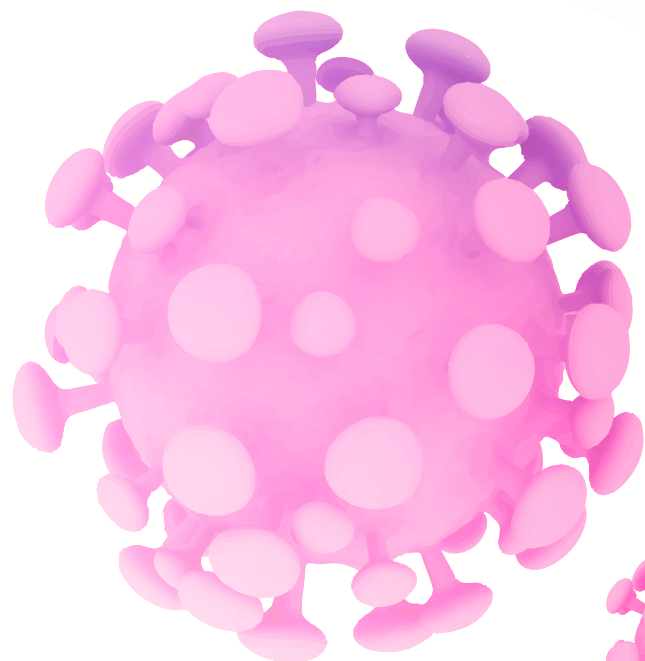
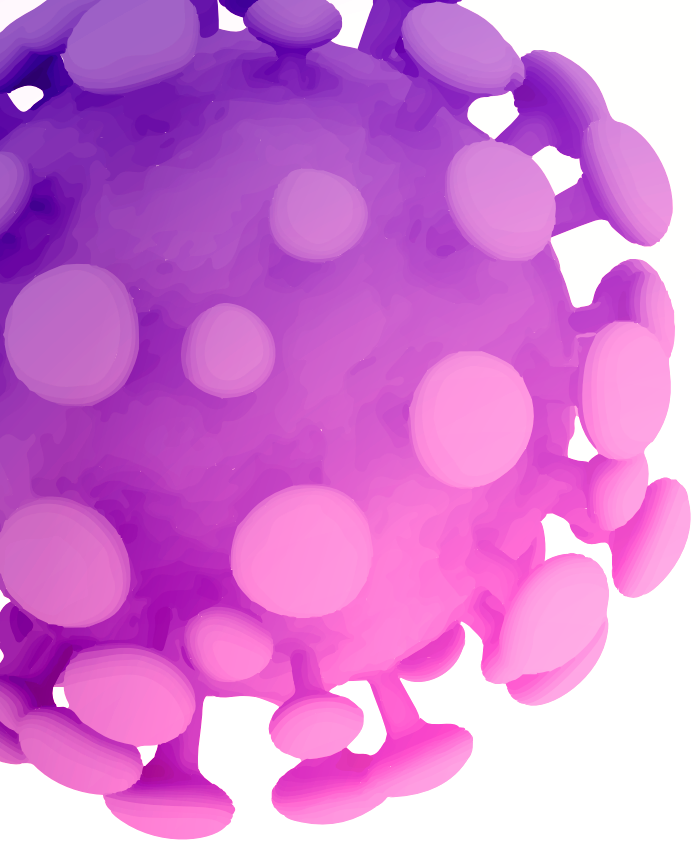


- Of the total 1,721 nonviolent incidents in 2020, 48% were due to Governance (where 434 incidents were linked to the Covid-19 pandemic).
- Governance-related incidents totaled 986 incidents out of which 823 incidents were nonviolent and the remaining 163 incidents were violent in nature. Governance issues related to the Covid-19 pandemic, access to justice, and protests against poor quality of public services were primary triggers for demonstrations and protests in this field.
- 13 percent of all recorded incidents were related to Covid-19 or the government's response to the pandemic. Of those 554 incidents, 141 were violent, and 413 nonviolent.

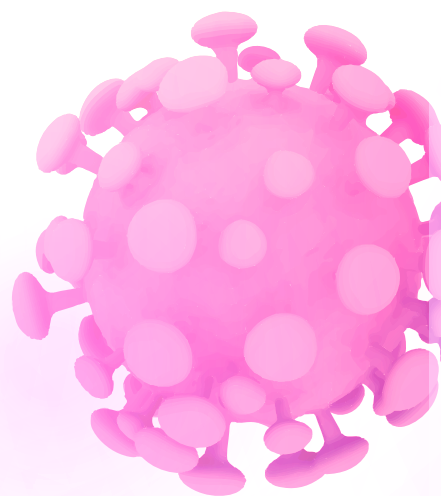
FIG 2: TRIGGERS OF FATAL INCIDENTS







# **CONTESTATIONS SURROUNDING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**





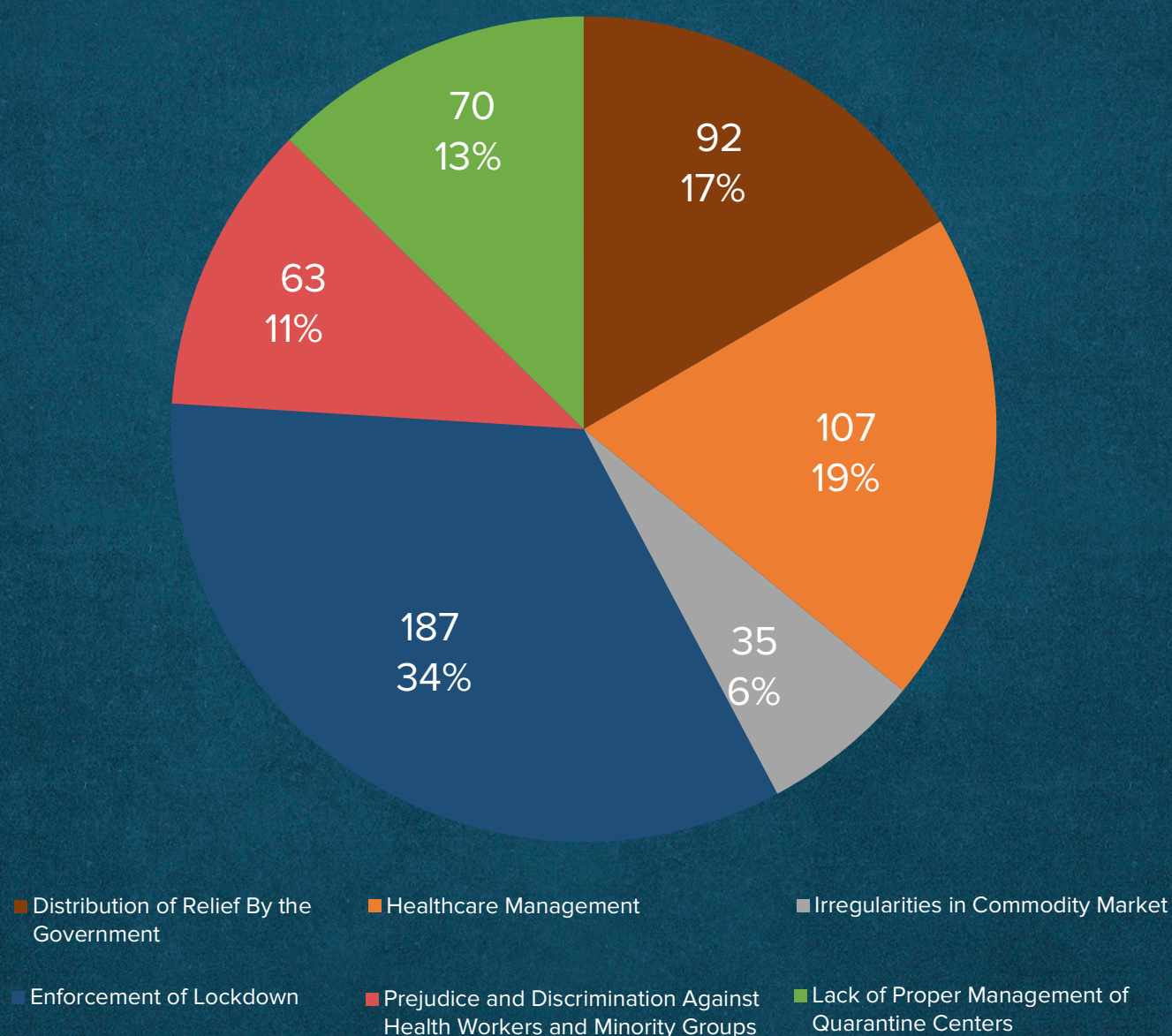
## TRENDS OF CONTESTATIONS SURROUNDING COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN NEPAL

