

Peace, Justice and Demilitarisation Thematic Group

Progress Report (July 2008 - June 2009)

and

New Work-Plan (July 2008 - June 2009)

Submitted by

**Regional Thematic Focal Organisation for Peace, Justice and
Demilitarisation Group**

Human Rights Alliance, Kathmandu, Nepal

Submitted to

**The Secretariat
South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)
Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN)
Kathmandu, Nepal**

Executive Summary

This report is prepared by Peace, Justice and Demilitarisation Group of SAAPE network. It mainly presents:

- Short review of the activities carried out by the Peace, Justice and Demilitarisation Thematic Group during past one year (July 2007 - June 2008)
- Future work-plan of the Group; and
- Estimated budget for the successful completion of the planned activities (for the period July 2008 - June 2009)

The group members sat together on the occasion of the SAAPE AGM (17 July 08) and reviewed all about the group activities (List of the group members is presented in Table 3 below). The meeting decided to carry on the activities that could not be completed last year. Overall, the following activities have been scheduled for this year:

- ✚ Continue campaign activities relating to peace, justice and demilitarisation in South Asia
 - Publish peace poster in national languages
 - Days celebration (depending upon the country context)
 - Sovereign South Asia
 - One video documentary on peace issues
- ✚ Exposure visits
- ✚ Conduct at least one workshop on peace, justice and demilitarisation issues
- ✚ Regional position paper
- ✚ Country position paper
- ✚ Publication of A book including success stories of the Group Activities under SAAPE project
- ✚ Membership update

The detail about the activities is presented in Table 1 of this report. A total of 66,000 Euro (Sixty Six Thousand Euro) is proposed for this year, that is, 46,000 on behalf of the SAAPE Secretariat and 20,000 from internal sources. Please see Table 2 for the detail breakdown.

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1. Introduction

South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) established in the year 2000 is a network of like-minded NGOs, mass-based organisations, academics, trade unions, community based organisations and the like from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, working together towards the eradication of poverty and protection of human rights and social justice in the region. Against the backdrop of rising poverty and escalating human rights abuses, various civil society actors from across the region, together with representatives of civil society organisations from Europe convened a consultation in 2000 in Manesar, India to discuss the problems facing the region and to come up with possible solutions. As an outcome of this meeting an alliance to fight against poverty and injustice in South Asia was formed as a form of a loose network. This led to the creation of the South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE). It was formalized later at the South Asia Civil Society Network meeting on poverty eradication in Kathmandu in December 2001.

SAAPE's main focus is poverty eradication through policy research, advocacy, lobbying and campaign works on five key themes, which are priority concerns for civil society in all countries of the region. The major thematic areas are:

- Food sovereignty, livelihood and employment,
- Peace, justice and demilitarization,
- Gender,
- Labour rights, and
- Just and democratic governance.

This report presents short review of the activities carried out by the Peace, Justice and Demilitarisation Thematic Group during past one year (July 2007 - June 2008) including future work-plan and estimated budget for the successful completion of the planned activities (for the period July 2008 - June 2009).

2. SAAPE AGM 2008

On the eve of People's SAARC 2008, SAAPE organised its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 17 July 2008 in Colombo. The thematic group members of the SAAPE participated in the AGM which was commenced by highlighting some of the important activities carried out by SAAPE in the past. Moderated and facilitated jointly by Dr Sarba Raj Khadka, on behalf of SAAPE Secretariat and Rokiya Kabir Gender Theme



Focal Person, the members involved in reviewing the activities carried out in the past, progresses made and the issues of to be highlighted for the coming year (July 2008 – June 2009). Dr Arjun Karki, Coordinator of the SAAPE was present on the occasion.

3. Activities Planned for Reporting Period Reviewed

During SAAPE AGM (17 July 08), Peace, Justice and Demilitarisation Group reviewed the activities carried out in the past. The focal points and the members raised the issue that the group could not do effective works in the past and it needs to be strengthened. Some of the activities carried out in the past include preparing campaign materials like posters and organising workshops on the issues of peace, justice and demilitarisation in South Asia. Overall the group meeting reviewed the activities set for the last year as follows:



A total of nine activities were set on behalf of the Peace, Justice and Demilitarisation Group. A short review follows here regarding each of the activities planned to conduct in the region including the statements for the success and failure in them. .

