

# House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly Elections 2022

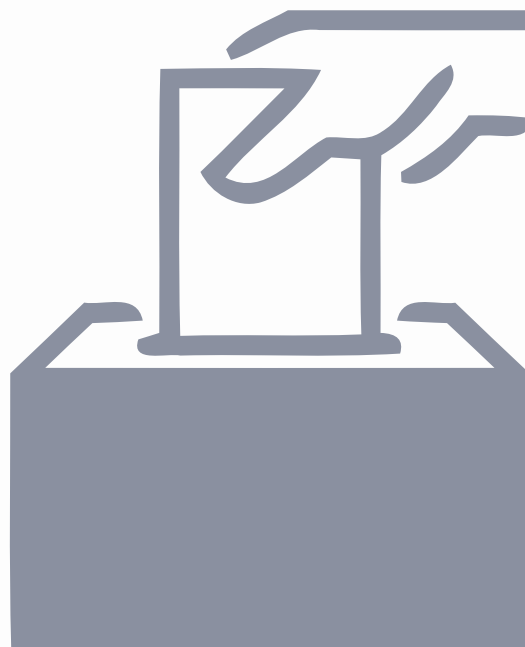


Periodic Update  
(November 1 - 17)



## Inside the Periodic Update

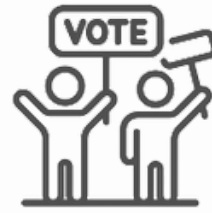
- **Electoral Campaigning:** Peaceful compared to the Local Election
- **Digital campaigns:** A popular electioneering choice
- **Challenges to election security emerge as fringe communist parties boycott election**
- **Activities of Groups boycotting Election:** Mostly limited to symbolic campaigns
- **Trend of Electoral contestation during Campaign Period**
- **District wise distribution of incidents related to electoral contestations during Campaign Period**



# 1. General Overview of the Campaign Period

The period between November 3 to November 17 marked the main phase<sup>[1]</sup> of campaigning for House of Representatives (HoR) and Provincial Assembly (PA) elections–2022. While parties and candidates prioritized door to door visits, mass assemblies and rallies as campaign strategies; an apt for promoting agendas through digital platforms like Tiktok, Facebook, and Youtube were equally visible.

The Election Commission (EC) Nepal also had a very vigilant role in monitoring election code of conduct, accomplishing managerial tasks that included transportation of ballot papers and election materials to designated constituencies, and imparting voter education.



A noticeable increase in confrontation between competing parties and candidates were observed during this period with increased instances of clashes, vandalism and personal attacks than during the earlier stages of the election. The parties and groups boycotting the election did not pose a significant threat to election security during the campaign period as their activities were mostly limited to organizing symbolic protests against the election.

The electoral environment as of November 17 remains relatively safe as the country sets its voting mood for November 20.

## 2. Electoral Campaigning: Peaceful compared to the Local Election

The probabilities of direct confrontation between the competing candidates and parties increased during the campaign period as they expedited campaigning on the ground. While no incidents of confrontations between the competing candidates and their supporters produced a ripple effect nationwide, some instances of violence (as listed in section 7 of the same report) were observed in many constituencies during this period.

Arson and vandalism of vehicles used in campaigning, group clashes between cadres of competing parties, and personal attacks against the candidates marked the key triggers of violence during the campaigning period. These incidents however stack much lower when tallied with similar incidents recorded during the campaigning period in the local level election in May 2022, and HoR and PA elections in 2017.

Nepalmonitor recorded 120 incidents of violence during campaign period in 2017 elections where use of IEDs to target senior leaders, campaign events, election infrastructures were of particular concern. [2] While the nature of incidents during the campaign period of the local elections (73 cases) in May 2022 [3] and the current election(34 cases) were similar, the number of incidents have almost halved as recorded by NepalMonitor over the campaigning period from November 3 to 17.

