



TRENDS OF VIOLENCE AND SHRINKING CIVIC SPACE IN NEPAL AMID COVID-19

AN ANNUAL REPORT : NOV 2020 - AUG 2021

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This report from Violence Monitoring and Shrinking Civic Space in Nepal amid Covid-19 (VMSCS) Project evaluates the trends of violent and non-violent contestation with the objective of presenting their impact on civic space in Nepal from 01 November 2020 to 31 August 2021. Data of violent and non-violent incidents are compiled from reports mapped by Nepal-Monitor.org, which uses a broad range of information from all major online news portals, national and local newspapers, Nepal Police, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working for human rights, and incident reports directly submitted to the Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.	OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS.....	2
3.	TRENDS OF INCIDENTS	4
4.	CIVIC SPACE SITUATION IN NEPAL	7
5.	FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY UNDER ATTACK.....	9
6.	FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION UNDER ATTACK	10
7.	FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION UNDER ATTACK.....	11
8.	TRENDS OF CONTESTATIONS SURROUNDING COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN NEPAL	14
9.	ENDNOTE	15

INTRODUCTION

From November 2020 - August 2021, 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, 2020 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 late 2020 and early 2021.

This reporting period 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 apathetic response to the Covid-19 pandemic

and citizens' dissatisfaction with these 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 within this reporting period as evidenced by the ongoing violence against human rights defenders (HRDs) and journalists, as well as the introduction of various controversial bills and police intervention during peaceful demonstrations, have all contributed to the deterioration of Nepal's human rights and civic space in recent years.

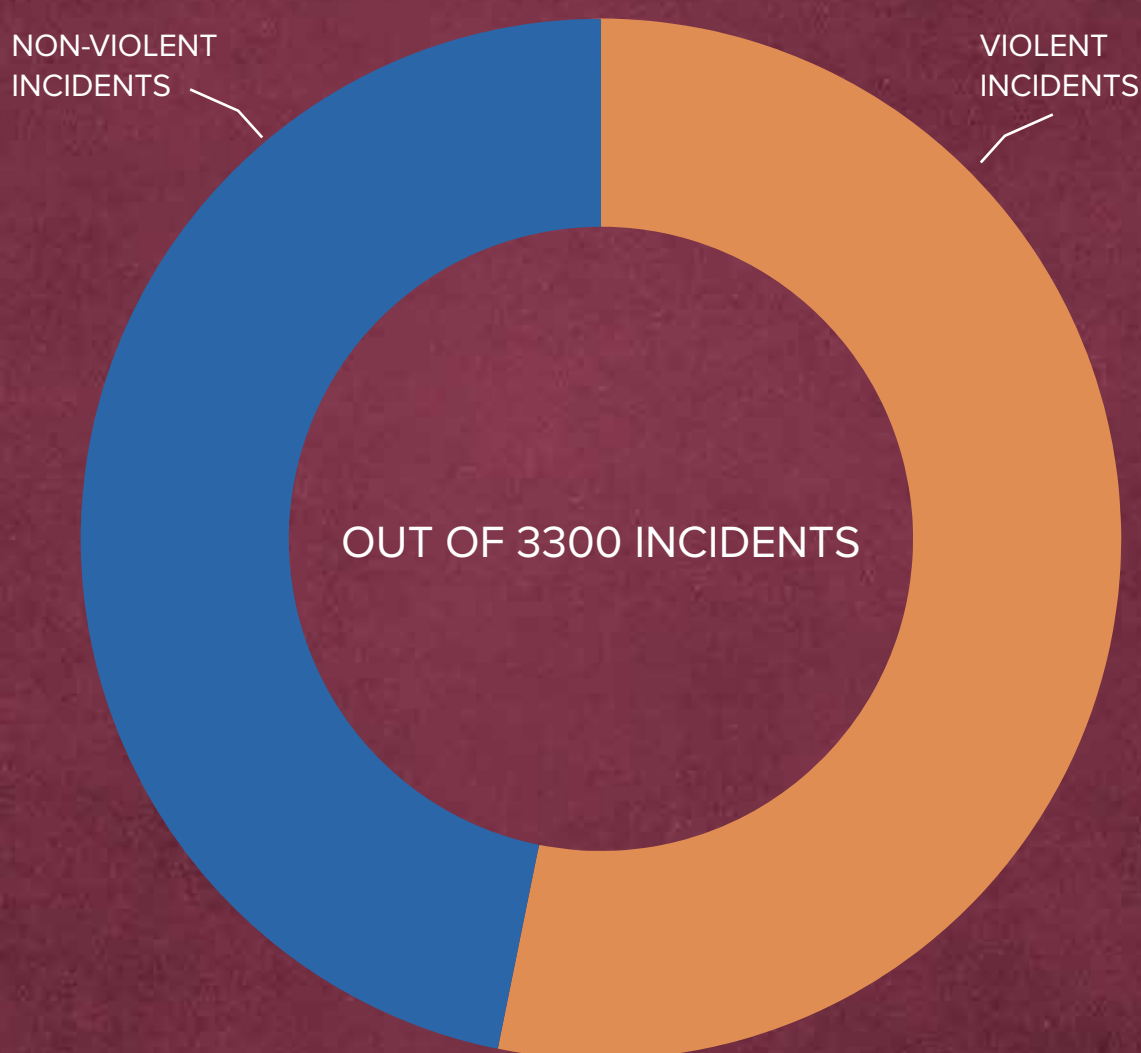
GBV, primarily against women and young girls, has continued unabated. Despite political commitment and a supportive legal and policy framework, violence against women remains a significant problem in Nepal.