Activity 1

Prepare country position paper on budget analysis focusing on social security and militarization in each country

Position papers of Bangladesh, India, and Nepal have been drafted. In last May, the Communication Officer requested each of the focal points to revisit the current status of these papers. BDPC (Mr Sharif A. Kafi) from Bangladesh has reviewed and updated their already drafted position paper. Labour Education Foundation (Mr Khalid Mahmood) from Pakistan is preparing the position paper and will submit it soon. VAK (Mr. Ajit Muricken), from India has been requested to review the already submitted position paper. Friends from Sri Lanka (Fish Move) have been requested for the status of this activity. However, the organisation has not made any response to several queries and correspondence. During AGM held in Colombo (17 July 08), an agreement has been made unanimously among the group members to review or prepare the country position paper within September 08.

Activity 2 and 3

Activity 2: Prepare regional position paper on the basis of country position paper on military budget analysis

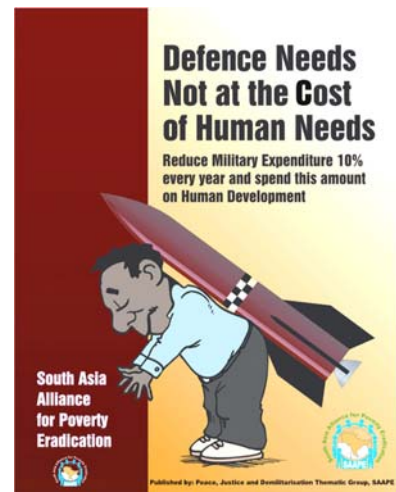
Activity 3: Regional Position paper on peace, justice and demilitarization

The Communication Officer based on the available country position papers has drafted a leaflet like material so as to develop an advocacy material on reducing security sector budget of each of the South Asian countries and spend the surplus in the human sector. This activity will be completed within November 08 after getting the position papers from all countries.

Activity 4

Develop campaign by coordination with like minded media organizations to pressurize the government for reducing the military budget.

No result oriented campaign has been conducted as planned last year in this regard. However, a poster on reducing the military sector budget has been prepared in July 08. This poster was disseminated during People's SAARC 08 and distributed to the group members as well as participants of the People's SAARC. The poster was designed by the focal point (Labour Education Foundation) of Pakistan and printed in Nepal. Continuing campaign work has been set in the new work-plan of the group.



Activity 5

At least 20 features articles will be published in the South Asian print media

No specific activities regarding this have been conducted by the group. The group members during the AGM 2008 revisited this work-plan and realised that this sort of activity is not necessary to include as an action-plan since this can be done in individual level based on the expertise by lobbying with the media organisations.

Activity 6

Prepare at least one video documentary to highlight the issues of conflict and militarization of South Asia

This activity has not been carried out yet. The Communication Officer in last May requested all the focal points to give their ideas regarding this activity. Many friends responded to develop it as a campaign material for the peace process in South Asia.

However, the meeting of the group members during AGM 08 decided although this kind of effort is difficult to conduct, this needs to be done within this year. This activity is endorsed in the new work-plan.

Activity 7

Organise at least one regional level workshop

On the occasion of People's SAARC 08, the group organised a workshop on *National Security, ideology, Policies and Practices* in collaboration with Prayatna, Peace Mumbai, and Sangat. The detail of the workshop is reviewed below.

Activity 8

Conduct an exposure visit

None of the activities has been carried out regarding this. However, the group members' meeting sat during AGM 2008 reviewed discussed and concluded that this activity is much important and priority needs to be given for the marginalised border area people. The meeting also decided to endorse it as one of the activities of the new work-plan so as to highlight the bilateral issues at least between two countries.

