

Synopsis Report of Rescued Human Rights Activist Abducted BY 'Maoist' at Khotang

Monitoring period: 2062/06 /12 to 2062/06/21 (Sept 28-Oct. 07, 2005) -10 days

Coverage districts: Khotang

Teams Involved in Monitoring

1. Krishna Prasad Subedi - Central Office, INSEC, Kathmandu
2. Lekhananth Niraula (Laxmi) - Chairperson of RELEC National Committee, Kathmandu
3. Ghanashyam Pokharel - Biratnagar Regional Office, INSEC, Biratnagar
4. Kusalbabu Basnet - Representative of Samachar Patra, Udayapur
5. Yuwaraj Parajuli- Chair person of NGO Federation, Udayapur

Purpose of Visit

It is informed to INSEC that the chairperson of RELEC, Khotang District named Loknanth Ghimire, and members Mr. Nawaraj Ghimire, MR. Prakash Pokharel, Subas Dhakal, MR. Ramesh Ghimire and Sivshankar Rai of RELEC at Likchiramche VDC has been abducted by Maoist. It was informed from the family member of Mr. Loknanth Ghimire. There was not any information about them that where they have been taken and what were situation of abducted persons. So, INSEC decided to set a mission to know the situation and tried to release them from the Maoist captivity.

As a result, a team of five member has been set out on the leadership of Mr. Krishna P. Subedi on Ashoj 12 to Gaighat. Given below is synopsis report of rescued human rights activists abducted by 'Maoist' at Khotang;

- **September 28, (Ashoj 12)** - Set out from Katmandu to Biratnagar and Gaighat on Ashoj 12 (Sept. 28)
- **September 29 (Ashoj 13)**- We left Gaighat on 4 AM and reached at Saune at 9.00 AM. We started our journey from Saune on foot and at 7 pm reached to Rasuwagat. We asked several persons at Rasuwaghat about our abducted friends but we have not got any information about our friends. We also asked Mr. Kedar Rai (Headmaster of local primary school), he told us that had not information about them rather than abduction. So we tried to contact 'Maoists' at Rasuwaghat. One person, member of Maoist Local Government at Rasuwaghat met us. He managed one person (Mr. Purna Rai) to guide us for our mission.
- **September 30 (Ashoj 14)** - Started walked at 5 am from Rasuwaghat and reached at Mulabari of Batase VDC on 6.30 PM. At Mulabari, we have become shocked when Mr. Purna Rai informed us that the Maoist had abducted two persons in which one had manage to escape and reached with your office (INSEC) to inform us and the other abducted person had been ceased. Immediately we protested

against his news, we requested him to manage a contact with responsible person of Maoist.

- **October 1 (Ashoj 15)**- Started our journey at 6.00 AM and reached at Sapteshori VDC to meet with District secretary of Maoist called Asmita . We reached at 7.00 PM, but we didn't contact with her. She had already gone out unknown place. We stayed night at Dahalgaun of Sapteshori VDC.
- **October 2 (Ashoj 16)**- Started walk at 6 PM to Roksim Bhnjhyang. We reached at RokshimBhanjyang at 12 AM but again we could not contact with responsible person of 'Maoist'. Then we moved forward near to Bhojpur District. At 3 PM we reached Bhirkharka (Waplupkha) and stayed a villagers Home. It belongs to Sherpa family. We informed them that about our objective of visit. Then one letter of Regional office sent with a girl of that house to send 'Maoists'. At 5 PM, One person named Puspa Raj Poudel arrived to meet us. He introduced himself that he as chief district administrator of Maoist. He told us that abducted person have been released on Sept. 12. He also said sorry that he did not know that the abducted person belongs to INSEC. When Maoist knew that abducted persons belong to INSEC, Maoist immediately released them. For detail talk let us sit on 7.00 PM with senior responsible persons.

At Seven PM. we started our dialogue with Maoist and it lasted for 2 AM. Name of participants are given below:

Human rights groups

Krishna Prasad Subedi
Lekhananth Niraula (Laxmi)
Ghanashyam Pokharel
Kusalbabu Basnet
Yuwaraj Parajuli

Maoist site

Biplav (m)- Regiona Beuro Member &
Incharge of Bhojpur Discrit
Asmita (F)- Secretary of Khotand District
Jivanta (M)- Chief, public administration of
Maoist
(M) - Commissar of Military of Maoist
(M) - Teacher Association of Maoist

Discussion Agenda

- About the abduction of HR activist
- About misuse of Child from Maoist
- Economic sanction of Diktel (District head quarter of Khotang)
- About closed down of public school at Maoist Area

Dialogue started at 7 PM and lasted 2.00 AM. The overall meeting has started in a peaceful environment.