Likewise, dozens of abuses against Dalit people were reported, and such abuses were frequently enacted with impunity.

OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS

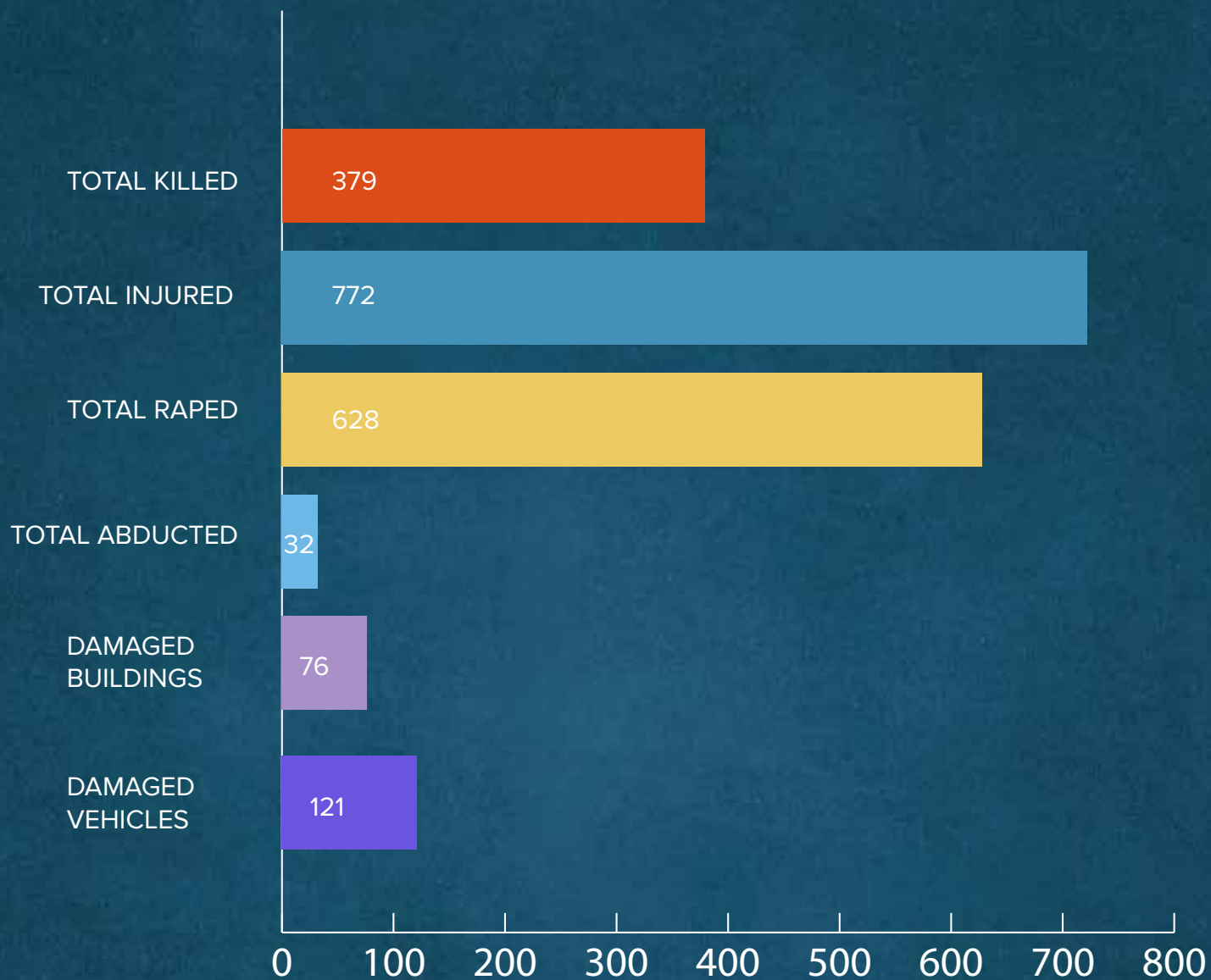
From 01 November 2020 - 31 August 2021, the VMSCS recorded 3300 incidents. Of the total incidents recorded, 53.18% (1755) were violent and 46.81% (1545) were non-violent in nature (See Fig 1). Out of 1755 violent incident reports recorded in this reporting period, 772 were injured, and 379 people lost their lives. There were 628 cases of rape, and 32 cases of abduction monitored during this reporting period. Also, 76 buildings and 121 vehicles were vandalized from the violent attacks. (See Fig 2)

FIG 1: VIOLENT AND NON-VIOLENT INCIDENTS



Violent incidents mostly involved, 818 incidents of sexual assault, 289 of small group assault, another 256 included cases of murder/attempted murder, 92 incidents of violent group clash, 78 cases of large group assault, 76 of vandalism, and 36 related to arson. The causes to it involved gender-based violence incidents relating to rape/ sexual assault, and domestic violence.