Activity 9

Publish a journal on peace, justice and demilitarization

During the AGM sat on 17 July, it was realised that this activity though set last year by the group was more ambitious and impractical in the sense that civil society organisations give emphasis more on the advocacy materials rather than academic work. Therefore, this activity has been modified and set in the new work-plan as publishing issues and success stories of the activities carried out by the members organisations of the group.

After reviewing the activities carried out in the past the members discussed some of the issues pertinent to increasing state of militarisation from the region, nation to the individual levels. It was discussed that this issue needs to be priority for this group. The group members identified some of the intervention issues to be addressed in the days to come. They include campaign for people to people contact, exposure visits especially of marginalised border area people, workshops such as on cross-border peace, regional position paper based on the country position paper, publication of SAAPE success stories on SAAPE activities, celebrating days of army coup, nuclear test and other important days including sovereign South Asia such as on the occasion of Bhagat Singh anniversary and finally publication of peace posters in national languages.

4. New Work-Plan

Based on the issues raised among the members of the group during AGM, the meeting prepared a new work-plan to be carried out within July 08- June 09 (Table 1, Annex). Some of the activities of the work-plan have been similar to that of the previous year.

5. Peace, Justice and Demilitarisation Group and People's SAARC 2008

The South Asian Peoples' Assembly convened in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 18-20 July 2008 remained a historic conference of the people of South Asia. Organised by the civil societies of South Asia, people from different corners of South Asia including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka came up with a declaration. Popularly, known as the Peoples' SAARC, peasants, trade union activists, human rights defenders, feminists, academics, politicians and other sectors of the people of South Asia have participated in the assembly. Experts on different issues including Prof. Babu Mathew, Prof. Kamal Chenoy, Kuldip Nair, and.... delivered concerns of the peoples of South Asia on different thematic as well as sectoral issues.



Cultural shows, particularly exposing the beauties of different corners of Sri Lanka and parallel workshops inside the heart of Colombo Park were some of the attractions of the Assembly. People of different corners of South Asia raised the obstacles, oppressions and suppressions being faced due to the visa regime as imposed by the states of South Asia and the trouble of the people facing from the past several decades on ground of national security ideology. Activists from SAPPE have actively participated in the assembly by raising concerns of the South Asian people regarding the issues of food sovereignty, peace, justice, demilitarisation, security issues, Nuclear free south Asia, Democracy and governance, nation state and challenges, refugees/IDPs, caste discrimination and social exclusion, women and political participation, culture in the age of globalisation, health as a basic need, and labour rights.

6. Workshop on National Security, Ideology, Policies and Practices

Human Rights Alliance is the focal organisation for Peace, Justice and Demilitarisation, one of the thematic groups of SAAPE. On the occasion of the People's SAARC 2008, the group organised a workshop on *National Security, Ideology, Policies and Practices* in collaboration with Focus On The Global South, India, Peace Mumbai, and Sangat. Renowned activists and academics presented highlighted issues concerning increasing militarisation in South Asia. Some papers were also distributed on the related issues. The paper presenters and key note speakers highlighted mainly the security issues in connection with South Asia by giving examples how the marginalised sector people are being affected from this. Among the speakers were Dr Mathura Prasad Shrestha, Prof. Kamal Chenoy and Kamala Vasin.

Delivering key note speech, Dr Mathura Prasad Shrestha, also Advisor of Human Rights Alliance said in spite of decades of development programs, the people of SAARC in

general remain largely deprived of a fair or even just share. He argued the gaps within and between peoples and cultures are rising alarmingly. What are the ways out? I propose to examine the some interrelated issues - democracy, peace, development, role of UN systems and international cooperation critically.

Highlighting the civil society perspective, Dr Shrestha elucidated that conflict is understood differently by different persons. Each individual tends to perceive a conflict differently at different times, depending upon their mood, situation and condition. Understanding of conflict moreover shapes an individual's decision and behaviour. Thus frequent dialogues and interactions on conflict are necessary to bring a more or less common and collective understanding of a conflict, its origin, root causes, historical trends, temporal development, existing and long-term impacts, and future perspectives to facilitate conflict transformations.