No serious threats to election security were observed during the campaign period from the parties and groups boycotting the election though they had announced a series of protest programs. The major threat to election security, as noticed in

### 3. Digital campaigns: A popular electioneering choice

General observation of the campaigning environment showed a dynamic shift in the pattern of election campaigning. While parties and candidates prioritized door to door visits, mass assemblies and rallies as campaign strategies, they also turned to social media platforms like Tiktok, Facebook, and Youtube to push their agendas and reach out to voters.

From October 16, 6339 advertisements related to vote appeals were found run in Facebook that amounted to expenditure of more than 1 crore rupees.[5] Also the same statistics derived from Ad library of Meta as of November 15 showed that almost 10 lakh rupees was spent per day in running

the campaign period came from the confrontations between competing parties, candidates, and their supporters.

A robust security mechanism with strong presence of security forces (police and temporary police) on ground can be said to have aided a peaceful setting during the campaign period. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, a total of 298,589 security personnel will be deployed to guard 10,892 polling stations and 22,227 polling centers. Of them, 74,849 will be from the Nepal Army, 71,693 from the Nepal Police, 35,116 from the Armed Police Force, 115,000 temporary police, and 1,921 from the National Intelligence Department. [4]



ads related to vote appeals towards the end of the campaign period on November 17.[6]

Also, the EC widely mobilized digital platforms for sensitizing voters by regularly promoting video contents for voter's education and also announcing competition to make Tik-Tok videos on election among others.

While parties and candidates mostly used folk songs as 'campaigning songs' to cater the agendas among a larger audience in previous elections, they were also found

using rap music as campaign promotion tools during this election to appeal to young urban voters.[7]

The shift towards digital campaigns as popular electioneering choice by the parties and candidates resulted in noticeably reduced use of physical campaign materials like flags, banners, and pamphlets. However, digital electioneering also increases the risk

of spreading false and harmful information for vested political gains.

A news story got highlighted in Nepali media on November 9, that read “The EC gave directives to a candidate not to ring the bell (their election symbol) in the election campaign as it causes sound pollution.” requiring the EC to clarify later that it hadn’t issued any such directives. [8]

## 4.Challenges to election security emerged as fringe communist parties boycott election

On November 1, Netra Bikram Chand aka Biplav led Nepal Communist Party (NCP) announced that it would boycott the House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly elections to be held on November 20. This came as a new challenge to election security as the NCP (Biplav) party is believed to have a larger base of supporters compared to other fringe communist parties which have also decided to boycott the election.

The NCP (Biplav) has a history of using means of violence to oppose elections and sabotage the electoral process in the past. In 2017 NCP caused a major threat to election security as the party boycotted the election and engaged in threat and intimidation, assault, arson, vandalism and use of IED (Improvised Explosive Device) attacks on candidates, political party leaders, their supporters, and election

officials in its attempt to obstruct the electoral process.

214 cases of incidents related to the use of IEDs were recorded in the 2017 elections. Police attributed most of these incidents upon the NCP (Biplav) based on its official political position to boycott and disrupt the election and the modus operandi of the party. Cadres of NCP (Biplav) also tried to set fire to ballot boxes after election at Naraharinath polling center in Kalikot district in 2017 that resulting in police firing and accidental death of a Rastriya Prajatantra Party cadre.[9]

The government vowed that it would not hesitate to take strict action and use force against any attempt to disrupt the election. The government has also increased monitoring of the activities of CPN’s leaders and their cadres.

Besides the NCP, the government has identified around two dozen other small and large groups including fringe communist parties and few non-state armed groups in Terai that have boycotted and vowed to disrupt the election. The government has made arrangements to deploy 2,98,589 security

personnel including temporary police for election security on the polling day.[10]

Despite boycotts of NCP (Biplav) and other groups, the election environment remained relatively peaceful as of the last day of the election campaign on November 17.

## 5. Activities of Groups boycotting Election: Mostly limited to symbolic campaigns

Different groups opposing the election mostly resorted to nonviolent means to express their boycott of the election ranging from staging protests, demonstrations and carrying out campaigns including wall-painting and distributing pamphlets denouncing the election.

