

NEPAL

GOVERNANCE

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Conflict Victims Await Justice while Government Focuses on Impunity and Amnesty

WEEKLY

Photo from TKP

The government recently registered a bill at the parliament to amend the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappeared, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act 2014, seven years after the Supreme Court called for its amendment. But, the bill still met with huge criticisms as 41 organizations working for conflict victims and 39 organizations working on human rights issued separate statements condemning it. The organizations state that the bill contains several problematic provisions and focuses on providing amnesty rather than prosecution and sentencing.

The provision on the bill states only cruel murder, murder after torture or rape will be prosecuted, which means the perpetrators of other murders and crimes are granted amnesty. Similarly, the other provision reads that the rape cases of only unarmed or common people will be prosecuted, hinting that amnesty will be granted if the victims are combatants. The bill has stated that serious human rights violations will be prosecuted based on Penal Code 2018 which criminalized enforced disappearances and torture for the first time. However, since the penal code doesn't have retrospective jurisdiction, the crimes committed during insurgency years before 2018 cannot be covered by it.

Although the government held levels of consultation before drafting the bill, it still seems to have undermined the aspirations of the victims awaiting justice and failed to comply with national and international law, and the decisions of the supreme court.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. 207 local units have yet to announce their annual budget for the fiscal year 2079/2080. The local units are required to present their budget by the second week of Ashad to begin the expenditure for the next fiscal year which starts from Shrawan, but local units are still finding it difficult to do so.
Read more: [The Himalayan Times](#)
2. Nepali passports have been identified as one of the weakest passports in the world by the Henley Passport Index. Nepali passports are ranked 106th among 112 countries, even lower than North Korea. The ranking was based on the fact that only 38 countries in the world allow Nepali citizens entry without a visa.
Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)
3. The provincial governments have spent nearly NRs. 6.24 billion for the purchase and maintenance of vehicles in the last four years. This fiscal year as well, while the federal government didn't allocate any budget for vehicle purchase to aid the declining foreign exchange reserves, the 6 provinces, except Sudurpaschim province, allocated a total NRs. 2.13 billion for vehicles.
Read more: [eKantipur](#)
4. The Tourism Ministry and Nepal Civil Aviation Authority are set to make recommendations to the government to form an expert team to proceed with the construction of the Nijgadh International Airport. The authorities are committed to building the airport with minimal environmental damage, against the supreme court ruling.
Read more: [Ekagaj](#)
5. The "Bio Gas Plant" offered as a grant to Kathmandu Metropolitan City to produce electricity and gas through waste has been handed over to the National Innovation Center, as the authority couldn't make use of it for 9 years. The city reportedly didn't use the gas plant for years due to a lack of skilled manpower for operation.
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
6. Nepal and China have decided to conduct joint monitoring of borders and resolve the disputes in some parts of the Nepal-China borders. The border agreement between Nepal and China in 1963 had stated that the borders would be monitored and updated every 10 years, but it hasn't been done regularly.
Read more: [My Republica](#)

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