Dr Shrestha further claimed that conflicts and contradictions are inherent in any place, condition, society, group and time. The so-called times of peace or conflict are relative to a dynamic equilibrium determined by an ever-changing scenario in these. Hence, the logic of addressing or solving a conflict, face to face, with dialogue and communication of understandings! A conflict can't be eliminated by force or wishful thinking. Peace, rather than confrontation or violence, is preferred by all, even by those engaged as parties to the conflict.



Addressing the situation, Dr Shrestha said many believe that peace is a precondition to sense of security, development, happiness and well-being. But inert or dead peace out of fear psychosis or forced conditions is no less injurious to people and society. *Forced peace* breeds fatalism, individual or social inertia, general discontent and even crisis. People tend to loose interest in their political and social responsibilities. The clever and powerful persons quickly occupy the resulting void. Such peace is detrimental to individual or social progress and development. Such peace provides better spaces and

opportunity only to those who rule, who exploit and who are socially better placed to divert resources at the expense of the majority, which is forced to become poorer and displaced. The inertia forces people to submit as more or less willing slaves of the ruling or exploiting classes. The cult of male dominance and other socio-cultural anomalies are the result of



such inert peace. Inert peace ultimately breeds more violent forms of conflict. On the other hand, conflict, especially the armed conflict, is viewed as disrupting all benefits of peace and development. There may be too much loss of life, property, and physical, social and cultural infrastructure. As the conflict grows, peace recedes farther and further away from the lives and hopes of people in conflict. The losses may be too painful to measure. However, a suppressed conflict is not synonymous to a resolved conflict. If root causes are not addressed, they will be reborn in complicated and violent reincarnations that are rarely predictable and usually far wider in their destructive power and impact. Peace requires not simply ending conflict but confronting it as thoroughly as possible, particularly the conflict that underlies the ruling class's conception of peace. Aspect-blindness and inflexibility are deep rooted among the parties in conflict.

To Dr Shrestha, conflict, if properly perceived and managed, brings about much needed revolution or transformation in political, social, economic, cultural and mental interfaces of peoples. These changes facilitate overall well being of a nation and its peoples, especially the poor, deprived, socially excluded, women and disabled. It gives fresh impetus to develop and progress, as most of the edifices generating inertia and inaction will be demolished. People will have opportunity to understand their failures and to think and react afresh as better informed and empowered persons.

generating inertia and inaction will be demolished. People will have opportunity to understand their failures and to think and react afresh as better informed and empowered persons.



Citing Nepal's experience, Dr Shrestha stressed that Nepal's experiment with peace might appear tortuous and tiring on the surface. The people in all spheres, ages,

geographic areas and cultures are actively and openly engaged in public debates and continue to participate in sociopolitical transformations. The transition period is often painful for many. But people of Nepal are confident in what they themselves are constructing with hope and belief that this is their time, won after optimal sacrifices. They are also confident in neutralizing any possible ploys coming from internal and external reactions.

Mr Padma Prasad Khatiwada raised the issues of *peace process in Nepal and the challenges of arms management*. Highlighting the challenges of the management of the two sides arms in Nepal, Mr Khatiwada said, 'The out-ward political charm can be really charming but inside many dangerous signs can be seen and this is all based on the free use of weapons. The pride and the mind-set grooming over the emerging political forces in Nepal that everything can be obtained through 'weapons' is the most dangerous for Nepal's sovereignty. Use of arms and ammunition has been the fashion in Nepal to make a political bargain despite the fact that legally no individual is allowed to carry weapon. The main base for the existence and intervention of the regional forces is the weapon. And this has a great challenge fore country's sovereignty. Violations of commitments/agreements of the political decisions in Nepal are common. Impunity has been the main culture. Non-accountability to the civilians has been the fashion. It seems that Nepal is a house of glass and can be shattered into pieces one day.' Mr. Khatiwada's Paper is annexed herewith.

