

Violation of Right to Peaceful Assembly

Nationwide protests continue as the demonstrations called by Seven Party Alliance entered its 11th day. There were reports security firing and baton charge at several places.

Reports from Kathmandu say At least eight persons were arrest while twelve were injured in the police intervention on a peaceful rally organized by the seven political parties' alliance (SPA) on April 16 at Balkhu. The police charged baton and opened fire on the demonstrators as they tried to march past the 'restricted zone' inside the ring road area. The police resorted to indiscriminate firing on the demonstrators with rubber bullets. One of the monitoring members of the OHCHR was also injured in the baton charge of the police in the scuffle. The police fired more than three dozens of tear gas and also fired over a dozen of rubber bullets to control the mass that turned violent after the police intervned in the peaceful rally of the Seven Party Alliance.

Four persons have been injured in Mangalbazar of Lalitpur when security forces opened fire and baton charged on a peaceful demonstration organized by SPA on April 16.

Security forces arrested over two dozens of journalists from a peaceful rally organized by Press Chautari at Bhotahity on April 16, in the afternoon. President of Press Chautari Balkrishna Chapagain, General Secretary Ganesh Basnet, Former Vice-president Shambhu Shrestha and journalists Bhimsen Rajbahak, Rohit Dahal, Devraj Rimal, Bal Kumar Nepal, Punya Bhandari, Govinda Chaulagain, Prakash Silwal, Kiran Pokhrel, Devraj Aryal, Deepak Oli, Sushil Aryal, Om Prakash Acharya, Rajendra Phunyal and Indra Baniya are among those arrested. Likewise, police arrested Yograj Limbu, Man Bahadur Shilpali, Rajbhai Jakarmi, Manoj Magar, Rabin Gurung, Naresh Rai, Gyanraj Rai, Sher Bahadur Bhujel, Nar Singh Dhimal, Suk Bahadur Tamang, Pushparaj Lingthep, Naresh Ale, Yamchandra Chemjong, Dil Gurung, Bijaya Singh Lopchan, Hem Chandra Rai, Ramesh Bhujel, Biloshi Moktan and Sunil Rai from a rally organized by Federation of Indigenous Nationalities at Banehsore today. Police also assaulted Dr. Om Gurung, general secretary of the Federation. Meanwhile, Madhav Parajuli of Bhudi Publication was arrested by security forces from Bagbajar.

In another protest, police manhandled Dr Om Gurung, the general secretary of Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFILN) on April 16. Rabin Gurung, Yograj Limbu, Suk Bahadur Tamang, Rajbhai Jakarmi, Bilas Moktan, Narsingh Dhimal, Pushparaj Lingden, Man Bahadur Sinjali, Naresh Ale, Gyanraj Ale, Manoj Garja Magar, Dil Gurung, Yam Chandra Chemjong, Bijay Singh Lopchan, Hem Chandra Rai, Sher Bahadur Bhujel among others were arrested from the rally organized by NEFILN

Major markets, business houses, educational institutions, industries remained halted for the 11th consecutive day. Works in government offices were also affected due to the protests of civil servants. Civil servants also have extended their support to the ongoing strike. Employees of corporation and banks have expressed solidarity to the ongoing movement and brought office work to complete halt. Various professional organizations and labor unions have also expressed solidarity to the ongoing pro-democracy movement. A peaceful sit-in protest was organized by the Democratic Tourism Society Nepal at Thamel area of Kathmandu on April 16. At least three tourism entrepreneurs were arrested from the site. Police intervened and arrested Jyoti Adhikari, Ram Nepal and Shanker Adhikari. To suppress the protest police fired tear gas shells to disperse the angry crowd.

In Sandhikharka, the district headquarters of Arghakhanchi, over 30 protestors were injured when police baton charged and opened fired at the protestors. Seriously hurt five were taken to Bhairahawa for treatment. Other injured included Krishna Shrestha, Padam Bahadur Nepali, Sumitra Poudel, Baburam Bhusal, Ananda Tandan of Sandhikharka VDC, Rishiram Ghimire of Khanchikot, Ruk Bahadur Thapa, Bipin Shrestha, Bishnu Prasad Bhusal of Bangla, Pushpa Khanal of Khandaha, Ashok Bhusal, Dharmaraj Parajuli of Kimdanda, Kedar Singh of Hanshapur, Basanta Khanal, Juna BK of Bangi, Bishnu Bhusal of Dharapani, Narayan Kunwar, Jeevkala Acharya of Divarna, Kamala Adhikari of Argha, Asmita Bhusal of Arghatosh, Sahayogi BC, Niraj Damase of Narpani, Ramesh Pariyar of Nuwakot-3, Balaram Chhetri of Pyuthan.

Dilli Bahadur Bista, the coordinator of People's Movement Mobilisation Committee, NC party secretary Gauri Shankar Upadhyaya and Tanka Prasad Upadhyaya were arrested from Jufal Kalagaunda in Dolpa as informed by Bishnu Lal Budha. They were held when they were busy publising about the movement.

Dailekh INSEC Yearbook representative Naman Kumar Shahi said that the security forces torn the banner after interfering with the protest rally at Dailekh Bazaar. Three including NC's Dharma Dev Puri were arrested while Puri, NWPP central committee member Harka Bahadur Shahi and former DDC chairman Surya Bahadur Shahi were injured in the scuffle with the forces.

Five persons including FNJ Tanahun chairman Pradeep Kafle were injured when police used force to disperse the demonstrators in Damauli on April 16. Other injured included Tikaram Sigdel, Thaman Mishra, Niranjana Poudel and Bikas Thapa. Thapa, a resident of Byas municipality was seriously injured when a rubber bullet hit him. He is undergoing treatment in the hospital.

Administration deployed army at Adamghat of Dhading creating tension in the area as the protestors were marching past the district headquarters. However, no untoward event was recorded.

For more details please, visit Inseconline: www.inseconline.org



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