A few cases of violent incidents through intentional and accidental use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) were also reported on November 16, the penultimate day of the electoral campaign period in Bhojpur, Dolakha and Banke districts.

Police attributed the blame of these incidents to the NCP (Biplav) party.

Due to strong election security measures in place no untoward security issues resulting in any fatalities were observed until November 17, the last date of the election campaign. The security mechanism was found watchful and swift in dealing with encountered election security incidents. As of November 17, police arrested at least 23 persons, most of them affiliated with fringe communist parties from different parts of the country on the charge of engaging in anti-election activities.[11]

## 6. Trend of Electoral contestation during Campaign Period

Nepalmonitor recorded a total of 34 incidents related to electoral contests during the electoral campaign period from November 1 to 17. The majority of these incidents were recorded in Bagmati province – 9 cases, followed by Madhes and Sudurpaschim province where 6

incidents each were reported. Both Gandaki and Lumbini province saw 3 incidents related to electoral contests while a single incident of electoral contestation was reported in Karnali province in Surkhet district.

The nature of these incidents varied from different forms of nonviolent peaceful protests to violent means including Clash/Assault, Use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), Arson and Vandalism. (See figure 1)

3 incidents involving IEDs were recorded during the electoral campaign period in which two persons believed to be cadres .

of Nepal Communist Party (Biplav) sustained injuries when the IED in their possession went off in Bhojpur and Banke on November 16. An item believed to be an IED also reportedly exploded in Bhimeshwor of Dolakha on the same day. Police attributed all three incidents to the Nepal Communist Party (Biplav) which has officially vowed to disrupt the election.