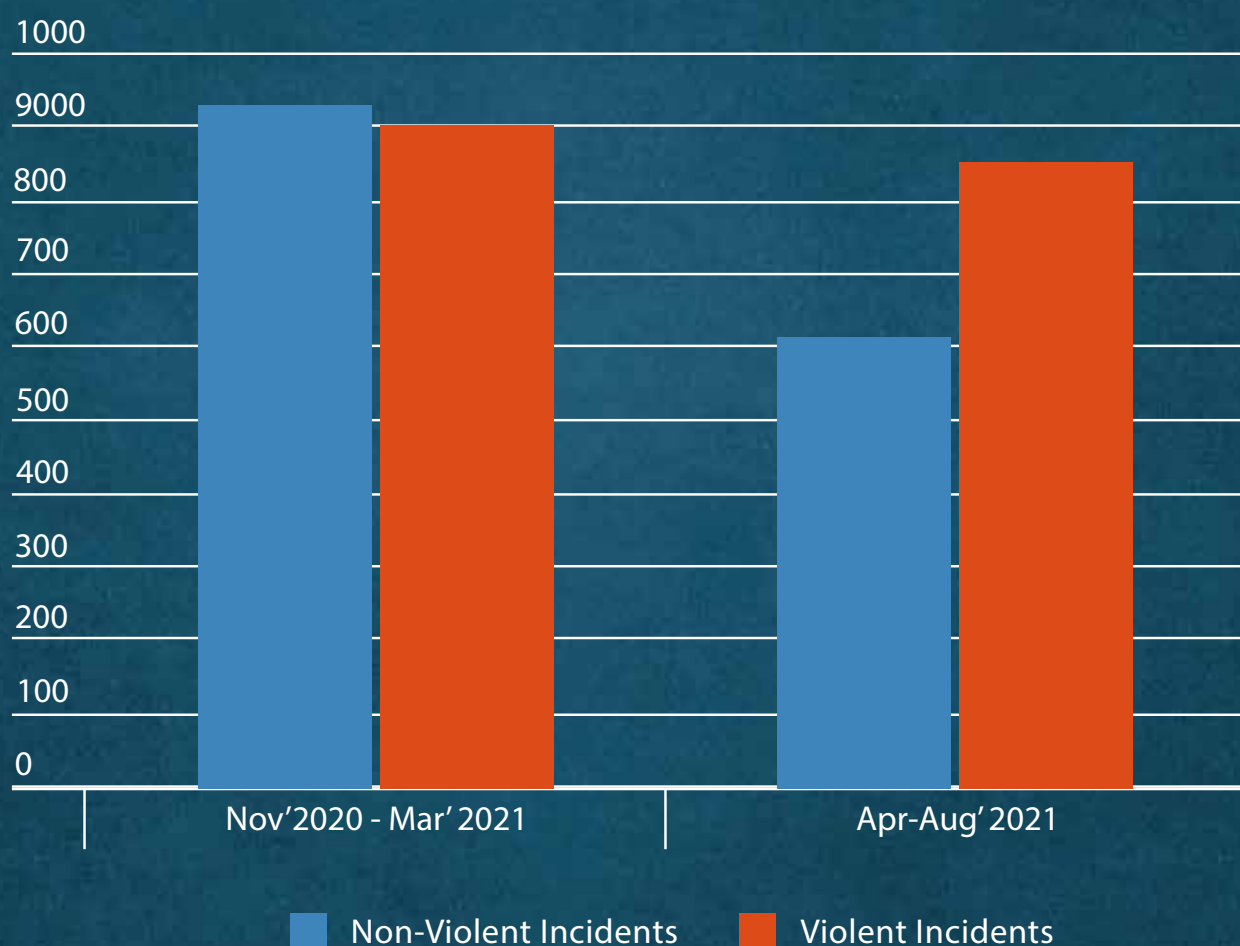
FIG 2: IMPACTS OF VIOLENT AND NON-VIOLENT INCIDENTS



TRENDS OF INCIDENTS (NOV 2020 - AUG 2021)

- During the first 5 months, i.e. from November 2020-March 2021, VMSCS recorded a total of 1836 incidents (49.18% violent and 50.82% non-violent) in Nepal.¹ Similarly, from April-August 2021, VMSCS recorded a total of 1464 incidents (58.20% violent, and 41.80% non-violent).
- There was an equal percentage of increase and decrease in violent and non-violent incidents respectively, which was by 9.01% as compared to the 5 month time interval (i.e. from Nov'20-Mar'21, and Apr-Aug'21), overall incidents were down by 3,72 in numbers as compared to the last interval (November 2020-March 2021). (See Fig 3).

FIG 3: COMPARISON OF INCIDENTS IN FIVE MONTH TIME INTERVAL



- Out of total incidents recorded, 6.70% incidents were related to Covid-19 or the government's response to the pandemic. Of those 221 incidents, 23 were violent, and 198 nonviolent.
- Similarly, a total of 2.82% of the incidents were related to the shrinking of civic space.

The year reported 1010 cases of GBV, of which only 8 were non-violent in nature. Political issues triggered 776 incidents, of which 77 were violent and 699 were non-violent. Similarly, among 650 incidents recorded under governance, 67 reports monitored were violent and 583 were non-violent. Similarly, 14 cases of IED plantation were also reported during this reporting period.²

FIG 4: TRIGGERS OF INCIDENTS (NOVEMBER 2020 - AUGUST 2021)



Bagmati Province recorded the highest number of incidents, counting 941, followed by Province 2, Province 1 and Lumbini Province, having 611, 493, and 462 incidents. Similarly, Province 2 recorded the highest number of violent incidents, followed by Bagmati Province and Province 1, which were 355, 351, and 310 respectively, whereas Karnali Province recorded 136 violent incidents ranking the lowest, during this reporting period. (See Table 1 and 2 below)

TABLE 1: GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF INCIDENTS AND THEIR NATURE

Province	Non-violent Incidents	Violent Incidents	Total Number of Incidents
Province 1	183	310	493
Province 2	256	355	611
Bagmati Province	590	351	941
Gandaki Province	103	145	248
Lumbini Province	153	309	462
Karnali Province	108	136	244
Sudurpaschim Province	152	149	301