Abduction of HR activist

The CDO of Maoist sent a warrant to members of RELEC on Ashoj 5 (See on annex). Only on Ashoj 7 Maoist had abducted Mr. Loknatnith and other member of RELEC from their home at Likchiramche.

Jivanta told - "We arrested them was written in warrant letter on the charge of ignoring Maoist administration. But when we knew that arrested people also belongs to INSEC, we released them immediately on Ashoj 11. But I had not evidence in written form to release them. For this we apologized about the incident. It is not our intension to arrest human rights activists of INSEC."

Then we asked them to sent a letter written by us to them and informed them to meet with us at Khotang Bazar. They managed two persons to sent at Likcheramche with our letter.

Misuse of Children by Maoist

We had seen two children of age 10, 12 years old providing sentry at Rokshim Bhanjyang (see photos). We raised the issue of abusing child by Maoist. For this Biplav replied - Maoist don't have any policy to misuse of child. Thanking for your reporting, we give direction for not using this child as a sentry immediately.

Economic sanction at Diktel

Diktel, a district headquarters of Khotang District, have been facing economic sanction by Maoists. They have blocked local villagers for not selling their production at Diktel for three years. We raised the issue with the Maoists that during the period of three years economics sanction, what are the benefits for your party? The economic sanction as imposed by the Maoists causes many troubles for the villagers only. Because of Economics sanction, the villagers have to sell their production at local level where selling price of local production is very low. So, why don't you try to rethink the decision? In regarding to our query. Mr. Biplav had informed us that they are going to rethink about the economic sanction.

About going to close down of public school at Maoist Area

Maoist have been controlled almost all areas of Khotang except district head quarters. During our mission, while waking through Area No. 6 & 7 (Area divided by the Maoist in each area it constitutes of 6-7 VDCs), we have also tried as possible to meet local teachers of that area. We have met headmaster, named Ichha Rai, head master of Saptakanya Secondary School about the situation of public school. He told us that the secretary of VDC have given resignation jointly with the pressure imposed by the Maoists as a result because of no executive body at VDC level, there is no system to provide about 5,00,00 Rs. from VDC to school. This type of problem also has faced by the Janata Secondary School at Bhandari of Batase VDC. We also asked Maiosts about

the chance of closing school because of the financial crisis. Mr. Biplav replied that we try our best to find out the problem and try to solve it.

- **October 3 (Ashoj 17)**

We have left Virkharka and reached at Khotang Bazar at 12.00 PM. We have to stay there to meet the friends who have released by Maoist on Ashoj 12. Mr. Loknanth and Navaraj had arrived at 3.00 Pm. We meet them talked about their abducted and released by the Maoist.

- **October 4 (Ashoj 18)**

WE left Khotang at Six AM, while returning back to Rasuwaghat, we met the in-charge of Area No. 6 in between the way of Likchhramche and Rasuwaghat. There are about 14 girls and a boy, named Birendra Budathoki in that group. Every girl has carried weapon except boy. When we met them by the way, they asked for pass (walking permission given by Maoist). But we did not have pass provided by Maoists. We had introduced ourselves and informed our assignment. At that time, Mr. Birendra Budhathoki aged 14 staying at Gaighat asked Gyanu (a girl leader of that groups and also in-charge of area no. 6) to allow him to go with us. But Gyanu did not allow him to go with us. Then we asked him about the reason. Maoist had taken him because of traveling with out getting pass. We also requested the Maoist to release him. After two hours, Maoist allowed him to with us to his own home.

- **October 4 (Ashoj 18)**

We reached Rasuwaghat and stayed for a night.

- **October 5 (Ashoj 19)**

We left Rasuwaghat at 4 AM and reached to Gaighat at 6 PM.

- **October 6 (Ashoj 20)**

We arranged a press-meet program with media persons of Gaighat. We released the prees statement and we also presented the rescued person Mr. Budhathoki infront of journalists. Details of statement is given in annex.

Mr. Kusalbabu Basnet andf Yuwa raj Parajuli stayed at Gaighat. In the evening we (three persons) reached at Biratnagar.

- **October 7 (Ashoj 20)**

I (Mr. Krishna Subedi) backed to Kathmandu. Where Mr. Lekhananth had gone to his on house at Damak. Mr. Ghanashaym stayed at Biratnagar

Submitted date:- 2062/07/07

Prepared By:

Krishna Prasad Subedi
Lekhnanth Niralula (Laxmi)