- Contestations regarding Covid-19 accounted for 13 percent of all incidents recorded by PMP in 2020. Of the 554 of the Covid-19 related incidents, 141 were violent, and 413 were nonviolent. More than half of the incidents (almost 52% or 288 out of 554) occurred in April and May following the national lockdown enforcement on March 24.
- The largest share of Covid-19 related incidents concerned enforcement measures of government-declared lockdowns and citizens' protests with 187 reported incidents (121 nonviolent and 66 violent incidents). Of the nonviolent incidents, 69 were pertaining to curfew/prohibitory orders issued by various local and state level authorities, and 49 incidents were related to citizen's protests demanding to ease or lift the prohibitory orders. Of the reported violent incidents, 30 of them included the excessive use of force by police against citizens including grocery shop operators, health workers, and media persons for allegedly defying the lockdown.<sup>4</sup>
- Discontentment over poor management of healthcare services triggered 110 incidents (100 nonviolent and 10 violent). The incidents were mostly in the forms of peaceful sit-ins and demonstrations by frontline health workers demanding PCR tests, PPE kits and risk allowances, regular salary payments, and companies' employees demanding PCR tests.
- Dissatisfaction with relief distribution during the pandemic triggered 92 incidents (24 documented as violent).<sup>5</sup> The violent incidents during the relief distribution<sup>6</sup> injured 76 people in assaults, group clashes, and clashes between the public and provincial government officials.<sup>7</sup> Cases of discrimination against sexual minorities<sup>8</sup> and the Dalit community<sup>9</sup> were also recorded during relief distribution.
- Similarly, 70 recorded reports were related to poor management of quarantine facilities<sup>10</sup> that ranged from demonstrations by occupants against quarantine centers' subpar standards and obstruction by locals against the setup of quarantine centers near residential areas.<sup>11</sup>
- Prejudice and discrimination related to Covid-19 were the cause of 63 incidents. In majority of these cases, health workers were the primary victims of stigma<sup>12</sup> and discrimination<sup>13</sup> due to the fear of Covid-19. Covid-19 patients and patients of various other diseases who required treatment at hospitals also faced discrimination.<sup>14</sup> There was also increased stigma and prejudice against the Muslim community after 13 Muslim men from Tablighi Jamaat living in a mosque in Udayapur tested positive for Covid-19 in April.<sup>15</sup> Prejudice and discrimination were also evident from various community residents' obstruction of burials of bodies of infected patients due to fears of Covid-19 spread.<sup>16</sup>



- Incidents related to lockdown enforcement increased from April after the government imposed a nationwide lockdown. More than half of all incidents related to Covid-19 (288 out of 554) took place during April and May. With the enforcement of new prohibitory orders in 36 districts, incidents related to lockdown enforcement peaked again in August.<sup>17</sup> However, after the official end of the nationwide lockdown on July 21, the number of violent incidents decreased by 75 percent and nonviolent incidents by 9 percent. In general, there was a decline in Covid-19 related incidents during the last three months of 2020, with only 39 nonviolent incidents recorded.

FIG 3: TRIGGERS OF COVID-19 RELATED TO CONTESTATIONS





## DOCUMENTED COVID-19 RELATED INCIDENTS IN 2020

Nationwide lockdown enforced to contain the spread of Covid-19 cases: On January 24, the first case of Covid-19 in Nepal was confirmed on a 32-year-old man who had just returned from China.<sup>18</sup> To contain the spread of the virus, the Government of Nepal closed the Rasuwagadhi border, a central trading point with China.<sup>19</sup> From March 20, the government banned all international flights and imposed a lockdown throughout the country on March 24. The lockdown was eventually lifted on July 21.<sup>20</sup> In the next phase of lockdown imposed in the months of August and September, the authority to enforce restrictions and prohibitory orders was left to the discretion of the Local Administration in Provinces and Districts.

Protest and Hunger Strike Under The "Enough is Enough" Campaign: The month of June saw the highest number of protests under the "Enough is Enough" campaign, a movement organized by youths who demanded that the government take more proactive measures in dealing with the crisis of Covid-19. On June 9, around 200 protesters, mostly youths, organised a peaceful demonstration in front of the Prime Minister's residence in Baluwatar, Kathmandu. The group protested the government's perceived inefficiency in dealing with the pandemic<sup>21</sup> with the demands of an increase in Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests ending the unreliable Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT), increased medical capacity and ventilators, more concern for the welfare of frontline health staff, safe passage and management of migrant returnees, well-managed quarantine facilities, and accountability of the government in dealing with the pandemic.<sup>22</sup> Similarly, on June 26, social activist Ishan Adhikari, also known as "Ihi", started a hunger strike in Patan to protest the government's inadequate Covid-19 response and issued the 12 demands under the "Enough is Enough" campaign.<sup>23</sup> "Ihi" ended the hunger strike on July 7 following the 12 point agreement with the government.<sup>24</sup>

Police and Locals Clash Over Rato Machindranath Chariot Procession: Despite the prohibitory order, on September 3, around 1,000 people gathered to conduct the chariot-pulling procession of the Rato Machindranath in Lalitpur, resulting in a significant clash between the police and locals (See Box 1).





**Box 1: Traffic Policeman Mercilessly Thrashed By A Mob During Rato Machindranath Chariot Procession in Pulchowk, Lalitpur**

On September 3, over 1,000 people gathered during the Rato Machindranath Jatra, a chariot procession to honour the god of farming, despite the prohibitory order in place. This resulted in a violent clash between police and local residents. Police used water cannons and tear gas to disperse the crowd, and the residents pelted stones at the police personnel for obstructing the chariot procession. Rioters assaulted a traffic officer, and at least four police officers were injured in the clash.

Police detained nine people for further investigation due to their alleged involvement in assaulting a traffic police officer at the Metropolitan Police Range in Lalitpur. Meanwhile, the Lalitpur District Administration Office renewed the prohibitory orders in the district for a week due to this incident. The ritual was conducted at a later date on a much smaller scale and with an increased police presence.<sup>25</sup>

**Protests demanding better Quarantine Facilities:** On June 14 in Dailekh, four people under isolation in a quarantine center clashed with police after they were not provided with enough food.<sup>26</sup> On the same day, a 31-year-old woman was gang-raped by three volunteers in a quarantine center at Lamkichuha Municipality in the Kailali district.<sup>27</sup> On June 20, health workers in Parbat picketed the District Administration Office demanding proper accommodation for the Covid-19 infected health workers.<sup>28</sup> On June 22, the Nepal Students' Union (NSU) demonstrated in Dadeldhura demanding isolation wards at every local level.<sup>29</sup>

**Incidents concerning Healthcare amid Pandemic:** The provincial and district health departments in Nepal lacked the necessary health resources with inadequate testing, contact tracing, and treatment of the patients in the hospitals' isolation wards. The shortcomings triggered public outrage against the government's poor management of the healthcare system. This took place in the forms of peaceful sit-ins and demonstrations by frontline health workers demanding PCR tests, PPE kits and risk allowances, and regular salary payments. Employees of companies in the private sector also protested to demand PCR tests. Political parties, mainly the Nepali Congress and its student wing NSU (Nepal Student Union), staged demonstrations against the inadequacy of healthcare facilities. The protests against the healthcare system gradually increased as the government failed to assure frontline worker's safety and the general public amid the increased risk of Covid-19.