TABLE 2: TOP 10 DISTRICTS WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF INCIDENTS RECORDED

Province	Non-violent Incidents	Violent Incidents	Total Number of Incidents
Kathmandu	394	106	498
Morang	57	77	134
Rupandehi	52	79	131
Kailali	58	57	115
Dhanusha	53	57	110
Dang	34	68	102
Sunsari	33	58	91
Saptari	36	52	88
Jhapa	35	50	85
Siraha	17	66	83

Out of 1545 **non-violent incidents**, VMSCS recorded 780 events mainly involving demonstrations and protests against the government, 262 events relating to sit-in padlocking, 133 included other forms of non-violent protests, 92 events of prohibitory order issues by the state as the nation went to two phases of lockdown (In March 2020, and In April 2021). Likewise, other non-violent incidents included 62 cases of threat/intimidation, 59 politically significant arrests of the cadres, 41 incidents of road block, 39 incidents of strike/bandh, 27 incidents of program Interference/obstruction, 24 incidents of black marketing, 13 riots concerning public humiliation, 10 relating to banishment/shunning, and 1 each of censorship, extortion, and intervention at protest.

The primary causes of it were economic, crime, covid-19, and incidents concerning civic-space freedom of expression. The majority of such incidents did not have any violent impact, and no physical force was used as a target towards the affiliated actors involved in the contestation, which clearly portrays a space for the civilians, civil society and other actors to exercise their rights to freedom of expression and to assemble peacefully.

CIVIC SPACE SITUATION IN NEPAL (NOVEMBER 2020 - AUGUST 2021)

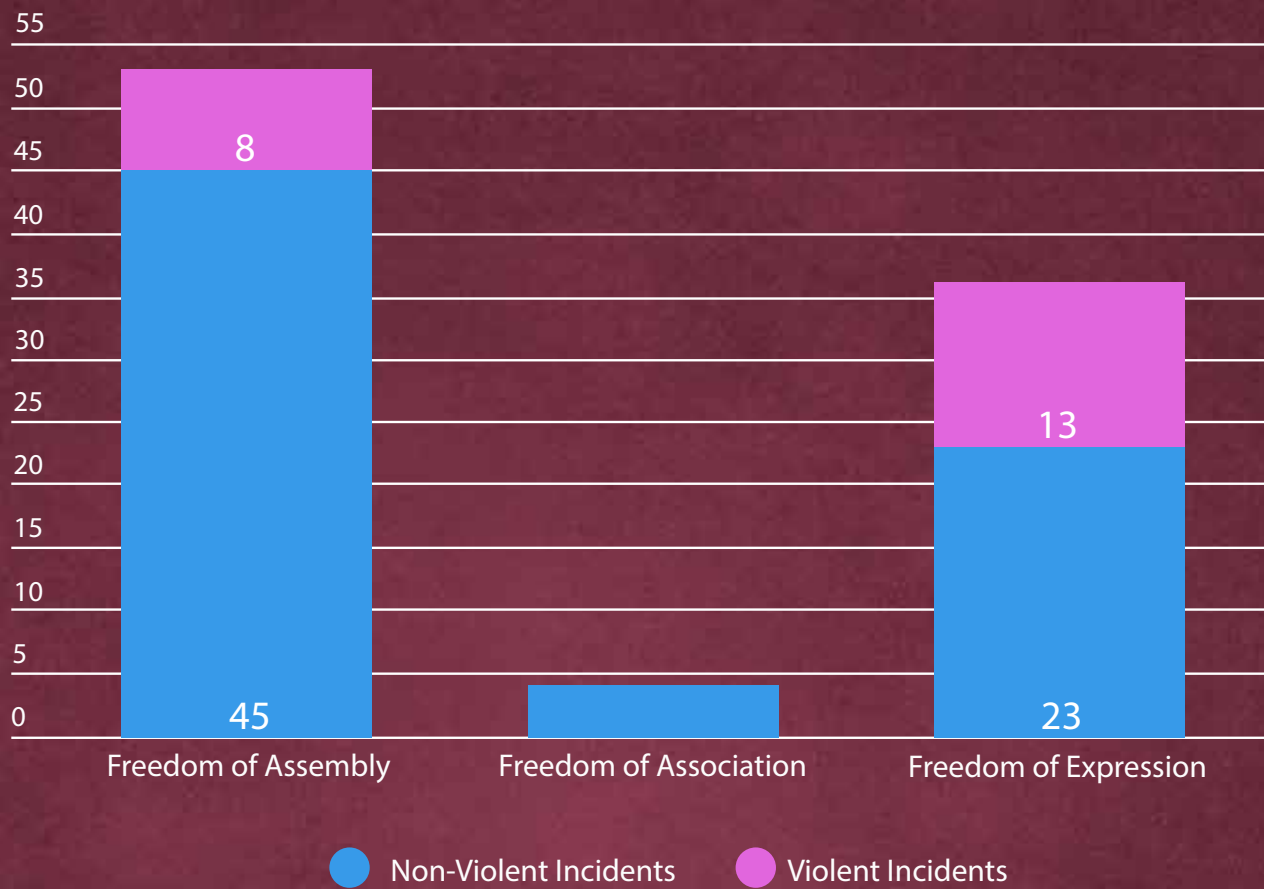
Shrinking civic space continues to be a concern among journalists, human rights activists and civil society members in Nepal and the Covid-19 pandemic has further created an enabling environment for the government to stifle this space. It has also become more and more difficult for citizens to enjoy their rights regarding freedom of expression, freedom of association and more significantly their right to peaceful assembly. Following the Covid-19 pandemic, civil society in Nepal has been facing restrictions on exercising their efforts to protect civic rights, strengthen democracy and engage in activism to defend human rights. A key incident trends and data collection by VMSCS depicts that there has been a state restriction on civic space, particularly on the freedom of expression, demonstration and assembly. Threats and attacks against the journalists and HRDs continue to be a growing form of violence curtailing the freedom of expression, speech, and press freedom.