7. Correspondence, Regular Communications and Membership

The regular communications among group members are continuing. issues of common concern regarding the theme (that is peace, justice and military sectors) are mainly the subject matters of these correspondences. Contact with the like-minded organisations throughout South Asia is being made and this year it has been targeted to establish the network in Afghanistan, Bhutan and Maldives.

Annex 1: New work-plan and budget (July 2008 –June 2009)

Table 1: Work-plan of Peace, Justice and Demilitarisation Group, SAAPE (for the year July 08-June 09)

SN	Activity	Implementation guideline	Time frame (tentative)
1.	<p>Continue campaign activities relating to peace, justice and demilitarisation in South Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish peace poster in national languages • Days celebration (depending upon the country context) • Sovereign South Asia • One video documentary on peace issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These campaign activities need to promote the people to people contact within the region. They will be organised by coordination with like minded organisations to pressurise the government on issues relating to peace, justice and demilitarisation. • The thematic focal organisation will design, draft and publish the posters in consultation with the country focal points. • The group members will get and disseminate these posters on the occasions of national day, workshops, seminar, interaction and other occasions • The group members will organise rally, talk programme and other forms of campaign activities on the occasion of national day, Human Rights day, nuclear test days and others and launch discussion, public hearing or other any forms of activities so as to remind or aware the concerned people for the solidarity on peace movement/process, reducing budget in the security sector and shifting to the human needs, and so on. • Such as Bhagat Singh anniversary, Gandhi day, and others • The Focal Organisation will coordinate among the group members/focal points and finalises the issues to disseminate the issues through documentary. 	Continue throughout the year
2.	Exposure visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority to be given for the marginalised border area people • This initiative needs to highlight the bilateral issues at least between two countries 	December/January
3.	Conduct at least one workshop on peace, justice and demilitarisation issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focal points can raise the issues of peace, justice and militarisation issues that needs to highlight for the regional level outputs • Cross-border peace can be another issue of the workshop 	February/March
4.	Regional position paper	<p>A leaflet will be drafted by the focal organisation and circulate among the group members for the comment and finalisation. The leaflet will contain information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAAPE stance on peace, justice and demilitarisation • Overall scenario of the countries on peace, justice and military sector 	End of November

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues of peace process and demilitarisation • issues for reducing the military sector budget and invest it on the social sector <p>The leaflet needs to be drafted based on the country position paper. The leaflet will be published in English first and then in national languages of the group members too depending upon the feasibility.</p>	
5.	Country position paper	Some country position papers have already been drafted/prepared. The focal organisation will inform the group members about the present status of these papers and coordinates for finalising them on time.	End of September
6.	a book including success stories of the Group Activities under SAAPE project	The focal organisations will prepare the dummy of the publication materials and circulate among the group members for discussion. Taking inputs and suggestions from them, a book will be published in close consultation with the SAAPE secretariat.	April/May
7.	Membership update	The focal organisation will revisit the status of membership among the SAAPE network under Peace, Justice and Demilitarisation Thematic Group and update it.	Continue throughout the year

Table 2: Proposed budget of Peace, Justice and Demilitarisation Group (for the year July 2008 – June 2009)

SN	Activities	Budget (Euro)		Remarks
		Through SAAPE Secretariat	Through Internal Source of responsible organisation (s)/groups	
1.	Continue campaign activities relating to peace, justice and demilitarisation in South Asia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish peace poster in national languages • Days celebration (depending upon the country context) • Sovereign South Asia • One video documentary on peace issues 	10,000	5,000	
2.	Exposure visits	5,000	5,000	
3.	Conduct at least one workshop on peace, justice and demilitarisation issues	20,000	5,000	
4.	Regional position paper	1,000	1,000	
5.	Country position paper	5,000	3,000	
6.	Publication of SAAPE success stories on SAAPE activities	5,000	1,000	
7.	Membership update			
Total		46,000	20,000	

Table 3: Peace Justice and Demilitarisation Thematic Group (Contact List of Focal Points 2008)