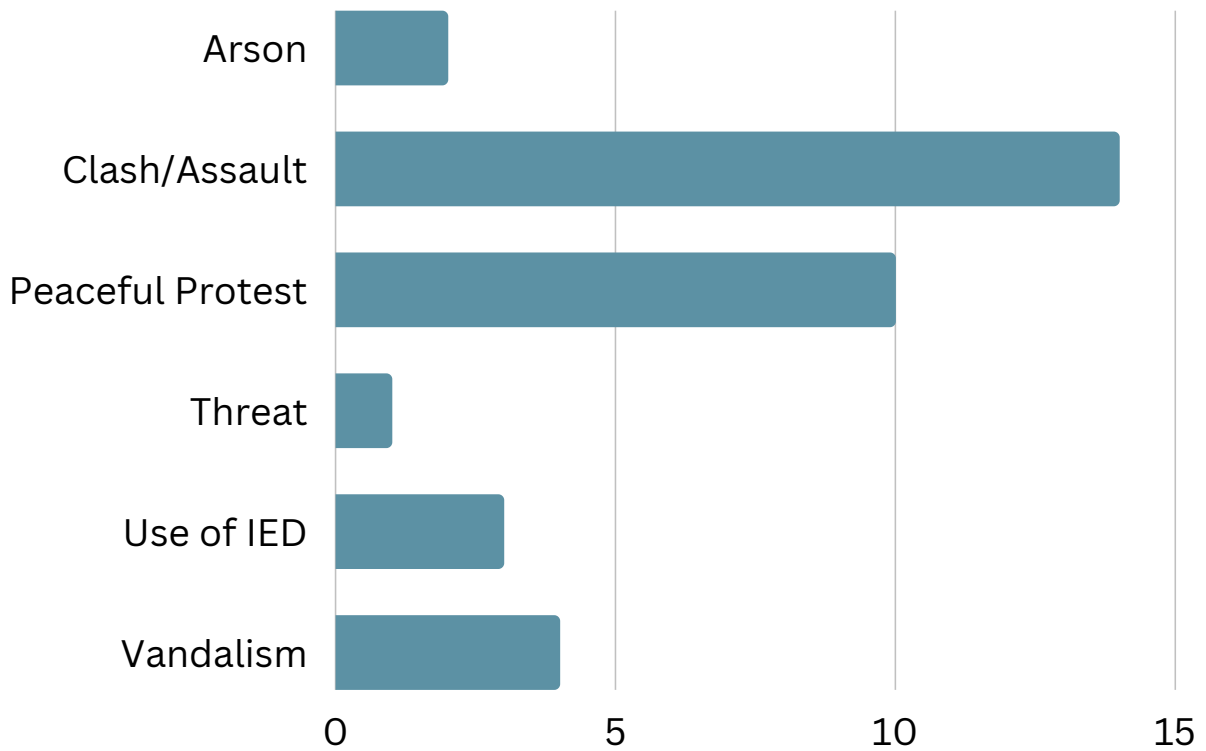


Fig 1. Distribution of election related incidents by event type (Recorded by Nepalmonitor from November 1-17)

## 6. List of Incidents related to electoral contestations mapped by Nepalmonitor from November 1-17

### Province 1

Morang, Nov 16: A 21-year-old youth of Koshi rural municipality-7 in Morang was physically assaulted by cadres of the Democratic-Left Alliance on November 16 during an electoral campaign assembly organized by the ruling alliance in Katahari rural municipality-3 after questioning the achievement of the Alliance's candidate over the past ten years during an interaction program.

Bhojpur, Nov 16: A person sustained serious injury when an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) he was carrying went off in Tiwari Bhanjyang of Bhojpur near the election campaign site of CPN (Maoist Center) leader Prachanda on November 16. According to reports, the injured was a cadre of Netra Bikram Chand-led Nepal Communist Party (NCP) which had boycotted the election.

Bhojpur, Nov 13: An independent candidate demanded security after allegedly being beaten and issued death threats by the personal secretary of the Chief Minister of province 1 in Shadananda municipality of Bhojpur on November 12.

Jhapa, Nov 07: Supporters of independent candidate for the House of Representatives election from Jhapa constituency no 2 Swagat Nepal accused the ruling coalition candidate Hari Rana for the same constituency of manhandling Nepal during an interaction program organized in Birtamod of Jhapa on November 7.

Jhapa, Nov 05: The Netra Bikram Chand aka Biplov-led Nepal Communist Party (NCP) staged a torch rally in Birtamod of Jhapa on November 5 evening demanding to cancel the election scheduled for November 20. The party has vowed to disrupt the election.

### Madhes Province

Rautahat, Nov 16: 3 police personnel were injured during a clash between the supporters of two independent candidates in Katahariya municipality-5 in constituency number 3 of Rautahat on November 16 night. Police fired four rounds of tear gases and three warning shots to take the unruly situation into control.

Mahottari, Nov 15: Police arrested seven leaders and cadres of Baidya-led CPN (Revolutionary) from Balawa-7 of Mahottari on the charge of engaging in anti-election activities. The police stated they recovered anti-election pamphlets and miking materials from the arrested.



Dhanusha, Nov 15: A local of ward no 5 in Chhireshowrnath municipality of Dhanusha accused the cadres and supporters of CPN-UML of assaulting him and his wife during a household election campaign on November 15 for expressing his view that candidates rarely look back towards voters after they win the election. The local also accused the UML cadres of threatening him.

Sarlahi, Nov 12: A clash broke out between the cadres of the Hamro Nepali Party and CPN (Maoist Center) in Sarlahi on November 12. The clash took place after the cadres of CPN (Maoist Center) reportedly tried to clear the obstruction of the road during a demonstration organized by the locals and Hamro Nepali Party (Stick Election Symbol) alleging that local authorities had neglected the construction of road in Malangwa municipality and Kaudeni rural municipality of Sarlahi Constituency number 2.

Parsa, Nov 07: The Election Commission sought clarification from Nepali Congress candidate from Constituency number 4 of Parsa Ramesh Rijal on the charge of threatening the commission's Code of Conduct monitoring officer for Parsa Rudra Bahadur Karki for removing election campaign materials that violated the code conduct.