Continued violence against human rights defenders (HRDs) and journalists, as well as the introduction of various controversial bills and police intervention during peaceful demonstrations, have all contributed to the deterioration of Nepal's human rights and civic space in recent years. Currently, Nepal has the strongest ever government led by Nepal Communist Party (NCP) with two-thirds majority. Despite adopting the slogan "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali" the government's recent actions are aimed at shrinking civic space and silencing the critical mass. The government's recent actions have alarmed Nepal's civil society, media, and human rights organizations.

From November 2020 - August 2021, VMSCS received 93 incidents reports of shrinking of civic space, of which 21 were violent and 72 were non-violent. 59 (10 violent and 49 non-violent) incident reports were monitored in Bagmati Province, whereas Province 1 has the least, which was 3 (1 violent and 2 non-violent).

During this reporting period, major cause for civic-space related incidents was freedom of assembly, which triggered 53 incidents (8 violent and 45 non-violent), followed by freedom of expression reporting 36 incidents (13, violent and 23 non-violent), similarly under freedom of expression, only 4 non-violent contestations were monitored.

FIG 5: VIOLATION OF CIVIC FREEDOMS



FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY UNDER ATTACK

Freedom of assembly ensures people can gather and meet, both publicly and privately. Assemblies can be platforms to advocate for change and for people to raise awareness about the issues that matter to them, whether it is human rights, socio-economic rights, or any other issue. The right to peacefully assemble comprises the right to freely choose the location and the timing of the assembly, including public streets, roads and squares.

The right to assemble online must also be fully guaranteed.³ In Nepal, despite constitutional guarantees of freedom of assembly, protests are often violently dispersed by the security forces. In 2021 recent months, mass protests against the decision by the prime minister K. P. Oli's attempts to dissolve the parliament were met with restrictions, arbitrary arrests, and excessive use of force by the police. Threats and attacks against journalists have persisted and a new study shows that over-broad, vague and subjective laws were being used to censor or criminalise freedom of expression.⁴ Freedom of assembly triggered 8 violent and 45 non-violent incidents, some instances of it have been given below:

EXAMPLES OF INCIDENTS OF VIOLATION:

Police detain civil society activists from Baluwatar, 11 June 2021

On 11 June, Police arrested civil society activists from Baluwatar. The activists were protesting the government's intervention into the operation of the Medical Education Commission. Narayan Wagle, Archana Thapa, Yug Pathak, Khagendra Sangraula, Sanjeev Upreti and over a dozen other Brihat Nagarik Andolan (Mass Civic Movement) activists were detained from around Baluwatar.⁵

NSU burnt the effigy of PM Oli in Kathmandu, 12 June 2021

Nepal Students' Union (NSU) burnt the effigy of Prime Minister KP Oli in New Baneshwor, against the dissolution of the House of Representatives and the government's actions. There was a scuffle between the police and protestors during the protest, where police charged batons at the protestors. NSU leader Pushkar Bastola was injured in the incident.⁶

Three students injured, 11 arrested while burning effigies of President and Prime Minister in Rukum West, 30 June 2021

Three student leaders have been injured after police charged batons on them while they were burning the effigies of the President and the Prime Minister at Khalanga, the district headquarters of Rukum West, on June 30. Eleven others have been arrested in the incident.⁷

Photo journalist injured as police intervenes by baton charging at students' protest, 4 July 2021

Police intervened at the torch rally taken out by the students union affiliated to the five-party alliance at Min Bhawan, charging batons at the students. Photojournalist Nimesh Jung Mewahang Rai, a photo-journalist working at NepalLive.com was injured when police charged batons. Police intervened at the torch rally organized against the Prime Minister while it was heading towards the main road from Minbhawan. Police struck journalist Rai with a baton during the process.⁸

Police charge batons on protesting students of Himalaya College of Engineering in Lalitpur, 8 August 2021

Police charged batons on the agitating students of Himalaya College of Engineering in Lalitpur on August 3. The students have been protesting for six days demanding a discount on on-campus fees as the classes are operating online. They had also submitted a three-point demand letter to the management on August 1. Bivek Gyawali, an agitating student, said that the police from Balkumari and Mangalbazar under the Lalitpur Metropolitan Police Campus used force on the protesting students.⁹

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION UNDER ATTACK

In addition to freedom of assembly, freedom of association and expression is also severely curtailed in Nepal. Whereas, freedom to form unions and associations; freedom to move and reside in any part of Nepal; and freedom to engage in any occupation or be engaged in employment, establish and operate industry, trade and business in any part of Nepal, are the guaranteed freedoms of the civilians under freedom of association. However, the government itself has been involved in snatching these freedoms through restrictive laws and bills in online and offline space from time to time. Given below are some scenarios to the violation of such freedom.