SN	Name	Country	Organisation	Contact No.	Email/Web-site
1.	Ms Zakia Jowher	India	BMMA	+919899510665	zakiyajowher@actionaid.org
2.	Mr Zulfiqar Halepoto	Pakistan	Pakistan Peace Coalition (PPC)	0092 9300 8377241	jhalipoto@yahoo.com
3.	Mr Sarif Kafi Dr Rashid F Mahbub	Bangladesh	Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre (BDPC)	+880-2-9119624 Fax: +880-2-8110542 008801819246716	bdpc@agni.com Website: www.bdpc-bd.org
4.	Ms Nazli Javaid	Pakistan		0321 4298084	nazlijaved_lef@yahoo.com
5.	Hindu Singh Sooha	India		+91 941424331	hssodha@gmail.com
6.	Mr Muhammed Ramjan Memor	Pakistan		03322415575	bandarsangat@yahoo.com
7.	Mr Adam Malik	Pakistan		+923009210413	adam.malik@actionaid.org
8.	Mr Khalid Mahmood Mr Nasir Aziz	Pakistan	Labour Education Foundation	0092 42 6303808, Fax: 0092 42 6271149 Mobile: 0092 321 9402322 +92300 3587211	khalid@lef.org.pk nasirazz@yahoo.com
9.	Mr Farooq Ahmed	Pakistan	Peasant Committee	+92346 9329518	comradepk69@yahoo.com
10.	Mr Sayed Ihsanullah Dileri	Afghanistan	Sanayee Development Organisation (SDO)	+93 (0) 202201693	ihsan_dileri@yahoo.com sdfkabal@ceretechns.com
11.	Mr/Ms	Sri Lanka			
12.	Mr Mohan Tamang (Contact person)	Bhutan			
13.	Mr Padma P Khatiwada (Coordinator/Communication Officer)	Nepal	Human Rights Alliance	+977 9841240101	alliance.nepal@vianet.com.np ; kpadma@enet.com.np ; padmapd70@gmail.com

Annex 2: Paper Presented During People's SAARC 2008 on Behalf of Peace, Justice and Demilitarisation Group

PEACE PROCESS IN NEPAL: CHALLENGES OF ARMS MANAGEMENT

Padma Prasad Khatiwada¹

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Consequent to the agreement reached between the then seven party alliance (SPA) and Communist Party of Nepal, Maoist (CPN - Maoist) on 12-point agenda, Nepal's peace process has got 'marvellous' achievements. The Maoist, committed to peace by signing on different peace accords including the 22-point comprehensive peace accord, have progressed a lot by standing first position in the recently held historic election for the Constituent Assembly (CA). Possibly, hardly any rebellion force in the world has got such a huge success after joining the peace process. The government and other political parties too have shown commitment to accommodate various agenda of the Maoist in restructuring Nepal. As a result, the historic election for the CA has been made possible. Unlike the previous people's representatives in Nepal, for the first time most inclusive type of representatives in terms of sex, caste/ethnicity, region, religion and class of people have been elected as the members of the CA. To quote some of them, for the first time in the history of Nepal and possibly in whole south Asia, almost 33 percent (197 out of 601 seats) women have been elected in the historic CA election. Previously, not more than five-six parties' representation could be seen in the then House of Representatives and now there are 25 parties representing in the CA. The composition of the election result corresponds almost with the composition of the population of Nepal in terms of caste/ethnic or regional identity (Annex Table 1).

Nepal once blamed as 'turning a failed state', thus, has revived itself to prosperity; many want to take it as a 'miracle' too. However, this is not the miracle but the reality made possible due to the will power of the people themselves. The authoritarian regime of the king and his followers had to surrender before the 19 day long consecutive protests of the people throughout the country in 2006, popularly known as People's movement II. Getting an overwhelming support of the people, the parties became stronger and strengthened and thus they could be able to hold the election for the CA, main objective was to make it inclusive so as to draft and make the new constitution including voices and visions of all sector people. This prospect has been further intensified by the declaration of Nepal, *the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal* by the unanimous decision of the first meeting of the CA held on 28 May 2008.