**Patients and Health-workers alike faced prejudice and discrimination amid the pandemic:** Covid-19 patients and patients of various other diseases who had to visit the hospital regularly also faced discrimination.<sup>30</sup> In one incident on March 20, two Muslim women in Janakpur faced false accusations of spreading Covid-19 by spitting on the money and throwing it in the streets.<sup>31</sup>



# GENDER BASED VIOLENCE





## 2020 INCIDENTS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

The PMP recorded **1292 cases of GBV in 2020**. This marks a **5 percent increase** compared to the previous year (up from 1229 incidents in 2019). **110 deaths were recorded as resulting from GBV**.

- The **highest number of GBV cases** by district was reported in **Siraha** with 72 incidents. **Province 2** recorded the highest number of provincial cases, with 276 incidents.
- **Sexual assault was the most widely reported form of GBV**, with 1084 cases, including 914 cases of rape or attempted rape.
- **Women or girls under the age of 26 made up 743 (81%)** of the 914 victims of rape or attempted rape registered.
- **Seven cases of dowry-related violence** were recorded, which **took the lives of four women**.<sup>32</sup>
- **There were 23 cases of witchcraft accusations in which the victims were subjected to violence<sup>33</sup> and abuse.<sup>34</sup>** Province 2 saw the highest number of such cases with 10 incidents recorded in 2020.

TABLE 1: 10 DISTRICTS WITH HIGHEST INCIDENTS OF GBV

DISTRICT	INCIDENTS OF GBV
SIRAHA	72
DANG	69
SAPTARI	63
RUPANDEHI	62
KATHMANDU	57
KAILALI	55
SUNSARI	47
DHANUSA	46
MORANG	40
LALITPUR	34



GBV, although endemic, is widely under-reported in publicly available sources, and real figures are likely to be much higher.<sup>35</sup> According to national police statistics, at least six women and children are raped in Nepal every day.<sup>36</sup> In addition, the media chooses to not report on many issues of rape, especially when community leaders or people's representatives are involved in the settlement of such crimes.<sup>37</sup> For instance, the mother of a 12 year-old rape victim received death threats from community leaders after filing a complaint with the police, and was subsequently offered Rs. 150,000 to remain silent.<sup>38</sup> While there are several reports that point to an increase of GBV during lockdown conditions,<sup>39</sup> PMP's data on publicly available sources is not definitive on this.

### **New legislative steps against rape and other violence against women**

With increased incidents of settlement or reconciliation of rape cases, the government issued a circular to all 753 local levels (Including six metropolises, 11 sub-metropolises, 276 municipalities and 460 rural municipalities) requesting them to act in accordance with the directive of the Office of Attorney General against those accused of rape.<sup>40</sup> The Ministry also pressed local leaders to ensure that no rape case is settled outside of court through reconciliation whether voluntarily, under coercion, or undue influence.

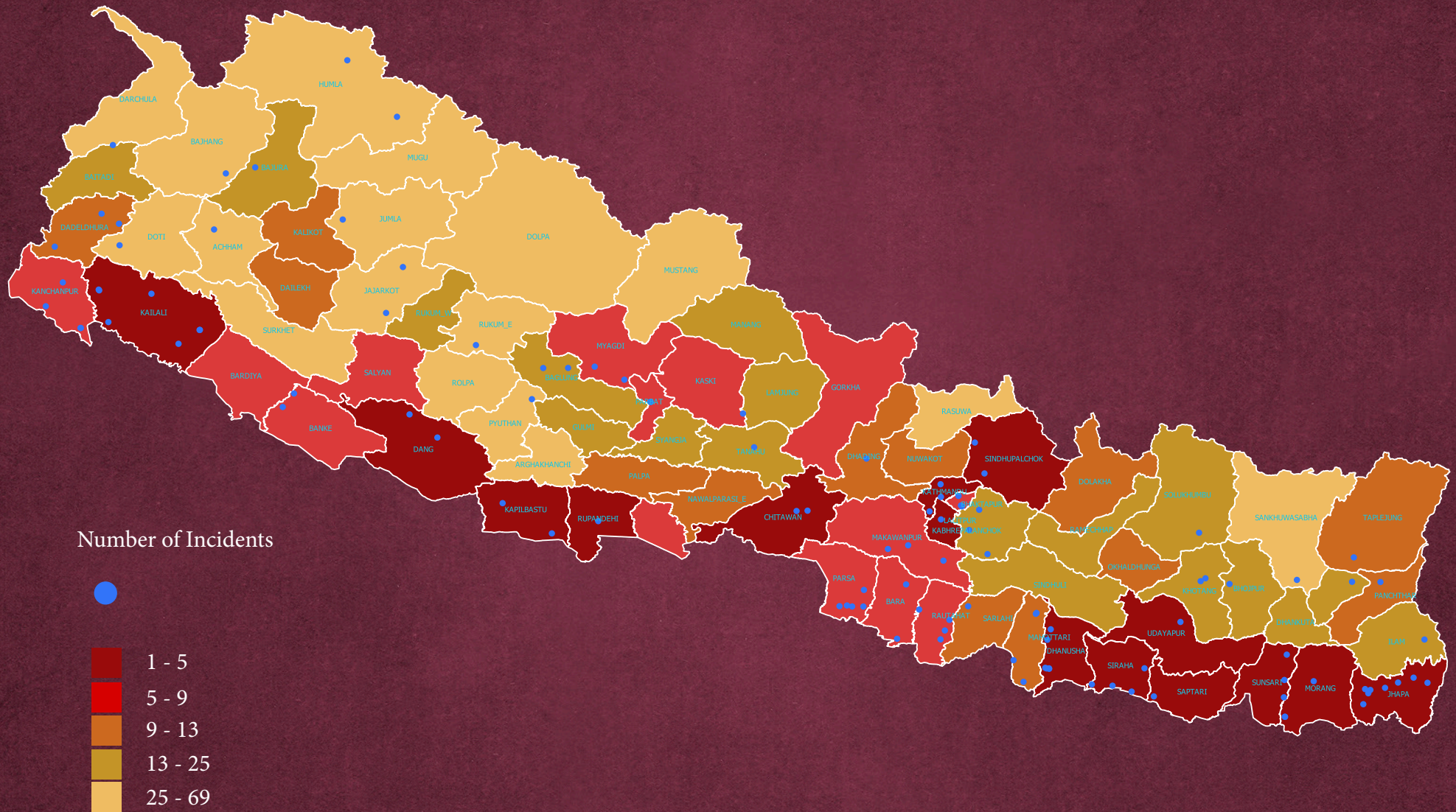
On November 22, the government recommended an ordinance on rape cases to President Bidya Devi Bhandari for its certification.<sup>41</sup> The ordinance includes a specific provision which extends the prison sentence (from six months to three years) for people found guilty of mediating rape cases outside the justice system..<sup>42</sup>

In October, following the campaigns of acid attack survivors and women's rights activists, the government of Nepal introduced new laws to increase the punishment for offenders of acid attacks to up to 20 years in prison, and to regulate the sale of acid. This is a significant legislative milestone in fighting GBV. National police statistics cite that women were the victims in 18 of the 22 incidents of acid attacks recorded since 2016, indicating that women are at least four times more likely to be victims of acid attack than men.





# REPORTED INCIDENTS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)





## TRENDS OF GOVERNANCE-RELATED INCIDENTS

- **Governance-related concerns** (including those related to the Covid-19 pandemic) were the **second most reported trigger of incidents** with 986 (823 nonviolent and 163 violent) recorded incidents in 2020.
- Incidents surrounding governance-related issues rose 25% from 2019 when 655 incidents were recorded.
- More than half (56%) of all governance-related incidents were linked to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.
- **Just about half** (48 %) of all **nonviolent incidents** recorded in 2020 were related to Governance.
- The majority of these incidents **involved** protests **demanding legal action** or **access to justice**, protests against **poor quality of public services**, or **other governance issues related to the Covid-19 pandemic** (as discussed in section above).