Sarlahi, Nov 03: Local residents of Kaudena rural municipality-3, which falls under Sarlahi's House of Representative Constituency number 2, staged a demonstration on November 3, by restricting the election candidates and their representatives from entering their village for alleged neglect towards upgrading the dilapidated road in their locality.

## Bagmati Province

Chitawan, Nov 17: A group of unidentified persons torched a campaign vehicle being used by Nepali Congress candidate for the Provincial Assembly election from Chitawan constituency area number 3 Kha Thakur Prashad Dhakal in Chitawan on November 17. The vehicle bearing plate number Bagmati Province 06 001 pa 0001 which was torched by two unidentified persons while parked before Dhakal's house in the morning.

Chitawan, Nov 16: A group of unidentified people vandalized an election campaign vehicle belonging to Democrat-Left Alliance candidate for HoR election from Chitwan constituency number 2 Umesh Shrestha in Bharatpur metropolitan city-10 of Chitawan on November 16.

**Dolakha, Nov 16:** An item believed to be an improvised explosive device (IED) went off in Bhimeshwor municipality-3 of Dolakha on November 16. According to police, the item exploded with a loud bang near a dumping site at Satdobato of the municipality. A police team which went to investigate the explosion did not find any piece of IED related materials at the site according to DSP, Ganga Poudel of Dolakha police.

**Kathmandu, Nov 15:** The student wing of Nepal Communist Party (NCP) led by Netra Bikram Chand staged a protest in front of Tribhuvan University in Kirtipur on November 15 against the upcoming House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly elections 2022.

**Kathmandu, Nov 15:** Rajendra Prasad Pathak, an independent candidate for the House of Representative election from Kathmandu constituency number 9 accused the cadres of rival parties of brutally assaulting him on November 15 while he was returning home via Kirtipur after a program at Chandragiri municipality.

**Kathmandu, Nov 14:** Nepal Communist Party (Biplav) staged a demonstration in Maitighar Mandala of Kathmandu on November 14 as a part of its phase wise protest program against the upcoming November 20 election.

**Kathmandu, Nov 14:** ANNFSU (Revolutionary), the student wing of Nepal Communist Party (Biplav) staged a demonstration in Bagbazaar area of Kathmandu demanding the cancellation of the upcoming House of Representative and Provincial Assembly Election.

**Chitawan, Nov 13:** A group of people vandalized the vehicle of Rastriya Swatantra Party President Rabi Lamichhane during his campaign in Muglin on November 13.

**Makawanpur, Nov 08:** Birodh Khatiwada, the House of Representatives election candidate in constituency number 2 of Makawanpur from CPN-Unified Socialist party was assaulted by a local person during his election campaign at Manahari rural municipality-4 of the district.

**Chitawan, Nov 02:** Cadres of Nepali Congress padlocked the joint election campaigning office of the Democratic-Left Alliance in constituency number 1 in Ratna Nagar of Chitwan district on November 2.

## Gandaki Province

Lamjung, Nov 15: Two Nepali Congress cadres were injured after being physically assaulted in MadhyaNepal-1 of Lamjung on November 15. Congress accused the ward chairperson of ward 1 of the municipality and CPN-UML cadres of the attack. Police arrested the accused ward chairperson and a few others.

Baglung, Nov 15: Police arrested thirteen cadres and leaders of the Nepal Communist Party (Mashal) on the charge of engaging in activities against the upcoming election in Jaimuni of Baglung on November 15. According to the police, the arrested cadres of Nepal Communist Party (Mashal) organized an anti-election campaign in Kushmishera Bazar.

Gorkha, Nov 14: A group of five people attacked the election campaign team of Abdus Miya CPN-UML's candidate for the House of Representatives election in Gorkha constituency- 2 on November 13 night at Mango resort in Palungtar municipality-7 of Gorkha where they had stopped for dinner. CPN-UML's state secretariat member Hari Kafle sustained a serious injury on his head in the attack.