EXAMPLES OF INCIDENTS OF VIOLATION:

Police chased the youths preparing to demonstrate over the citizenship bill implementation, 5 August 2021

A group of stateless youths preparing for a sit-in with demonstrations were chased away by police from the New Baneshwor area to Bijulibazar in Kathmandu on August 5. The youths were preparing for the demonstration with demands to pass the citizenship bill as soon as possible that is under consideration in Parliament.¹⁰

Police arrest 150 teachers preparing to protest at PM's residence, 13 August 2021

Police arrested around 150 teachers, protesting under the leadership of the Nepal Teachers Federation, with 30-points demands for better education quality. They were arrested from different places while going to hold a sit-in in front of the Prime Minister's residence Baluwatar. They are demanding that for quality education, the state should invest 20 percent of the total budget, issue the National Education Act, change the constitutional arrangement, implement the 30-point agreement between the Nepal Teachers Federation and the government, and increase the salaries of primary school teachers and school staff.¹¹



FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION UNDER ATTACK

Journalists and media workers continue to be the victims of violation of their civic freedom and are highly vulnerable to threats and attacks regarding the type of work they do. Apart from the verbal threat, journalists and rights activists have also been a victim of physical attacks, and often faced arrests, detention, and torture. Based on the data recorded, this reporting period also witnessed such obscenity towards journalists, human rights defenders, author, and also observed the cases of vandalism against the media houses. Similarly, unlawful acts by the police force on civilians has been seen as another serious violation over human rights. The use of force as a facade of handling the situation indicates a formidable rise in police brutality.

Legislative measures to curtail the civic freedoms

Besides, the government of Nepal has continued to snatch such freedoms from civilians through various legislative developments from time to time. Since 2019, civil society has frequently come under attack in Nepal in a range of ways including Electronic Transactions Act (ETA) law¹², Information Technology (IT) Management Bill, and Social Media Directive. Despite such efforts to shrink civic space, people in Nepal are relatively free to express themselves, assemble peacefully, publish news, and get affiliated with any association, as these rights are protected by the constitution of Nepal. However, there have been instances at the national and provincial levels where these civic freedoms have been violated.

In June 2021, a new law was passed by Lumbini state, banning the media from publishing and broadcasting news banned by the state. The bill stipulates that the media house will be shut down if it publishes or broadcasts any news on issues banned by the state. Publishing or broadcasting news without registering the media can lead to imprisonment for a year or/and a fine. The bill also provides for free dissemination of information provided by the government.¹³



EXAMPLES OF INCIDENTS OF VIOLATION:

Journalist attacked at Damak Land Revenue while filming a video of official accepting bribe, 2 December 2020

Journalist Khagendra Ghimire was attacked at the Land Revenue Office by an accountancy practitioner and other employees during the controversy that erupted after filming a video of the employee taking bribes. The service recipient had bribed the employee Rajbanshi inside the office to block the land of the former Shivgunj VDC-1. The cameraperson had reached the Land Revenue Office Damak after receiving a tip-off that the Land Revenue staff had solicited bribes from the service recipient.¹⁴

Chief of Dhangadhi Land Revenue mistreats journalist, 24 January 2021

Chief of the Land Reform and Land Revenue Office Kailali, Surendra KC, misbehaved with Far-Western Bureau Coordinator Sudarshan Shrestha, also a journalist, who reached the Land Revenue Office on January 24 after receiving a complaint from a service recipient of being troubled due to the employee's arbitrariness. Journalist Shrestha said that KC abused him to defend his employee over the complaint of the service recipient.¹⁵

Journalist physically assaulted for reporting during general strike in Kanchanpur, 4 February 2021

A journalist was beaten while reporting during the general strike called by the Prachanda-Nepal faction of NCP in Mahendranagar Bus Park in Kanchanpur. Former minister and NCP leader Urvadatta Pant, former mayor of Bhimdatta Municipality Ishwori Prasad Kharel and other leaders abused and physically assaulted journalist Madan Giri.¹⁶

Post photojournalist injured covering a protest against the arrest of Jharkri, 11 February 2021

Post photojournalist Kabin Adhikari sustained injuries while taking photographs of a demonstration at New Baneshwor against the arrest of Ram Kumari Jhakri on charges of offence against the state. Adhikari's ankle is fractured, physicians attending him said. He is undergoing treatment at the Civil Hospital.¹⁷

Journalist attacked by the contractor of Kathmandu View Tower, 14 April 2021

Madhav Prasad Guragain, the operator and journalist of Nepal.com was physically attacked. According to the victim, during the attack, media materials were vandalized and he even received death threats. Guragain, who was reporting on the progress of the Kathmandu View Tower under construction at the old bus park in Kathmandu, was beaten by Contractor Manoj Bhetwal, his brother Bhairav Bhetwal and Manoj's supervisor Gyan Manoj Guragain.¹⁸

Journalist abused for taking video of poor quality construction work in Mahottari, 27 May 2021

Sanjeev Kumar Roy, a former Armed Police Force, who is also the chairman of the consumer committee, allegedly misbehaved with AP one Television's Mahottari correspondent Navin Chaudhary by taking control of the communication material and forcing him to delete the content. Journalist Chaudhary had taken the video of low-quality road slope in Pataili of Jaleshwor Municipality-5, however, Roy snatched Chaudhary's mobile phone and deleted the content.¹⁹

Assistant Inspector accused of assaulting a journalist in Kathmandu, 17 June 2021

The Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) accuses the Assistant Inspector of Police Pratibha Singh of mistreating and assaulting Parsh Bikram Shah, a member of FNJ's associate organization Nepal Sports Journalists Forum and editor/publisher of Desh Dainik.com while collecting news. According to the federation, Shah, who reached Swayambhu to collect news, was beaten by Assistant Inspector Singh even while showing the journalist's identity card issued by the Information Department. After that, a police constable took him to the Swayambhu police circle, threatened him by pointing a gun, and beat him with sticks and boots.²⁰

Journalists assaulted by Paragon school while covering news, 6 July 2021

The Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) has drawn serious attention to the attack on a journalist working for Avenues Television and Prime Television by the management of Paragon Public School in Pingalasthan and vandalism of media materials. Avenue Television journalists Saroj Poudel, Suresh Rajak and Sheetal Rijal and Prime Television's Deepak Aryal and Sundar Bahadur Gurung were attacked by a person named Sahir Udin, who was in the school administration, when the journalists had gone to the school to cover the story.²¹

Above instances clearly portray that there is a limitation over fully exercising the constitution guaranteed civic freedoms, as threats and attacks against HRDs, journalists and media houses, violation of protests rights of the citizens through police intervention during peaceful protests, and use of excessive force by security forces, continue to rise during the pandemic and also seem to move further ahead in the post covid scenario as well.