In 2020, contestations related to governance saw an increase of 25 % compared to 2019. The main drivers for this increase include:

- Perceived shortcomings in the government's Covid-19 response.
- Public outrage and protests against caste-based discrimination (triggered by the killings of Dalit youths in Soti, Rukum West)
- Protests demanding legal action and access to justice for the rape victims (see also the sections on caste-based discrimination and GBV).

## OTHER GOVERNANCE ISSUES TRIGGERING MAJOR PROTESTS IN 2020

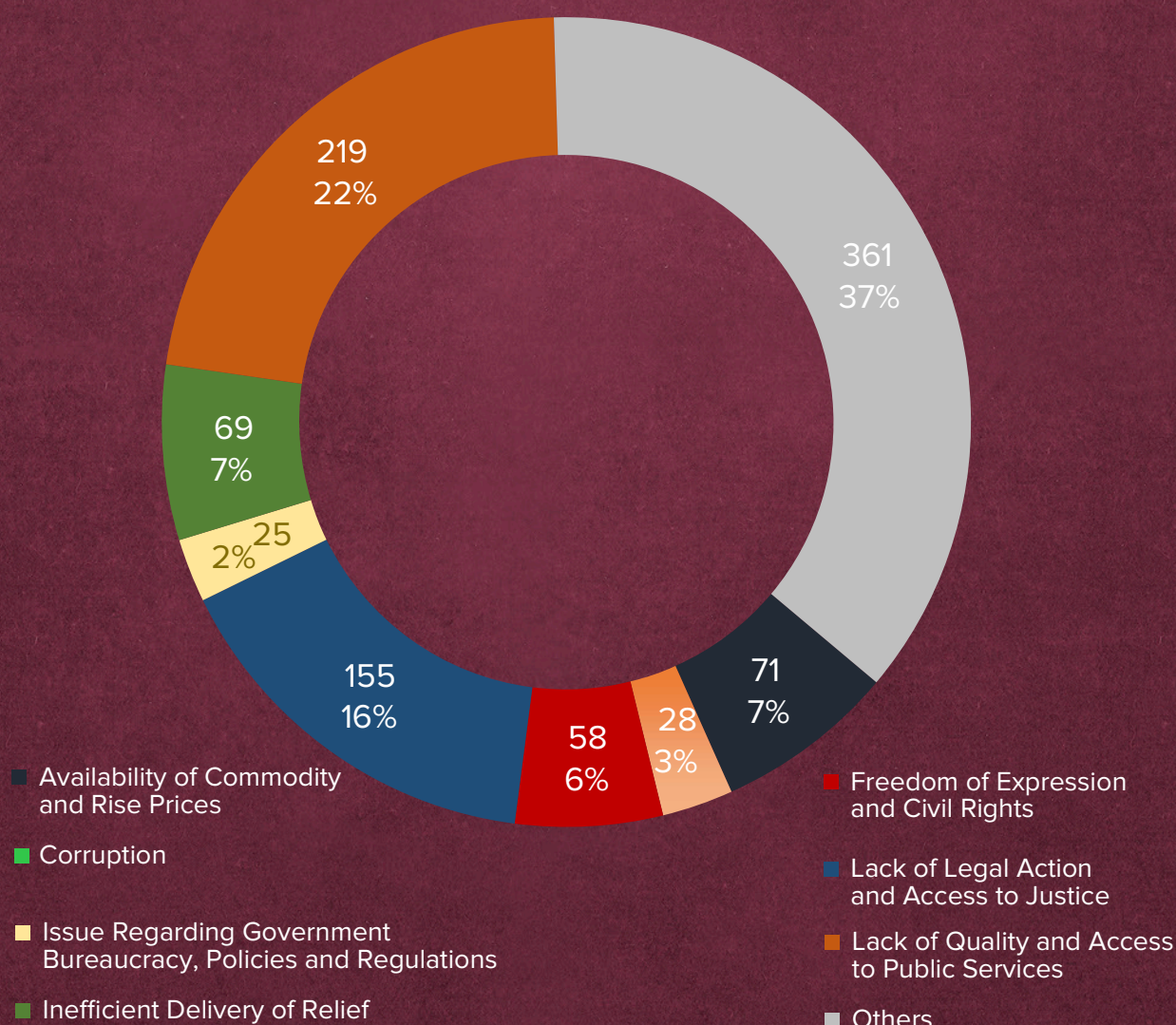
Indigenous Newari community fight for ancestral land in Khokana: The residents of Khokana, an ancient Newari settlement in Lalitpur, staged at least eight protests throughout the year against the ongoing construction of the Kathmandu Terai expressway, which is considered a project of national pride. Protestors allege that the project threatens their cultural and religious heritage sites as well as their indigenous identity. In addition, the compensation for the land acquisition for the project was insufficient.<sup>43</sup> Protests further escalated in March 2020, after the Nepal Army arrived at the project site and started building temporary camps on private lands belonging to the local residents.<sup>44</sup> One of the protests turned violent, leaving four police personnel injured in a clash on July 4.<sup>45</sup>



**Strike demanding Medical Education Reform:** The PMP recorded 40 incidents related to Dr. KC's hunger strike, including 27 protests in solidarity with his demands. Dr. KC, a medical doctor, has continuously demanded reforms in medical education through hunger strikes. Doctors,<sup>46</sup> youths,<sup>47</sup> and political parties (namely Bibeksheel Sajha Party<sup>48</sup> and Nepali Congress affiliated organizations<sup>49</sup>) staged protests across Nepal to show solidarity with Dr. KC.

**Sugarcane Farmers' Protest:** The sugarcane farmers' protest was a sensitive issue this year. Farmers rallied to demand that the government and sugar mills implement the economic agreement signed with them in December 2019.<sup>50</sup> In the five-point agreement, the government had guaranteed the payment of a minimum floor price to the farmers and also agreed to coordinate efforts to ensure industrialists clear all dues by January 21, 2020.<sup>51</sup> On January 3, 2020, the sugarcane farmers withdrew from their indefinite protest after receiving assurance from the government. Since then, however, the government failed to implement the agreement, and farmers reconvened their protests on December 13, 2020 in Kathmandu.<sup>52</sup>

FIG 4: TRIGGERS OF GOVERNANCE RELATED ISSUES





## TRENDS OF POLITICAL INCIDENTS IN 2020

- Political contestations triggered 643 incidents (551 nonviolent and 92 violent) in 2020 resulting in one person's death and 88 injuries.<sup>53</sup> This is 7.6 percent decrease from the previous year (696 in 2019)
- Non-violent political incidents included 374 incidents of protests or demonstrations and 152 arrests, specifically of cadres of the banned CPN Chand.
- The banned Netra Bikram Chand-led group was responsible for 213 of the reported political incidents. 72 of the 213 events involved their operations, with the remaining 141 instances including the arrests of their cadres.
- Political protests peaked in December following the dissolution of the House of Representatives. About 21 percent of political incidents were related to the dissolution of the House of Representatives on December 20.
- Of 138 incidents related to Contestation over constitution provisions and federalism<sup>54</sup> 41 incidents demanding restoration of Hindu state and monarchy and 18 are related to the naming and choosing the capital of province 5. Throughout October, demonstrations<sup>55</sup> including vandalism, arson<sup>56</sup>, mob<sup>57</sup> and hunger strike<sup>58</sup> were staged against the proposal to make Bhaluwang in Dang the capital of province 5, and naming the province "Buddha Pradesh".





## MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUES OF 2020

**Millennium Corporation Challenge (MCC) Controversy:** With the onset of 2020, the MCC compact, a proposed, large-scale US-backed foreign assistance agreement that was registered in the country's parliamentary secretariat in July 2019, attracted public and political criticism and protests for its clauses that state the agreement would take precedence over Nepalese laws in the case of conflict.<sup>59</sup>

**Nepal-India Border Dispute:** India paved the way for the link to Tibet's Kailash Mansarovar via Nepal's land in Lipulekh, claiming Nepal's territory which created tensions within Nepal-India relations. Following this, the Nepalese government unveiled its new political map in May of 2020 by adding Kalapani, Limpiyadhura, and Lipulekh as Nepal's territories. Due to this issue, several anti-India demonstrations were staged in May, as well as November when the Indian Army leader, Manoj Mukunda Narware, visited Nepal.<sup>60,61</sup>

**Activities of Outlawed CPN-Chand group:** In 2020, 213 incidents were recorded that involved CPN-Chand or Biplav's group. In 20 separate incidents, the group attempted to set fire to Ncell Towers, a private telecommunication company, across the country from the beginning 2020 on charge of their pending tax.<sup>62</sup> Cadres of the group were arrested for their involvement in demanding donations and party expansions through intimidation and threats. They planted IEDs in the premises of government offices,<sup>63</sup> infrastructures<sup>64</sup> and other public places<sup>65</sup> with an intention of asserting their presence. In a significant escalation, CPN Chand cadres shot and killed a 54 year-old school principal Rajendra Shrestha on December 8<sup>th</sup>, after he was abducted from his home in Barkhe, Miklajung Rural Municipality-1, Morang.<sup>66</sup> On the same night the party's Mechi-Koshi bureau released a statement that the party "took action" against him as "retaliation" for his alleged role as a police informant who was responsible for the arrest of their party leaders and cadres.

**Demonstrations demanding the restoration of monarchy and reinstatement of Nepal as a Hindu state:** The demonstrations gained momentum after Republic Day on May 29<sup>th</sup>, and continued throughout the year.<sup>67,68</sup> PMP recorded 41 such protests in 2020. Nepal's right-wing political party, Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), royalist parties and pro-monarchy groups<sup>69</sup>, including Shiv Sena,<sup>70</sup> actively participated in the protests.

**Dissolution of House of Representatives (HoR):** As a result of an internal power struggle of the ruling party, Prime Minister KP Oli announced the dissolution of the House of Representatives on December 20<sup>th</sup>, which further widened the rift within the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN). President Bidhya Devi Bhandari seconded Prime Minister Oli's decision to dissolve the House of Representatives, and announced midterm elections on April 30 and May 10, 2021. The move created a serious constitutional crisis and was immediately challenged in the Supreme Court demanding the reinstatement of the House.<sup>71</sup>



On December 15, the Constitutional Council, led by Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, made 32 appointments to various constitutional bodies, including the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). These appointments followed an amendment of the Constitutional Council Act through an ordinance, which allowed the council to make recommendations in the presence of a simple majority of its members. As Oli went on to dissolve the House of Representatives in the following days, there were no parliamentary hearings which are usually conducted following the appointments of new commissioners.<sup>72</sup> This flawed appointment process of commissioners to key constitutional bodies threatens their independence from the Executive branch and further weakens the checks and balances on the government, which is a key pillar of a strong democracy.

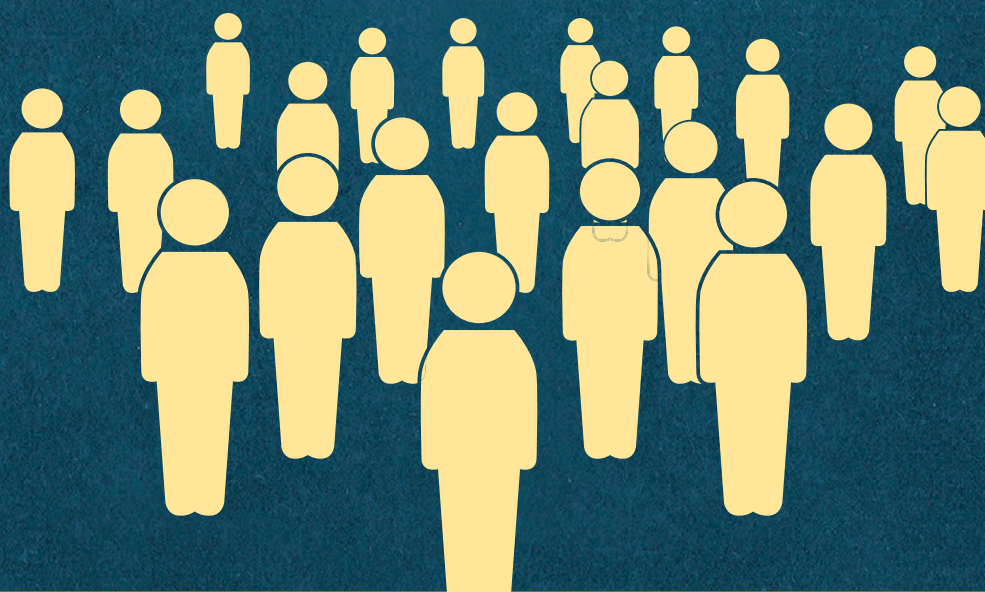
The opposing faction within the NCP led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal “Prachanda” and Madhav Kumar Nepal,<sup>73</sup> and opposition parties such as Nepali Congress (NC),<sup>74</sup> Janata Samajwadi Party<sup>75</sup> and Bibeksheel Sajha<sup>76</sup> staged demonstrations against the move, calling it unconstitutional, while supporters of Prime Minister Oli mobilized in its support. In the last 12 days of 2020 alone, over 117 incidents (113 nonviolent and 4 violent incidents) of political contestation were recorded following the Prime Minister’s decision to dissolve Parliament.

## DEFICIENT RULE OF LAW

### A. CUSTODIAL DEATHS:

Deaths of individuals in police or prison custody are frequently reported in Nepal’s mainstream media, without any attempt to identify larger patterns. Detainees in Nepal were charged with a variety of offenses ranging from cell phone theft to rape.<sup>77</sup> Custodial deaths are the result of a failure by the police and prisons to protect the lives and human rights of inmates. Nonetheless, authorities continue to avoid accepting responsibility for the deaths that occur on their watch. According to World Prison Brief data, Nepal ranks poorly in prison management with 153 percent occupancy and prisoners living in inhumane conditions.<sup>78</sup>

Human rights organizations recorded four cases of suspicious custodial deaths in 2020 and demanded impartial investigations. Two cases involved detainees that died of injuries inflicted under alleged torture, and two cases were of reported suicides, but their family members suspect foul play (see Box 3).<sup>79</sup>





### Box 3: Cases of Custodial deaths

**Torture in Custody Claim Lives of Two Young Men in Chitwan and Rautahat District:** On July 22, 24 year-old Raj Kumar Chepang of Rapti Municipality, Ward 2, Chitwan district died from the torture he experienced at the hands of the Nepal Army after he was caught for entering Chitwan National Park illegally.<sup>80</sup> Raj Kumar Chepang (from the indigenous Chepang community), along with his six friends, entered the national park to collect snails (eaten as a delicacy), in the river inside the park. According to his friends, they were caught by army personnel and, despite their pleas for forgiveness, were severely beaten before being released on the same day. On the way home, Raj Kumar's condition deteriorated rapidly, and he eventually succumbed to the injuries sustained during the torture. His family submitted a first information report (FIR) on 23 July 2020 which was only registered on 26 July, 2020. Limited progress has been made in the police investigation so far. After two months from the incident, the district police office in Chitwan arrested a Nepal Army soldier on September 20th on the charge of torturing the victim.<sup>81</sup>

In a similar case of torture, on August 27th, 19 year-old Bijay Mahara from the Dalit community of Garuda Municipality 8, Rautahat district, died in the National Medical College in Birgunj after he had been detained in connection with a murder case.<sup>82</sup> Before his death, he managed to record a video sharing his experience of being tortured by the police who demanded that he confess to a murder which he claimed to have no involvement. He was given electric shocks and beaten with wooden sticks and plastic pipes. For several days, the district police office refused to register the FIR. It was finally registered on 9 September with the public prosecutor's office in Rautahat. The only action taken to date by the authorities was the suspension of three police officers. Upon the demand of family members and human rights activists the body was taken for postmortem to the Teaching Hospital.

