



Press Release / प्रेस विज्ञप्ती

For immediate release

Sano Paila (A Little Step)

Mr. Subir Kr. Ghosh,

Head of Communication

T: +977 51-522203 M: +977 9804209548

E: sanopaila@gmail.com

Condemning Shootings at Children and Other Human Rights Violation during Terai-Madhes Andolan

Birgunj, 12 Sept 2015: It is a serious crime and violation of the Universal Charter of Human Rights to involve children in protests resulting in their injuries or death by State actors. Sano Paila draws attention to the death of two minors Dilip Yadav of Sinujora VDC of Dhanusha and Niku Yadav from Jamuniya VDC of Dhanusha district upon being hit with a gunshot from the Security Forces during the Janakpur protests on Friday, 11 September. Monitoring by the State's Constitutional organisation National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has revealed that the Security Forces have violated human rights. The Commission has also appealed to the Government to withdraw the Security Forces. Against the internationally acclaimed practice to use force only when protests turn violent, the move from the Security Forces to take control of the protesters and shoot them on their heads cannot be deemed an act to promote peace and security.

Sano Paila has been conducting independent monitoring and surveillance since the beginning of the current round of Terai-Madhes Andolan. Two dozen of Sano Paila's observers risking their lives, conducted monitoring activities in Parsa, Bara, Rautahat, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi and Saptari districts. Sano Paila has been vocal about condemning the use of children in protests. Excessive use of children in protests, leading to fatal injuries and the recent death has made the situation very critical. To engage children in any way in protests is against Child Rights, and to do so or to promote it is unacceptable and extremely condemnable. It is the State's primary duty to protect the lives and the rights of children involved in protests.

Kanchan Jha, the CEO of Sano Paila concluded that such acts of indiscriminate killing of children during protests has put the lives of children in danger, surpassing their rights. Jha says that if such a use and killing of children in protests continues, we will be left with no choice but to call for help from international agencies. Sano Paila draws attention of concerned authorities and parties to not use children in protests, but to create an environment for the normal operation of schools, colleges, health services and hospitals.

As an organization based in Madhes-Terai and working for community development in the region, Sano Paila expresses its moral support in all peaceful means of protests and demonstrations being conducted against inequality and discrimination, and in pursuit of respect and equal rights. It also morally supports any and all non-violent means of collective action like sit-ins, rallies and hunger strikes that are taking place asking for attention and action in response to the demands.

Sano Paila affiliated Monitoring and Surveillance team has been investigating the Janakpur incident, according to Subir Ghosh, Head of Communications, Sano Paila.