Many changes can be visibly observed in Nepal due to this historic incident. Discourse on federal structure is in the rife; so are restructuring new Nepal and revolution in economic and social sectors. The major political parties on the eve of forming new government as a mandate of the Nepali people through CA election are highlighting the need of 'economic revolution' after the long past struggle for the civil and political rights. 'Sustainable economic development' has been the common slogan of the major political parties mandated from the people's vote and this has been repeatedly referred to as 'the peace model'. This means, however, not the fact that there is no need of monitoring the situation of civil and political rights. Still there is a need of monitoring the day to day security situation of the liquidated situation contributed by the long past transition,

¹ Executive Director, Human Rights Alliance, Kathmandu, Nepal; Communication Officer, Peace, Justice and Demilitarisation Regional Thematic Group, South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)

first in the socio-economic and demographic sector and then in political sector as the root cause of the former.

CIVIL SOCIETY STANCE

Civil society in a country's political, economic and social sectors is best compared with a musician of a popular song which is sung by the singer but the whole tune is composed by the musician. A similar role of a civil society can be found and this has been best practised in the context of Nepal. Had civil society not vibrantly protested over the political actions of the authoritarian regime, the people's government in Nepal would have hardly been dreamed. Nepal's civil society played a bridge-role to bring both of the conflicting parties – the SPA and the Maoist into a same forum and this resulted in a 12 point agreement, a historic ramification. This role is still vibrant. The state including parties and government are compelled to give high priority to civil society voice because people's trust is on the civil society. However, there are differences in many matters relating to political, social and economic issues between the state and the civil society. The bridge role played by the civil society in the past for the peace process has now been shifted to between the people and the state. The state is now composed of political parties and the skeleton of the authoritarian regime has been collapsed, no matter some fossils are still left, which can be burnt by the people if needed in the future too.

This shifting role of the civil society in Nepal has vibrantly demanded the need of advocacy and lobbying to ensure both national security and human security based on economic, social and cultural rights. Monitoring of the security situation from the local to the national level on the one hand contributes to update the CA members, security personnel, political parties and other stakeholders about the day to day situation of the security in the country. On the other hand, this will ultimately help the people of any part in Nepal feel secure due to the effect of the advocacy and lobbying with the concerned security officials, political parties and other stakeholders. This will also contribute to the management of the arms and ammunitions of the CPN (Maoist) currently placed at cantonments as well as their integration with the Nepali army.

This changed context of the political scenario has welcomed two major areas of monitoring the day to day situation of human rights in Nepal: overall security situation; and economic and social situation (focused to food security).

CHALLENGES OF ARMS MANAGEMENT

The CPN Maoist arms and the armed forces are in the cantonments; so are of the Nepali Army too². Issue of arms management and reformation of the army structure has been raised time and again by the Nepali political actors in their own versions. The CPN Maoist wants that their militia needs to be welcomed by the state in the Nepali army; they want their inclusion and effective participation in the national army. The national army sector which has a long past legacy of the then kingship in Nepal does not seem to be positive to this version of the Maoist. The leadership of the army has reiterated its voice, 'The composition of Nepali army should not have any political colour.' The major political parties like NC and CPN (UML) are of the opinion that the Maoist militia needs to be mobilised for the development sector activities.

The emergence of the regional forces in the Tarai and some parts of the hill areas of Nepal has been another main challenge, because they are also being equipped with small arms as if they have learnt a lot from the Maoist. Regional forces like MPF, TMDP, NSP and some Mangol organisations have the demand that their inclusion in the national army must be ensured and for this they want a 'group entry' based on the proportional representation system in the Nepali army.

² According to the peace accord, an equal number of the weapons of the Nepali army are put in the cantonment and this has been done under the monitoring system of UNMIN.

The out-ward political charm can be really charming but inside many dangerous signs can be seen and this is all based on the free use of weapons. The pride and the mind-set grooming over the emerging political forces in Nepal that everything can be obtained through ‘weapons’ is the most dangerous for Nepal’s sovereignty. Use of arms and ammunition has been the fashion in Nepal to make a political bargain despite the fact that legally no individual is allowed to carry weapon. The main base for the existence and intervention of the regional forces is the weapon. And this has a great challenge fore country’s sovereignty. Violations of commitments/agreements of the political decisions in Nepal are common. Impunity has been the main culture. Non-accountability to the civilians has been the fashion. It seems that Nepal is a house of glass and can be shattered into pieces one day.