## Lumbini Province

Banke, Nov 16: Two cadres of Netra Bikram Chand-led Nepal Communist Party (NCP) sustained serious injuries when a pressure cooker-based Improvised Explosive Device (IED) went off in their room in Nepalgunj sub-metropolitan city- 10 on November 16. Police suspected the IED went off when the NCP cadres were in the process of assembling it.

Kapilvastu, Nov 08: An unidentified group of people torched three vehicles including two trucks and a motorcycle in front of the house of Nepali Congress candidate from Kapilvastu constituency number 3 for the House of Representatives election. According to police, pamphlets purportedly circulated by Nepal Janatantrik Mukti Morcha (Convenor Bikrant) which had boycotted the election were found at the scene of the incident.

Rupandehi, Nov 04: The cadres of political parties clashed with each other during the shoot of an election centered television debate program on November 4 in Sammarimai rural municipality of Rupandehi district. A local sustained injury after being attacked during a dispute between Nepali Congress and CPN-UML supporters at the debate program.

## Karnali Province

Surkhet, Nov 08: A local youth attempted physical attack on CPN (Maoist Centre) Chairperson Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' in Chingad rural municipality of Surkhet while he was speaking at an election campaign program on November 8. The youth threw a shoe at Dahal while he was speaking at the program which landed near Dahal.

## Sudurpaschim Province

Darchula, Nov 14: Cadres of the ruling alliance blocked the road in Naugad of Darchula on November 14 protesting against assault on their cadre and demanding the arrest of the attacker. CPN-Maoist Center's Darchula leader Khadaksingh Dhami accused CPN-UML cadres of attacking a CPN-Maoist cadre on November 13.

Kailali, Nov 14: An unidentified group pelted stones at the office of Nagarik Unmukti Party in Tikapur of Kailali in the early morning on November 14, according to Chairperson of the party, Ranjita Shrestha. The party condemned the incident by issuing a press release on Sunday.

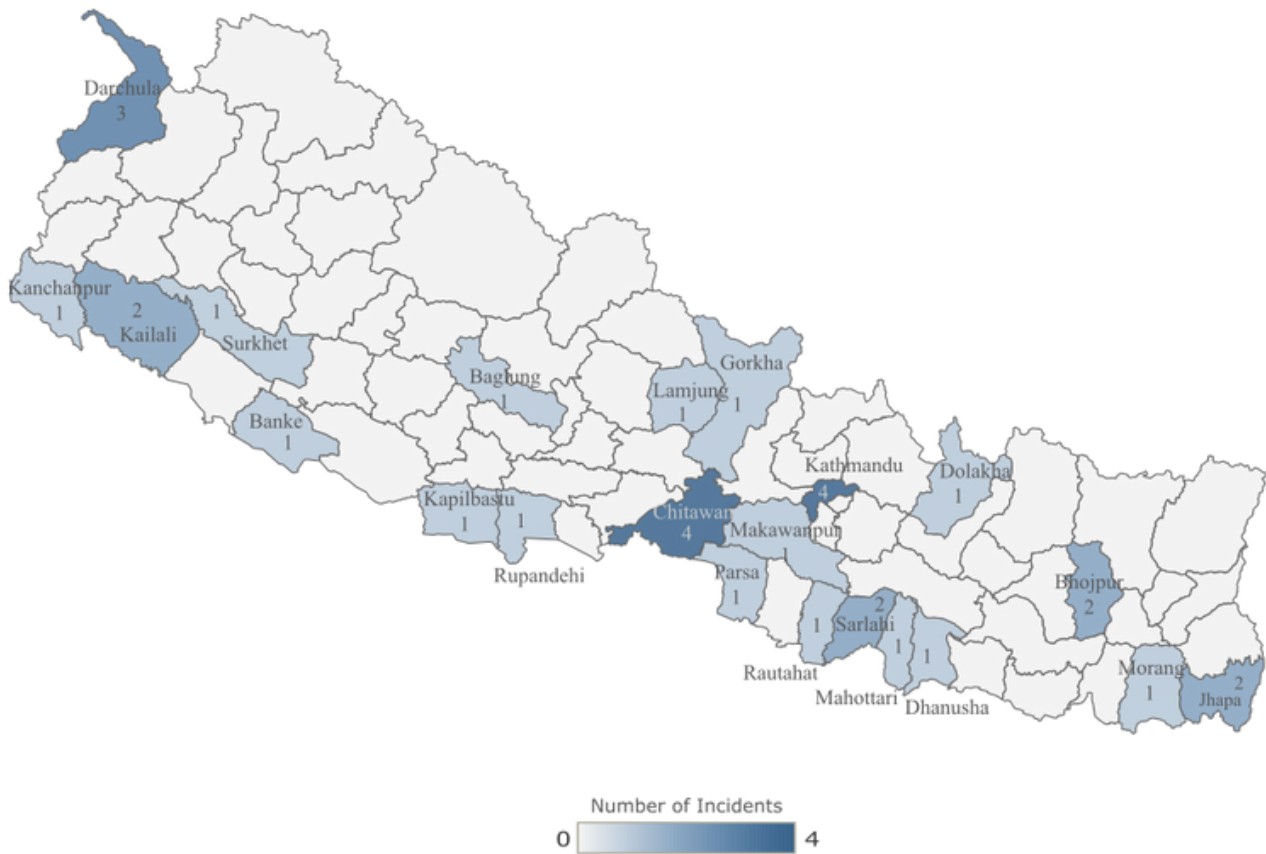
Darchula, Nov 13: A clash broke out between the cadres of the ruling alliance and CPN-UML in Naugad rural municipality-6 of Darchula on November 13. A cadre of the CPN (Maoist Center) was seriously injured in the clash.

