

NADF Seminar 2002

Report

Topic: Role of Political Parties and Civil Society in State of Emergency and Present Situation of Nepal
Held on: 23rd of February, 2002.
Venue: Hurstville Civic Theatre, Sydney ASTRALIA.
Organised by: Nepalese Australian Democratic Forum (NADF).
Speakers:

[Hon Justice Mr. John Dowd](#)

[Mr. David Bitel](#)

[Mr. David Raper](#)

[Ms Vivian Kondos](#)

[Ms. Geesche Jacobson](#)

[Mr Satish Koirala](#)

Understanding of the present situation of Nepal & Recommendations made by the guest speakers for Immediate Implementation:

Recommendations to the Government:

1. Field based facts should be studied and database should be prepared about the effect of State of Emergency over civil society.
2. Emergency should be ended and good governance should be provided to the civil society.
3. An authorized and powerful mechanism should be formed nation wide to hear complains of people being suffered during the State of Emergency. Public representatives & human rights activists should also be nominated in the body.
4. Media and human rights community should be allowed to work free and fairly.
5. Human rights activists and media people should be permitted to go to study and find the facts about the effect of the state of emergency in civil society.
6. Security forces should be alerted to make as much as less human destruction. Killing of unarmed civilians must be stopped immediately; those involved in "civilian killing" must be prosecuted, and impunity should be immediately ended.
7. Recalling the fact that "Peace Talk" is the only solution to end this human

misery and destruction, it is recommended to immediately reinstate peace talks in mediation of human rights community.

8. Human rights activists and media should be given access to meet those imprisoned during the State of Emergency.
9. Government should win the hearts of people by planning and implementing package programmes that can address the existing socio-economic problems, corruption and political crisis.
10. Encourage NGOs in the country to work for the benefit of the grass root people to uplift their socio-economic level in the society.
11. Make sincere efforts and immediate steps to decrease corruption in the country.

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Recommendations to Human Rights and Media Community:

1. Recalling the urgency of studying the impact of State of Emergency over civil society, human rights activists and media people should immediately proceed to the field.
2. A high-profile committee of human rights activists and media people should be immediately formed to monitor the impact of State of Emergency over civil society.
3. Human rights community should re-initiate for mediation for peace talks and media people should highlight the issues.
4. The organizations working in favour of human rights in civil society should conduct awareness campaigns about the State of Emergency among their target population.
5. Media community should play a vital and responsible role with honesty and a sense of responsibility in making the civil society aware of what is happening.

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Recommendations to political parties:

1. Make the people aware of what is happening in the country with sincerity and a sense of responsibility.
2. Play a vital and sincere role in bringing the government and Maoists under the process of peace talks to solve the problem.
3. Make peaceful protest for the current problems and killing of each other in the country.
4. Make sincere efforts to decrease corruption in the country.
5. Demonstrate the sense and benefits of true democracy to the civil society.
6. Demonstrate how people can have freedom of choice in democracy.
7. Promote the environment where honest and true representatives can win elections rather than promoting unfair competition during the elections.
- 8.** Demonstrate your more sense of responsibility towards the civil society rather than you own interests and benefits.

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Recommendations to NGOs:

1. Demonstrate by making effective and sincere efforts on how people should live, work and educate in a civil society.
2. Plan and implement effective programmes to educate people on how they could live a better life.
- 3.** Demonstrate what a civil society is and how we can change or develop our society in a peaceful manner.

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Guest Speakers



Chief Guest:

Hon Justice John Dowd of Supreme Court of NSW (President of International Commissions of Jurists (ICJ), Former Attorney General of NSW, Australia)

Views and comments in brief:

1. Army and emergency is the most dangerous weapon of the government.
2. Army and emergency is the most elements to civil society.
3. Emergency does not work and martial law inflicts the society.
4. Nepal's remoteness is also a big problem.
5. Nepal's problems were immense even prior to the Maoists insurgency.
6. Urged that Nepali Community in overseas to form cohesive network, lobby and send messages back to the government in Nepal that the Marshall law play with the hand of communists.
7. Same situation may occur as in Philippines.
8. Government should have plans to distribute resources to remote parts of the country.
9. NGOs should demonstrate how we should work and be sincere about developing the country.

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Guest Speaker:

Solicitor Mr. David Bitel: Secretary General of International Commissions of Jurists (ICJ), President of Refugee Council of Australia

Views and comments in brief:

1. The role of military in civil society is unacceptable.
2. There is a serious issue of corruption in Nepal.
3. Nepal should become members of international organizations for international supports to solve the problems.
4. Nepal can even become the member of Commonwealth country even if it is never invaded by British, however it still has a long and old relationship with Britain.
5. Nepal is facing refugee crisis but now there is concern that Nepalese people will become refugees to flee the situation in the country.
6. Unless the underprivileged can truly feel that they are also part of society, the underlying crisis will not go away.
7. The role of legal profession is also vital in state of emergency.
8. The role of NGOs is also vital in state of emergency.
9. It is possible that Australia can use the NGOs in Australia to contribute in Nepal's present crisis.

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Guest Speaker:

Mr. David Raper the president of Amnesty International of NSW, Australia

Views and comments in brief:

1. Maoist' killing is not a civil society.
2. There must be a trust between people and society.

3. Government is violating human rights in the name of security.
4. Maoists have no regards to human rights.
5. Government is undermining the rights of people.
6. Government should be responsible and sincere while maintaining civil society.
7. There is no security without human rights.
8. Amnesty International says there must be a duty of state to protect human rights.
9. Ineffective actions will be limiting human rights.
10. The actions of government undermine civil rights, security and human rights.
11. Maoists are not supposed to train children under 18 years of age for using weapons.
12. Government's action will undermine the trust that is needed for a civil society.

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Guest Speaker:

Dr. Vivienne Kondos Anthropologist and former senior lecturer of Sydney University

Views and comments in brief:

1. Government is pre-occupied with internal conflict and did not provide proper security to affected areas.
2. Politicians were negligent.
3. Government failed in providing good governance and security to civil society.

4. Under privileged people are supporting Maoists.
5. State of emergency suspense fundamental rights of civil society.
6. Rose a question "Why was there an attack just before the extension of emergency.
7. Nepal has become a sandwich of the neighbouring countries like pumpkin between two stones.
8. Failure of elected government could be the reason of popularity of Maoists.
9. Maoists have well planned strategies and their men are well trained.
10. There is a failure of state of emergency.
11. Government and political parties are preoccupied with their internal conflicts and benefits and they ignored Nepal's national goal.
12. Also raised a question government failed how come the Maoists are so successful.
13. Certain sector of population is sympathetic to the Maoists because of general discontent with the government.
- 14.** The key to the problem is to remove the reasons why the Maoists appeal to the people to deliver the promises made after the revolution.

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Guest Speaker:

Ms. Geesche Jacobson

Views and comments in brief:

1. There are restrictions on journalists and a few of them have also been arrested.
2. Working conditions for Journalists difficult.

3. People do not trust media reports.
4. Government should not arrest journalists.



Guest Speaker:

Mr. Satish Koirala on behalf of Nepalese people living in Australia, worked for several years as freelance print journalists and electronic media journalist in Nepal.

Views and comments in brief:

1. There is a great disturbance in the Travel and Tourism industry of the country.
2. Economy has been destroyed.
3. Present government needs utmost support from all political parties.
4. Government should try and win the heart of people by offering good governance and package programmes that can address the socio-economic problems and corruption in the country.
5. Demand of republic state is not possible under the current constitution.

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