ANNEX

Table 1: Composition of election result by caste/ethnic or regional identity (Total seats 335)

SN	Party	Caste/ethnicity or regional identity									
		Madheshi		Janjati		Dalit		Marginalised sector		Other	
	Parties	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1.	CPN (Maoist)	17	16	18	20	6	7	2	2	16	14
2.	Nepali Congress	10	11	13	14	5	4	1	1	12	12
3.	CPN (UML)	10	11	12	12	4	5	1	1	11	10
4.	MPF	11	10	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	1
5.	TMDP	4	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
6.	RPP	2	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	2
7.	CPN (ML)	1	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	1
8.	SP	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	PFN	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
10.	CPN (United)	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
11.	RPP N	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
12.	NPF	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
13.	RJP	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
14.	NWPP	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
15.	FDNF	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	NSP	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	RJP	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	NJD	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	CPN (Unified)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
20.	DJP	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
21.	NNP	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	SPPN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
23.	CREP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
24.	NDSP	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	NFP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
26.	Total	59	65	56	59	21	19	4	6	46	49

Note: Total No. may exceed 335 due to multiple posting for the same person into different categories (groups).

Source: Election Commission of Nepal, 2008

Table 2: Composition of election result by sex (total seats 601)

SN	Party	Proportional System		FPTP		Nominated		Total	
	Parties	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1.	CPN (Maoist)	50	50	96	24	7	2	154	75
2.	Nepali Congress	37	36	35	2	3	2	75	40
3.	CPN (UML)	35	35	32	1	3	2	70	38
4.	MPF	11	11	28	2	2	0	41	13
5.	TMDP	6	5	8	1	1	0	15	6
6.	RPP	4	4	4	0	0	0	8	4
7.	CPN (ML)	4	4	2	0	1	0	7	4
8.	SP	3	2	2	0	0	0	5	2
9.	PFN	3	2	1	0	1	0	5	2
10.	CPN (United)	3	2	0	0	0	0	3	2
11.	RPP N	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
12.	NPF	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1
13.	RJP	2	1	0	0	1	0	3	1
14.	NWPP	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
15.	FDNF	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
16.	NSP	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	1
17.	RJP	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
18.	NJD	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
19.	CPN (Unified)	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
20.	DJP	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
21.	NNP	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
22.	SPPN	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
23.	CREP	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
24.	NDSP	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
25.	NFP	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
26.	Independent	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
	Total	174	161	211	30	20	6	404	197

Source: Election Commission of Nepal, 2008

LIST OF ABBREVIATION

CPN (Maoist)	Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)	FDNF	Federal Democratic National Front
CPN (UML)	Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist and Leninist)	NSP	Nepal Sadbhawana Party (Aanadadevi)
MPF	Madheshi People's Forum	RJP	Rastriya Janamukti Party
TMDP	Tarai Madhesh Democratic Party	NJD	Nepali Janata Dal
RPP	Rastriya Prajatantra Party	CPN (Unified)	Communist Party of Nepal (Unified)
CPN (ML)	Communist Party of Nepal (Marxist and Leninist)	DJP	Dalit Janajati Party
SP	Sadbhawana Party	NNP	Nepa National Party
PFN	People's Front Nepal	SPPN	Samajbadi Pra. Janata Party, Nepal
CPN (United)	Communist Party of Nepal (United)	CREP	Churebhawar Rastriya Ekata Party
RPP N	Rastriya Prajatantra Party (Nepal)	NDSP	Nepal Democratic Socialist Party
NPF	National People's Front	NFP	Nepal Family Party
RJP	Rastriya Janashakti Party	FPTP	First Past- The- Post
NWPP	Nepal Workers' and Peasants' Party	UNMIN	United Nations Mission in Nepal

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