Kanchanpur, Nov 12: Police on November 12 arrested cadres of CPN (Majority) and Mohan Vaidya-led communist party on the charge of being engaged in anti-election activities. Police arrested them from Dodhara Chandani Municipality-7 Babathan while they were campaigning against the election.

Darchula, Nov 10: A clash broke out between the cadres of CPN-UML and cadres of the ruling alliance in Darchula on November 10 during an election campaign in Api Himal rural municipality-5.

Kailali, Nov 09: An unidentified group vandalized the vehicle being used for an election campaign by the candidate and leaders of Nagarik Unmukti Party on the afternoon of November 9 in Ward no. 17, Dumaliya of Dhanghadi Sub-metropolitan city of Kailali. Leaders of the party accused the opponent party cadres of the vandalism.

### District wise distribution of incidents related to electoral contestations during Campaign Period



(Based on incidents mapped by Nepalmonitor from November 1-17)

## End Notes

[1] Article 13 of Election Code of Conduct allowed campaigning only 17 days before the polling day, that is from November 3. However the nomination of candidates for FPTP elections was completed October 12. ECN allowed candidates for household visits until November 2.

[2][https://prezi.com/kqgdp-6\\_lcbn/violence-monitoring-during-nepals-election-2017/](https://prezi.com/kqgdp-6_lcbn/violence-monitoring-during-nepals-election-2017/)

[3] <https://nepalmonitor.org/analysis/186>

[4] <https://tkpo.st/3XaQoV0>

[5] <https://www.techpana.com/2022/139734>

[6]<https://cutt.ly/mMUKZLs>

[7][https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4\\_tp4i0RxYQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_tp4i0RxYQ)

[8]<https://www.onlinekhabar.com/2022/11/1215310>

[9][https://prezi.com/kqgdp-6\\_lcbn/violence-monitoring-during-nepals-election-2017/](https://prezi.com/kqgdp-6_lcbn/violence-monitoring-during-nepals-election-2017/)

[10]<https://www.imagekhabar.com/news/362156/>

[11]Based on reports mapped by [www.nepalmonitor.org](http://www.nepalmonitor.org)