**Sambhu Sada's Death in Custody:** On June 10th, Shambhu Sada, a 23-year-old Musahar man from Janakpur's Dalit community allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself inside the cell's toilet in the Sabaila Area Police Station of Dhanusa district where he was detained.<sup>83</sup> He surrendered himself to the police after the tractor he was driving killed a 42-year-old woman Sumintra Devi at Dhanuadham on May 25th. However, Sada's family members alleged the death as an extra-judicial killing.<sup>84</sup> The family members demanded to lodge a First Information Report (FIR) before agreeing to an autopsy. The family members asked to conduct the autopsy in their presence as a result of which Sada's body remained at the morgue till June 13.<sup>85</sup>

This incident sparked protests within the Dalit and Musahar communities,<sup>86</sup> where family members, residents, and leaders<sup>87</sup> demanded a fair investigation into the case, punishment for Sada's murder, as well as compensation for his family. Seven such protests were recorded.

**Durgesh Yadav's suspicious death inside a cell in Lalitpur:** On July 1, 2020, Durgesh Yadav, a 24-year-old detainee from Siraha District, died in police custody at the Lalitpur Metropolitan Police Range. Police arrested him in Gwarko on suspicion of rape. He was kept in isolation as he was yet to be tested for coronavirus. After three days, his body was found hanging in the toilet of the police station. Police claimed Yadav committed suicide, and the case was closed without investigation.<sup>88</sup>



## B. VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS FROM SECURITY PERSONNEL

- PMP recorded 92 incidents of police brutality against civilians in 2020 in which the perpetrator was a member of Security Personnel (police, Armed Police Force (APF), Army). Among these included 10 incidents of torture in custody.
- In one case, Arbind Kumar Yadav (36) of Dewanganj rural municipality-3, accused Krishna Bhujel, an APF personnel, of beating him on June 12 while he had gone to his field near the Nepal-India border. The victim was injured after the beating and filed a complaint at the Area Police Office asking for protection.<sup>89</sup>
- In Rukum West on May 1<sup>st</sup>, a video went viral of three policemen mercilessly assaulting a woman who allegedly misbehaved with an on-duty police officer.<sup>90</sup>

Most incidents of police violence were recorded during the lockdown period where protesters were arrested, and security forces used excessive force to disperse protesters and enforce lockdowns. In one instance, a dispute broke out between local residents and police at Aamgachhi in Rangeli Municipality-5 of Morang after police baton-charged residents after they had allegedly assembled on the road during the lockdown.<sup>91</sup> In a case recorded on July 8<sup>th</sup>, two officers beat and injured six people, including three infected with coronavirus, in the quarantine of Chandra Namuna secondary school in Bode Barsain Municipality-5.<sup>92</sup> On November 24<sup>th</sup>, a 40-year-old man was shot dead by police during a demonstration in Bardibas.<sup>93</sup>

## THREATS, INTIMIDATIONS, AND ATTACKS AGAINST HRD (HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS)

As in the previous year, **most violations where Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) were targeted concerned threats against or mistreatment of journalists** with a total of 51 incidents out of 53 incidents recorded targeting HRDs. Among those were 12 incidents of police brutality against journalists of various media organizations who reported during Nepal's lockdowns.

- **Attacks on Journalists:** The space for HRDs and civil society is being increasingly constricted in Nepal. Besides legislative measures that imposed various administrative hurdles and restrictions, HRDs and media personnel working in the field frequently face intimidation and threats. This held true for journalists reporting news surrounding irregularities of the government's Covid-19 response too. PMP reported cases where the police attacked journalists in Birgunj<sup>94</sup>, Surkhet<sup>95</sup> and Siraha<sup>96</sup> for covering news related to Covid-19. Some journalists even received death threats for reporting news on misappropriation of funds by the local representatives.<sup>97</sup> The Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) immediately condemned every reported attack and threat towards journalists representing a unified stance for the unfettered rights of journalists.



## A LONG PATH TOWARDS TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

Efforts toward securing justice, truth and reparation for crimes under international law and human rights violations committed during the 1996-2006 conflict remained grossly inadequate. In 2020, very little progress was made towards implementing transitional justice for the victims of the 10-year conflict. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP) were unable to follow up regarding the 64,000 complaints registered by the victims since May of 2016.<sup>98</sup>

- On December 21, Ganga Maya Adhikari began another round of hunger strikes to protest the government's failure to implement signed agreements for which she had engaged in hunger strikes in the past. Her teenage son, Krishna Prasad Adhikari, was killed in 2004 during the decade-long Maoist insurgency, and she had staged <sup>99</sup> for 11 hunger strikes demanding that his murderers be brought to justice.

## CASTE BASED DISCRIMINATION - A SOCIAL MALPRACTICE TURNS DEADLY:

- The PMP recorded **20 incidents of discrimination against Dalits on the basis of their caste including cases of public humiliation, sexual and physical assaults and killings.**
- As a result of **such discrimination, six people from the Dalit community lost their lives.** In two particularly egregious cases that resulted in the killing of six Dalit youths within the span of two days, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) called for an independent investigation (see Box 6).
- The **Rukum West "Soti" incident sparked nationwide demonstrations demanding justice** and access to legal action. PMP recorded 43 demonstrations regarding this case.
- **Dalit women were especially vulnerable to discrimination and violence** based on both gender and caste.<sup>100</sup>

**The case of Angira Pasi:** Angira Pasi, a 13 year-old Dalit girl of Devdaha, Rupandehi, went missing on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and after her widowed mother began to look for her, it was revealed that Angira was raped by her neighbour, a 25 year-old non-Dalit man.<sup>101</sup> After the incident became public, there was a discussion between community and ward members to determine how to respond. Instead of taking the perpetrator to the police, he was asked to accept her as his wife.<sup>102</sup> Angira's mother also agreed to this as she was worried for her daughter's future. The perpetrator's mother refused to let a Dalit girl enter her home and physically assaulted her. The next day, the perpetrator took Angira to Rohini stream and two hours later her body was found hanging with her clothes torn and shoes off her feet.<sup>103</sup>



The residents of Devdaha believe that Angira was murdered by the perpetrator and his family. It is suspected that the perpetrator's family offered Rs. 200,000 to the community members to resolve the case without any involvement of law enforcement bodies or human rights organizations.<sup>104</sup> It was only after the case came to national attention that the police detained the perpetrator and his family.

**The Soti Incident:** Six innocent youths belonging to Dalit community were killed in a village mob on May 23<sup>rd</sup> (See Box 6). On May 26<sup>th</sup>, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued a press release expressing serious concern over the killings of the Dalit youths as an outcome of caste-based discrimination. According to the NHRC, "The Soti incidents goes against the provision of the right to live with dignity, right to equality as guaranteed by the constitution of Nepal, Caste-Discrimination and Untouchability (Crime and Punishment) Act, and International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965 signed by Nepal."<sup>105</sup> NHRC further pressured the government and local levels for a fair investigation of the incident.

#### Box 6: The Soti Incident: Dalit Youths Killed by a Village Mob

On May 23, Nawaraj BK, a 21 year-old youth from the Dalit community of Jajarkot district went to Soti village in Rukum along with 18 friends with an intention to elope with his 17 year-old girlfriend, Sushma Malla, with her consent. Sushma belonged to a so-called upper caste, while Nawaraj belonged to the Dalit community. Upon their arrival, the group of Dalit youth were chased and attacked by the villagers with stones, axes, and welding sticks all the way to the banks of Bheri river. About 12 of them were corralled and handed over to the police. One of the youths who was able to return safely testified that they were thrown into the river by Soti villagers, but the villagers told the police that the youth jumped in the river on their own accord. The bodies of Nawaraj BK, Tika Ram Sunar, Ganesh Budha, Sandip BK and Lokendra Sunar were found in the southern part of Bheri River. Families of the victims filed a FIR against 20 people at the District Police Office on May 27<sup>th</sup> on the charge of their involvement in the murder of the Dalit youths. As per the FIR, the Chaurjahari Municipality-8 chairperson, Sushma's parents, and several neighbors have been accused of murder. Among the accused, the police arrested Sushma, her parents and the chief of Ward-8.





