



e-Newsletter of NNDSWO



6 JUNE, 2009

special issue on: UNTOUCHABILITY FREE NATION DECLARATION DAY 21 JESTHA

MEMORANDUM HANDED OVER TO PRIME MINISTER

On 4th June (21 Jestha), in the leadership of Bhakta Bishwakarma, the National President of Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organisation (NNDSWO), a delegation of Dalit civil society leaders, CA members representing Dalit community and representatives of Dalit sister organizations of different political parties met with RT. HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER MADHAV KUMAR NEPAL at 7.45 am in the residence of Prime Minister at Baluwatar and handover a memorandum with 11 point demands.



BRIEF OF WEEK-LONG CAMPAIGN

Jestha 14 (28 May, 2009) Planning Meeting:

As per the decision of SMT of marking 21st Jestha, the untouchability free nation declaration day, a meeting was organized at central office Bakhundole by inviting NNDSWO's Kavre, Bhaktapur and Kathmandu district chapter representatives. The meeting planned a week-long campaign and assigned responsibilities.

Jestha 15 (29 May, 2009):

Inform to the Dalit organizations and community, stakeholders, and wider society about the campaign through electronic Media (F.M. Radios)

Jestha 16 (30 May, 2009):

Banners, Play Cards and Flyers design and printing and distribution

Jestha 19 (2 June, 2009):

Coordination meeting with Dalit Civil Society Organizations for developing Memorandum to be submitted to Prime Minister on 21st Jestha

Jestha 20 (3 June, 2009):

- Organize thematic workshop on "Three years of Untouchability Free nation declaration: Situation of Implementation and Strategic Needs".
- Press meet

Jestha 21 (4 June, 2009):

- Submit a Memorandum to the Prime Minister
- Peace Rally and Mass Meeting (Disseminating Appeals)

11 Points Demands Submitted to Prime Minister:

1. Untouchability and caste-based discrimination are grave violation of human rights; and it is inhuman social crime. Justice to the victims must be ensured and perpetrators must be punished.
2. Immediately formulate and enforce special act for the elimination of untouchability and caste-discrimination from the society.
3. Strongly implement all the existing laws, policies, declarations and international human rights instruments.
4. Untouchability and caste-based discrimination should completely be prohibited and made punishable at both public as well as private spheres; and the National Dalit Commission should be made constitutional for the effective monitoring of the violation of rights of Dalits.
5. Start implementation of a special package programme from the coming fiscal year (2009/10) in order to fully realise 'untouchability free nation declaration' establishing a monitoring mechanism with full authority and compulsory participation of the Dalits from central to local level.
6. Ensure Dalit women's participation and representation in education, health, and employment for the complete liberation and overall development of Dalit women who are facing multiple-discrimination; and take immediate action to end malpractices of the society including Chhaupadi, dowry system and witchcraft.
7. Design and implement a special package program for addressing rampant poverty, illiteracy, landlessness of Madhesi/Terai Dalit community, and while addressing the Madhesi issues priority should be given to Madhesi/Terai Dalits.
8. A package programme should immediately be implemented for the sustainable rehabilitation of freed Haliyas and immediate action should be taken to end the feudal system and practices against Dalits like Balighare, Doli, Khali, Haruwa, Charuwa including other.
9. Ensure at least 20 percent participation/representation of Dalits at all the level, mechanism and sector (from policy and decision making level, political appointments and to implementation level) of state constitutionally.
10. Provision of free education with scholarship upto higher education (Private, government and technical education) should be made for Dalit and employment should be guaranteed to them.
11. Formulate a master plan with a clear roadmap and declare Dalit Development Decade in order to address the problems of poverty, landlessness and unemployment including among other for the overall development of Dalit community.

21st JESTHA MARKED WITH HISTORIC MASS RALLY AND MASS-MEETING IN KATHMANDU

Mass Rally

In coordination of Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization (NNDSWO), 19 Dalit Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) organized a historic mass rally and mass meeting in Kathmandu on 4th June (2009). This was organized to mark 21st Jestha, the third 'untouchability free nation declaration day'. The parliament reinstated by the power of people had declared Nepal as the 'untouchability free nation' three years ago (on 4 June 2006).

The rally started from Khulamanch with Naumati Baja and moved to Ratnapark, Bagbazar, Putalisadak, Exhibition Road, Bhadrakali, Sahid-Gate, New Road and then organized in a mass-meeting at Basantapur Dabali. In the rally, Dalit leaders Mr. Jitu Gautam, Central Member of CPN UML, Mr. Khadka Basyal, Honorable Member of CA- Nepali Congress, Mr. Gobind Nepali, Honorable CA member-CPN UML, Mr. Shambhu Hajara Paswan, Honorable member of CA-Nepali Congress, Ms Bimala Nepali, Honorable Member of CA-Nepali Congress, Mr. Min Bishwakarma, Senior Vice President-Nepal Dalit Sangh, Mr. Iswari Risal-Mukti Samaj Nepal, Ms Teku Nepali-Mukti Samaj Nepal, Padam Singh Bishwokarma, the former President of National Dalit Commission including others were present in the rally and mass-meeting.

In the rally there were more than 1200 people (both Dalit and non-Dalit) from NNDSWO Kavre, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur and Kathmandu, Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO), Jagaran Media Center (JMC), Lawyer Campaign Against Untouchability (LANCAU Nepal), Dalit Welfare Organization (DWO), Madhesi Dalit Development Federation (MDDF), Dalit NGO Federation (DNF), Dalit Studies and Development Centre (DSDC), Aawaj Kalakar Nepal, Dalit Human Rights Organizations (DHRO), Legal Rights Protection Society, Rural Development Center, Gandharba Art and Culture Centre, PDRC, RDN, JUP and other Dalit CSOs.