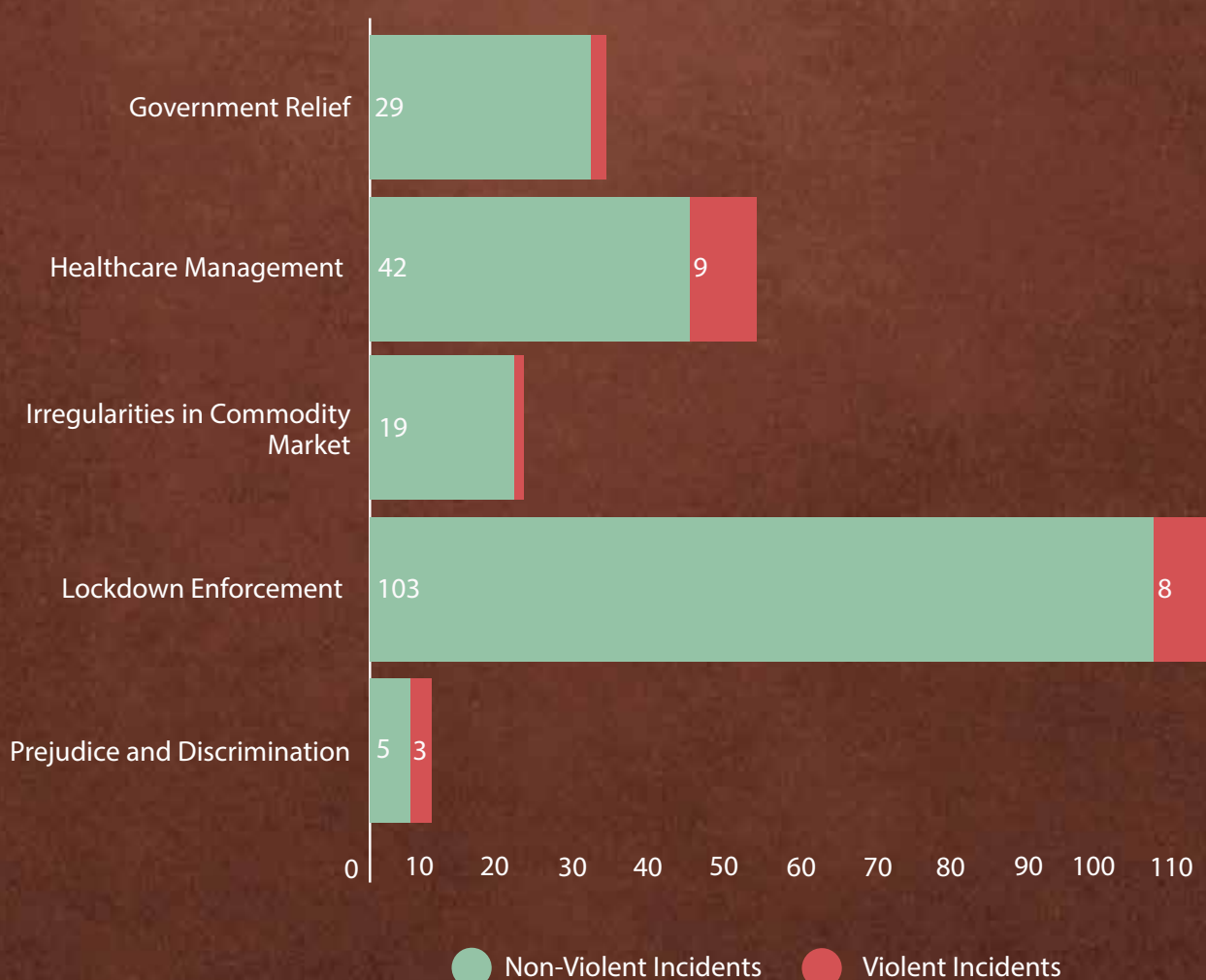
Situation Amid Covid-19 Pandemic

Despite prohibitory orders enforced by the government, a number of protests and rallies took place across the country. Most of the protests were against PM Oli which included burning tires and effigies of the PM. These protests were organized by Nepal Student Union (NSU), All Nepal National Free Students Union (ANNFSU), activists, youths and students in different parts of the country. These protests were held against PM Oli's decision to dissolve the parliament in December 2020 and May 2021.

As the deadliest waves of Covid-19 outbreak hit Nepal, to contain the spread of the deadliest virus, the Government enforced two phases of lockdown in the country, one from 24 March 2020, and another on 29 April 2021, across the country.

From November 2020 to August 2021, VMSCS recorded a total of 131 incidents directly related to Covid-19, of which 86 incident reports were mapped and monitored around lockdown enforcement, 1 such incident involving violence. 14 incidents were reported under healthcare management, 14 around government relief, and 3 around prejudice and discrimination, during covid crisis. As covid restrictions was in place, 13 incidents were reported under irregularities in the commodity market mostly including incidents of black marketing in the medical supplies like masks, sanitizers, surgical gloves, oximeter, hiding oxygen cylinders, and charging high bus fare with the people travelling to their respective places out of Kathmandu.