## CONCLUSION

The novel coronavirus posed a number of unprecedented challenges to countries across the world. Limited resources for pandemic response had major effects on Nepal's population, and some of the government's imposed measures had a disproportionately negative impact on the most vulnerable and economically disadvantaged members of society, who were left without income as well as adequate relief efforts. Along with the Covid-19 crisis, governance and political issues further increased the deficit of public trust towards the government. To counteract this trend, the government needs to establish proactive measures to better protect its citizens and foster improved public trust and confidence.

The controversial and deeply concerning action of the Oli government to dissolve Parliament on 20th December was a major blow to Nepal's democracy. This questionable step sparked outrage and protests from political parties, civil society, and ordinary citizens during the final days of 2020, and it will demand continued dedicated action from key stakeholders within the state and civil society moving forward into the next year. At the same time, a significant rise in governance-related incidents indicate continued political challenges.

In 2020, the government undertook several substantial improvements in laws and policies to address GBV, particularly to prevent violence against women by extending the time to file a rape complaint from three months to one year, and by criminalizing acid attacks and broadening the criteria of penalization for the perpetrators. However, this alone is not enough to tackle the expanse of GBV instances and issues. For instance, the practice of "reconciliation" between victims and perpetrators is not officially recognized by law; such behavior is frequently obtained by putting victims under threat and duress, directly fueling impunity. As such, one of the state's top priorities should be to ensure legal assistance is available to survivors of GBV.

The Nepalese government has continued its ongoing failure to address transitional justice issues, victims' rights, and criminal accountability. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP), both established in 2015 as transitional justice bodies charged with investigating rights violations during the conflict, received a total of 64,000 complaints. Despite the incredible volume of complaints filed, these bodies have yet to investigate a single case in the past five years of establishment. Their failure has primarily been attributed to the government as it has not been able to provide adequate human and financial resources to these entities. Moreover, the state has also failed to provide necessary legislation to give them the authority to prosecute perpetrators of the worst crimes committed during the conflict era.<sup>106</sup>



## ENDNOTES

1. Non-violent incidents included events such as public contestations, protests, demonstrations, politically significant arrests, but also threats against persons, prohibitory orders, or enforcement of lockdowns by the Government due to the Covid 19 pandemic.
2. In 2019, the PMP had recorded 449 people killed and 2542 people injured by violence. See: Nepal Peace Monitoring Annual Review 2019
3. See: Under-Reporting and Endemic: Analysis of News Reports On Violence Against Women in Nepal
4. See: List of incidents related to Covid-19 lockdown enforcement See also: Police beats woman returning after buying medicine
5. See: List of incidents related to Covid-19 relief distribution. See also: Police arrest Kalaiya Mayor Yadav for distributing rotten lentils Rotten rice distributed in Pachrukhi of Parsa
6. See: List of incidents related to Covid-19 relief distribution See also: Coronavirus (Covid-19) Situation Report In Nepal, February - April 2020
7. See: List of incidents related to Covid-19 incidents See also: 19 injured in a clash over dispute in relief distribution
8. See: List of discrimination against sexual minority related to Covid-19 relief distribution See also: Sexual and gender minorities complain of not getting relief materials
9. See: List of incidents of dalit discrimination related to covid-19 relief distribution See also: Dalits in Bhokraha denied relief
10. See: List of incidents related quarantine management
11. See: List of demonstrations related to Covid-19 quarantine management and Bhaktapur locals protest against likely quarantine site
12. See: List of incidents of Covid-19 related prejudice and discrimination See also: Police arrest landlord for evicting a staff nurse from her rented house in Dang
13. See: Health workers under attack as lack of Covid-19 awareness is fuelling stigma
14. See: List of incidents of discrimination related to Covid-19 See also: Landlord evict kidney patient from rented house in Kathmandu See also: Overnight line for PCR testing in Teku Hospital
15. See: Nepal's Muslims Face Stigma After Covid-19 Tests
16. See: List of incidents of Covid-19 related to prejudice and discrimination See also: Obstruction in corpse management of Corona Infected in Sindhuli
17. See: COCAP BIWEEKLY: INCIDENTS SURROUNDING Covid-19 AUG 16 - AUG 31, 2020 See: COCAP BIWEEKLY: INCIDENTS SURROUNDING Covid-19 AUGUST 1 - 15, 2020
18. See: Officials confirm coronavirus in Nepali man who returned from Wuhan
19. See: Government unlikely to reopen Rasuwagadi border soon



20. See: Government bans entry of all passengers, including Nepalis, from midnight March 20
21. See: Crackdown on peaceful protesters as the government abuses power
22. See: Ibid
23. The 11 points include expansion of polymerase chain reaction tests, rectification of quarantine strategy, end to corruption on life and death issues, protection of frontline health workers, enhancement of medical capacity, optimum use of existing resources, implementation of the Supreme Court decisions on Covid-19 crisis, discontinuation of rapid diagnostic tests, clarity on guidelines for easing lockdown, transparency and accountability in Covid-19 related purchase, and relief for vulnerable migrants, working class and marginalised communities. See also : Hunger strike against government inefficiency
24. See: Youth activist lih ends his 23-day hunger strike
25. See: List of incidents of violent demonstrations related to Covid-19 See also: Traffic policeman thrashed by mob in Pulchowk
26. See: List of violent incidents related to Covid-19 Quarantine management See also : Four at isolation ward in Dailekh hurt in clash with police
27. See: Three allegedly raped a woman in Kailali quarantine, investigation underway
28. See: List of demonstrations related to Covid-19 healthcare management See also: Health workers picketed District Administration Office demanding proper accommodation for infected health workers in Parbat
29. See: List of incidents related to Covid-19 healthcare management See also: NSU stage demonstration demanding isolation ward in every local level in Dadeldhura
30. See: List of incidents related to Covid-19 prejudice and discrimination See also: Landlord evict kidney patient from rented house in Kathmandu See also: Overnight line for PCR testing in Teku Hospital
31. See: List of incidents related to Covid-19 prejudice and discrimination See also: A worrying rise in Islamophobia ever since a number of Muslim men were diagnosed with Covid-19
32. See: List of incidents related to disputes over dowry See also: Woman Found Dead in Dhanusha, Family Accuse Murder Over Dowry, Complaint Lodges Against Husband And Father-In-Law On The Charge Of Murder In Mahottari, Woman Commits Suicide After Being Tormented For Dowry, In-Laws Accused Of Murdering Daughter-In-Law Over Dowry In Rautahat
33. See: List of incidents related to children accused of witchcraft practices See: Child burnt with hot spatula at Chover on the allegation of removing witch
34. See: List of incidents related to allegations of witchcraft See also: Woman in Dang beaten by her brother-in-law in witchcraft allegations
35. See: Under-Reporting and Endemic: Analysis of News Reports On Violence Against Women in Nepal
36. See: Attorney General: If Death Penalty Is Remedy For Rape It Should Be Seriously Discussed