During the mass rally, implement the declaration of untouchability free nation! No Casteism, No Untouchability! Ensure pro-Dalit Constitution! Ensure Dalit rights in the New Constitution! Make



Nation Dalit Commission a Constitutional body! Ensure Dalit human rights! Ensure Dalit Rights in Federal State! Provide free education with scholarship to Dalit! Punish to the perpetrators of untouchability! Provide compensation to the victims of Untouchability and exploited!

Mass-Meeting

Addressing to the mass-meeting, Bhakta Bishwakarma, the chair of the programme, asked the government not to take 'the cautious endurance and patience of Dalits' as their weaknesses. He further expressed his grave dissatisfaction over the state's weak implementation of the laws and declarations. Relaying the information of Memorandum submitted to Prime Minister, Madhav Kumar Nepal, in the morning, he also read out the 11-point demands.

Mr. Beduram Bhusal, Leader of CPN (UML), insisted for the joint effort to abolish caste based discrimination and untouchability from the society. He further said that Dalits and non-Dalits are to be united for socio-economic change of Nepalese society. Regarding the demands put forth in the submitted memorandum to Prime Minister today that his party will initiate to implement the declaration. He further insisted that his party has been in favor of Dalit since past; remembering the then CPN (UML) Lawmakers Mr. Parshuram Neghi Gurung, said that Mr. Gurung had proposed for the declaration that is we are marking today.

Mr. Khadga Bahadur Basyal, Nepali Congress CA Member, remembered the last statement of Martyr Setu B. K. and said they will move ahead by following the way as the martyrs have directed. Expressing the bitter experiences of many declarations but not appropriate implementation, he said "not to compel the Dalits to organize the sword gathering instead of pressure meeting.

Ms Bimala Nepali, CA Member, complained to state's disinterestedness of implementing untouchability free nation even after the three years of its declaration. "Untouchability and Caste-based discrimination is not only the problem of Dalits", another CA member,



Mr. Puran Singh Dayal said. He added "not implementing this declaration means that they want to continue exploitation against Dalits, the one fourth population of state." "Girls of Badi community are still being sexually exploited but the state has not made the alternative provision", he poured anger to state and said "50 CA members are not adequate to raise issues, so civil society should create pressure against state.

Formal Chairperson Padam Singh Bishwakarma expressed the need of deliberate Dalit movement for the rights. He said that untouchability is a social evil so government should solve it with dialogue, negotiation, cooperation and mutual respect. Sr. Vice-Chairman of Nepal Dalit Sangh, Meen Bishwakarma said that Dalit community will take part with armed movement if the untouchability continues even after the restructuring Nepal. Chairperson of FEDO, Durga Sob said that the power of Dalit community should not be overlooked by the government. Though the government has made different declarations on different times but government has not been sincere while addressing the rights of Dalit women who are in multiple discrimination.

President of JMC, Rem Bishwakarma asserted for a united Dalit movement for compelling state to effectively implement laws, policies, and declarations for ensuring the rights of Dalits. "We should continue such movement continuously across the country so that we will be able to enshrine our rights in the New Constitution adequately." Artists of Aawaj Kalakar Nepal sang songs against untouchability amidst



of mass-meeting. Treasurer of MDDF, Lakhani Lal Rajak, Dalit Leader Teku Nepali of Mukti Samaj Nepal, and Moti Lal Nepali, the President of DNF Nepal also expressed their views in the programme. The programme was chaired by Bhakta Bishwakarma, National President of NNDSWO and Jeevan Pariyar, the Executive Director of LANCAU Nepal hosted the mass-meeting programme.

Thematic Conference Organised

As a part of A-Week-Long-Campaign, NNDSWO organized an interaction program entitled "Three Years of Declaration of Untouchability Free Nation: Implementation Status and Strategic Need" on 3rd June 2009 at Yak Palace, Lalitpur. The main objective of the programme was to discuss about the implementation status of the declaration, its implementation status and discuss about the

strategic needs to create pressure to the government.

Tribhuvan Chandra Wagle, a well-known journalist of Gorkhapatra national daily, who has been writing on Dalits' issues since long, presented a working paper in the programme. He highlighted the spirit of declarations; present situation of discrimination cases; steps

to be taken in future. The program was followed by video show developed by NNDSWO on the situation of Dalit especially Freed Hailys and Terai Dalits. Hari Shreepaili, CA Member; Khadga Basyal, CA Member; Ramani Ram, CA Member; Meen Bishwakarma, Sr. Vice President of Nepal Dalit Sangh; Padma Singh Bishwakarma, former President of National Dalit Commission, and representatives from the Dalit Civil society commented on the paper and gave their feedbacks and suggestion. The program was chaired by Mr. Bhakta Bishwakarma, National President of NNDSWO and was facilitated by Mr. Trilok Chand Vishwas V.K., the General Secretary. Mr. Mohan Singh Sunar, the Executive Director of NNDSWO highlighted the objectives of organizing the program. Altogether 57 persons were participated.



NEPAL NATIONAL DALIT SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANISATION (NNDSWO)

Central Office, Bakhundole, Lalitpur

P.O.Box No. 26196, Kathmandu, Ph. +977-1-5539941, Fax: +977-1-5554752

e-mail: nndswowlink.com.np, Website: www.nndswowlink.com.np