FIG 6: TRIGGERS OF COVID-19 RELATED INCIDENTS



TRENDS OF CONTESTATIONS SURROUNDING COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN NEPAL

- Contestations regarding Covid-19 accounted for 6.70 percent of all incidents recorded by VMSCS from November 2020 - August 2021. Of the 221 of the Covid-19 related incidents, 23 were violent, and 198 were nonviolent.
- The largest portion of Covid-19 related incidents concerned enforcement measures of government-declared lockdowns and citizens' protests with 111 reported incidents (103 nonviolent and 8 violent incidents). Of the nonviolent incidents, 82 were pertaining to curfew/prohibitory orders issued by various local and state level authorities, 16 incidents were related to citizen's protests demanding to ease or lift the prohibitory orders and demonstrations, 5 incidents consisted of curfew/ prohibitory orders issued by the state. Of the reported violent incidents, 3 of them included the cases related to small group assault between locals, shopkeeper, fish vendors and policemen, 2 included the excessive use of force by police against citizens including health workers, and a teenage boy for violating the prohibitory order, 2 of group clash between locals and police, and 1 of vandalism of house by the locals.²²
- Discontentment over poor management of healthcare services triggered 51 incidents (42 nonviolent and 9 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, companies' employees demanding PCR tests, assault on health workers including manhandling of the doctors and staffs of the Covid hospital, vandalism of the hospital by the patient's family, and fights while queuing for Covid-19 vaccination in Kathmandu.
- Dissatisfaction with relief distribution during the pandemic triggered 31 incidents (2 documented as violent).²³ The violent incidents during the relief distribution injured 3 people in group clashes, and a municipal office building in Rautahat was damaged in vandalism, and clashes between the public and provincial government officials.²⁴ Similarly, the reports related to poor management of quarantine facilities ranged from demonstrations by occupants against quarantine centers' subpar standards and obstruction by locals against the setup of quarantine centers near residential areas.²⁵
- Irregularities in the commodity market during Covid-19 triggered 20 incidents (1 violent).²⁶ Among the 19 non-violent incidents included black marketing and hiding of oxygen cylinders, face masks, hand sanitizers, oximeters, charging high bus fares, remdesivir medicine, and charging more for PCR tests in the test centres.
- Prejudice and discrimination related to Covid-19 were the cause of 8 incidents (3 violent and 5 non-violent). In majority of these cases, health workers were the primary victims of stigma²⁷ and discrimination due to the fear of Covid-19. Covid-19 patients and patients of various other diseases who required treatment at hospitals also faced discrimination.²⁸ 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.²⁹

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. IEDs were found near Ncell tower in Panchthar, on the bypass road of Bharatpur in Chitwan, Pressure cooker found in suspicious condition on municipal generator in Siraha, two bombs at a crusher industry in Udayapur where 5 mine workers were injured of IED targeting a cement factory in Udayapur, plantation of IEDs at Agriculture Development Office, explosion of pressure cooker bombs in Parsa (Hulas Steel) and Siraha (Land Revenue Office), Powerful explosion at Udayapur's Tapli Rural Municipality office, a diffusion of suspicious IED object in Jhapa and 3 different places in Makwanpur District, and diffusion of a socket bomb in Jhapa and Panchthar, another planted bomb by Biplav led group was diffused in Banepa, Nepal Army disposed IED planted by Chand-led CPN on an under-construction sky-bridge in Chitwan.
3. See: Freedom of assembly
4. See: The right of peaceful assembly in Nepal
5. See: Police detain civil society activists from Baluwatar
6. See: NSU burnt the effigy of PM Oli in Kathmandu
7. See: Three students injured, 11 arrested while burning effigies of President and Prime Minister in Rukum West
8. See: Photo journalist injured as police intervenes by baton charging at students' protest
9. See: Police charge batons on protesting students of Himalaya College of Engineering in Lalitpur
10. See: Police chased the youths preparing to demonstrate over the citizenship bill implementation
11. See: Police arrest 150 teachers preparing to protest at PM's residence
12. See: Nepal's government is aggressively pursuing journalists and it could get worse under a new legislation
13. See: New bill banning the media from publishing and broadcasting news banned by the state
14. See: Journalist attacked at Damak Land Revenue while filming a video of official accepting bribe
15. See: Chief of Dhangadhi Land Revenue mistreats journalist
16. See: Journalist physically assaulted for reporting during general strike in Kanchanpur
17. See: Post photojournalist injured covering a protest against the arrest of Jhakri
18. See: Journalist attacked by the contractor of Kathmandu View Tower
19. See: Journalist abused for taking video of poor quality construction work in Mahottari
20. See: Assistant Inspector accused of assaulting a journalist in Kathmandu
21. See: Journalists assaulted by Paragon school while covering news
22. See: Locals vandalized mayor and deputy mayor's house in Katari
23. See: Agitating health workers at Bir Hospital clash with police, Rautahat: Municipal office vandalized after relief rice rotted in warehouse
24. See: List of incidents related to Covid-19 incidents
25. See: List of demonstrations related to Covid-19 quarantine management
26. See: Bus operator in Kailali assaults passenger demanding double bus fare
27. See: List of incidents of Covid-19 related prejudice and discrimination
28. See: List of incidents of discrimination related to Covid-19
29. See: List of incidents of Covid-19 related to prejudice and discrimination See also: Obstruction in corpse management of Corona Infected in Sindhuli

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Peace Monitoring Project (PMP) focuses on monitoring violence and contestation through the 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.