37. Ibid
38. See: 12 Year Old Bara Girl Survives Rape, Victim's Mom Faces Death Threat
39. See: Mitigating violence against women and young girls during Covid-19 induced lockdown in Nepal: a wake-up call See: In Nepal lockdown, a domestic violence spike
40. See: Authorities Warned Against Settling Rape Case Through Reconciliation
41. See: Cabinet Approves Ordinance Against Rape Case Mediators
42. The ordinance has increased the provision of punishment according to the age of the victims. If the victim is between the age group 14 and 16, the culprit will be imprisoned for 12 to 16 years, earlier it was 12 - 14 years. According to the ordinance the mediators too will face jail terms. The punishment for those involved in mediation ranges from six months - three years and a fine of Rs 30,000. If the mediator is a person holding public office or a people's representative their jail term will be increased by six more months if found guilty. See: Mediators in Rape Cases Will Also Face Jail Term, As Per A New Ordinance
43. See: Khokana Residents Protest Against Kathmandu - Terai Expressway
44. Ibid
45. See: Lists of incidents related to control/access to construction of infrastructures (roads/ bridges) See also: Four cops injured in clash with locals in Khokana
46. See: List of incidents related to quality of public services See also: Doctors of Birgunj working with black bandages on their hands to support Dr. KC
47. See: List of incidents related to quality of public services See also: Youths demonstrate in Janakpur expressing solidarity with Dr KC
48. See: List of incidents related to quality of public services See also :Demonstration by Bibeksheel Nepali in support of Dr. KC: Looking for medical facilities in remote areas.
49. See: List of incidents related to quality of public services See also: NSU stages demonstration demanding government fulfil Dr KC's demand
50. See: List of incidents related to issues of commodity availability, subsidies and prices, See also: Sugarcane Farmers Continue Maitighar Protest
51. See: List of incidents related to availability of commodity, prices and subsidies. See also: Govt, Agitated Sugarcane Farmers Strike Five-Point Agreement
52. See: List of incidents related to availability of commodities, prices and subsidies See also: Sugarcane Farmers Protest in Capital Demanding Payments Due
53. See: List of Political Incidents in 2020
54. See: Nepal in turmoil: On dissolution of Parliament by K.P. Sharma Oli
55. See: List of incidents related to federal restructuring See also: Demonstration in Palpa against proposal to move provincial capital from Butwal
56. See: List of incidents related to federal restructuring See also :4 youths arrested for burning government scooter in the demonstration over the capital issue in Butwal



57. See: List of incidents related to the federal restructuring See also: Stones pelted at Province 5 Chief Minister's vehicle
58. See: List of incidents related to federal restructuring See also: Hunger Strike in Taulihawa demanding to make the name 'Buddha Pradesh' and the Capital Kapilvastu
59. See: List of incidents related to other political issues See also: Youths protest in Damak demanding the cancellation of MCC Demonstration staged protesting against MCC in Rupandehi
60. See: List of incidents related to other political issues See also :NSU burns Oli and Modi's effigy in Pokhara
61. See: List of incidents related to other political issues See also: Anti-India demonstration at Maitighar by 21 party alliance
62. See: List of incidents related to Netra Bikram Cahnd led- CPN groupSee: Ncell tower torched in Dakshinkali; Biplav's involvement suspected
63. See: List of incidents related to planting of IED See also: Bomb goes off at rural municipality office in Morang
64. See: List of incidents related to planting IED See also: Unidentified group detonates bomb at Arun hydropower project
65. See: List of incidents related to planting IED See also: Bombs go off in Morang
66. See: List of incidents related to Netra Bikram Cahnd led- CPN groupSee: Chand-led CPN group shot dead a teacher after abduction in Morang
67. See: List of incidents related to constitution See also: Torch rally in favor of Monarchy on Republic day in Palpa
68. See: List of incidents related to constitution See also: RPP holds mass demonstration demanding restoration of monarchy, Hindu state
69. See: List of incidents related to constitution See also: Supporters of monarchy stage protest in Jumla
70. See: List of incidents related to constitution Seealso : Shiv Sena Nepal stages motorcycle rally demanding monarchy
71. On February 23, 2021 the Supreme Court reinstated the House and termed its dissolution unconstitutional. It also ordered the government to summon the House session within 13 days. See: Nepal's Supreme Court re-establishes dissolved House of Representatives
72. See: Campaigners join global call for lawful postings at Human Rights Commission <https://tkpo.st/3ebDDVG> See also: Ten office bearers nominated for transitional justice bodies
73. See: List of incidents related to constitution and federal restructuring See also: NCP (Dahal-Nepal) faction stages demonstration in Saptari
74. See: List of political incidents regarding constitution See also :Nepali Congress stages rallies in ten constituencies of Kathmandu against the dissolution of the House of Representatives
75. See: List of political incidents related to constitution and federal restructuring See also: Janata Samajwadi Party stage demonstration in Parsa against the dissolution of parliament



76. See: List of political incidents related to constitution and federal restructuring  
See also: Bibeksheel party stages demonstration against the dissolution of parliament
77. See: List of incidents related to violence in prisons
78. See: Ensure safer custody <https://tkpo.st/3dTkPHp>
79. See: Memorandum Submitted by Advocacy Forum and THRD Alliance To Krishna Bhakta Pokharel, Chairperson Of Law, Justice And Human Rights Committee On Custodial Deaths
80. See: Memorandum Submitted by Advocacy Forum and THRD Alliance To Krishna Bhakta Pokharel, Chairperson Of Law, Justice And Human Rights Committee On Custodial Deaths
81. See: Nepal Army Soldier Held on Charge of Assaulting Chepang Youth in Chitwan National Park in July
82. See: Memorandum Submitted by Advocacy Forum and THRD Alliance To Krishna Bhakta Pokharel, Chairperson Of Law, Justice And Human Rights Committee On Custodial Deaths
83. See: List of incidents related to violence in prisons See also: In-custody death of a Musahar man sparks protests in Janakpur <https://tkpo.st/2B9NBpj>
84. See: List of incidents related to violence in prisons See also: In-custody death of a Musahar man sparks protests in Janakpur
85. See: List of incidents related to violence in prisons See also : Dhanusha: Body of man who died in custody awaits postmortem
86. See: List of incidents related to Discrimination against Dalits See also: Dalit community holds symbolic protest in Janakpur against systematic discrimination
87. See: List of incidents related to Discrimination against Dalits See also: Dalit activists stage half-naked protest in Janakpur
88. See: List of incidents related to violence in prisons See also: Detainee died in police custody at Lalitpur Metropolitan Police Range
89. See: List of incidents related to violence against civilians See also: Armed police accused of beating civilian in Sunsari
90. See: List of incidents related to violence in prison See also : Police probe into incident of assault on woman from policemen in Rukum West
91. See: List of incidents of violence against civilians related to Covid-19 lockdown enforcement See also: Locals assaulted for defying lockdown in Morang
92. See: List of incidents of violence against civilians related to Covid-19 quarantine management See also : Six persons of quarantine injured in the beating by police
93. See: List of incidents related to law and violence amid state enforced curfew  
See: Prohibitory order in Bardibas after one protestor shot dead by police
94. See: List of incidents related to HRD during lockdown enforcement See also: Police beats journalist covering news on lockdown in Birgunj
95. See: List of incidents related to HRD issues during lockdown enforcement See also: Security Officials attack journalist in Surkhet



96. See: List of incidents related to freedom of expression See also : Army man assaults journalist in Siraha
97. See: List of HRD related incidents See also: Ward Chairperson attempts to attack Journalist for broadcasting news
98. See: <https://ciedp.gov.np/en/home/>
99. See: List of incidents of transitional justice See also: Ganga Maya Adhikari starts another round of hunger strike
100. See: List of incidents related to discrimination against Dalits See also: Dalit woman assaulted over land related dispute in Kapilbastu
101. See: Supposed Suicides Point Towards Police Incompetence
102. See: Human Rights Watch Calls On Nepal Government To Ensure Justice For Caste Based Killings
103. See: Black Lives Matter But Dalit Lives Dont?
104. See: Supposed “Suicides” Point Towards Police Incompetence
105. See: NHRC Calls For Immediate Legal Action In Chaurjahari Incident
106. See: Human Rights Watch report 2020



## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Peace Monitoring Project (PMP) focuses on monitoring violence and contestation through the [Neaplmonitor.org](http://Neaplmonitor.org) platform, with a view toward improving our understanding of, and response to, violence and conflict in Nepal. The PMP 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 relates 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 nonviolent events that involve collective action and may be of a political significance for violence dynamics in Nepal. This includes strikes (bandh), hunger strikes, padlocking, and other forms of political protests. Incidents involving intimidation and threats but no direct physical violence are also tracked.

The PMP has been using a broad range of information sources, including national and district-level newspapers (from 20 districts), and reporting from Nepal police, human rights organizations, UN Sitreps, international agencies, civil society organizations, and citizens to collect these incident records. The recorded facts and figures are based on multiple sources including extensive media monitoring. 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 protest, land dispute, communal tensions, crime etc.), affiliations of perpetrators and victims, human impacts (broken down by gender and age) and damage to property.





