Incidents During the June 28 Elections Vote Counting Period

Analysis Update – 9

Period: June 29 – July 11, 2017 | Published: July 14, 2017

Election-related incidents declined significantly during the vote counting period that followed the June 28 elections.[1] There were 14 incidents recorded by Nepal Monitor between June 29 and July 11, as compared to 93 incidents during the campaign silence period and the election day,[2] and 89 election-related incidents recorded during the campaign period between June 12 and 25.[3]

Of the 14 incidents recorded during this period, eight involved cadres of rival political parties clashing and two were caused by unidentified groups. The four remaining incidents included: Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) cadres protesting in Damak Municipality of Jhapa against the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) for announcing the results early in their favor and changing it later; cadres of major political parties padlocking the vote counting center at Arjundhara Municipality in Jhapa after a ballot paper went missing; Nepali Congress cadres smearing black soot on their fellow cadre for his alleged betrayal of the party during the election; and police arresting Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) cadres and a cadre of a group, campaigning for independent Madhesh, led by Dr CK Raut reportedly for conducting 'anti-election activities'.

On June 15, the government postponed local elections in Province 2 until September 18. Questions remain whether the elections can happen on scheduled date as the government has not yet been able to address the demands of agitating Rashtriya Janta Party Nepal (RJPN). While RJPN registered as a party at the ECN on July 7, it reiterated that an amendment to the constitution remains a precondition for the party's participation in the elections. It would be difficult for the government to successfully hold polls in Province 2 if RJPN decides to boycott them. While security forces including the Nepal Army have been heavily deployed in Tarai districts, armed security forces do not ensure that the elections will be peaceful.[4] Successful

---

[1] Vote counting began on June 29 and completed by July 11 in all 334 local units across Provinces 1, 5 and 7 where elections were held in the second phase. Communist Party of Nepal - Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML) has emerged as the largest party with win at 151 mayoral positions, followed by Nepali Congress winning 122 mayoral positions and Communist Party of Nepal - Maoist Centre (CPN-MC) winning 38 mayors. Sanghiya Samajwadi Forum Nepal (SSFN) and Nepal Loktantrik Forum (NLF) secured fourth and fifth positions with eight and six mayoral positions respectively. RPP became sixth with winning four mayors.

[2] See Factsheet 2 for the incidents during the silence period and election day between June 26 and June 28.

[3] See Analysis Update 8 for a detailed breakdown of incidents from the campaign period leading up to the June 28 election.

[4] On May 22, the President approved deployment of Nepalese Army in Local Elections.

and peaceful elections will require continued dialogue and eventual consensus between the government and agitating parties.

Overview of incidents[5]

Incidents Involving Inter-Party Clashes

- On June 29, CPN-UML cadres clashed with CPN-MC cadres in Chabispathibhara Rural Municipality of Bajhang. Five persons including two CPN-UML cadres, two temporary policepersons, and an unaffiliated civilian were injured in the clash. Police detained nine suspects that were involved in the incident.

- On June 29, a Nepali Congress cadre attacked a CPN-UML cadre in Badhimalika Municipality of Bajura during a dispute over vote counting.

- On June 29, at least three CPN-MC cadres were injured after CPN-UML cadres threw stones at CPN-MC victory rally in Ramaroshan Rural Municipality of Achham. Two of the injured were airlifted to Nepalgunj as they sustained serious head injuries. Six persons were arrested after the incident.

- On June 30, District Superintendent of Police confirmed that Young Communist League (YCL) cadres affiliated with CPN-MC attacked Nepali Congress cadres over a vote counting dispute in Rolpa Municipality, Rolpa. At least seven Nepali Congress cadres were injured when YCL cadres threw stones at them.

- On June 30, three people were injured when CPN-UML cadres attacked a Nepali Congress victory rally at Ward-1 of Rupakot Majhuwagadhi Municipality of Khotang. Police arrested three CPN-UML cadres who were suspected of leading the attack.

- On July 1, CPN-MC and Nepali Congress cadres clashed over a vote counting dispute in Punarbas Municipality of Kanchanpur, leading to the injury of five people. Before the clash, vote counting had been stopped in the municipality after both party representatives had expressed dissatisfaction over the counting process. Police said that it had to fire five warning shots and six tear gas shells to contain the situation.

- On July 2, Nepali Congress cadres attacked a CPN-UML victory rally at Ward-5 in Ramdhuni Bhasi Municipality of Sunsari, leading to the injury of two CPN-UML cadres. Other CPN-UML cadres present in the incident said that Nepali Congress cadres attacked the rally with bamboo sticks, spears, and motorcycle helmets.

- On July 6, a Nepali Congress cadre attacked a CPN-UML cadre with a homemade weapon in Birendranagar Municipality of Surkhet over a dispute on elections. The CPN-UML cadre sustained a minor injury.

---

[5] For a complete list of incidents, see [Nepal Monitor's website](#).

Incidents involving Unidentified Groups

- On July 2, an unidentified group attacked and seriously injured a CPN-UML cadre while walking to join a CPN-UML election victory program in Aathrai Rural Municipality of Tehrathum.

- On July 8, an unidentified group beat a CPN-UML cadre for allegedly betraying his party in the local elections in Kamal Rural Municipality of Jhapa. The CPN-UML cadre was unable to recognize the attackers as they had masked their faces.
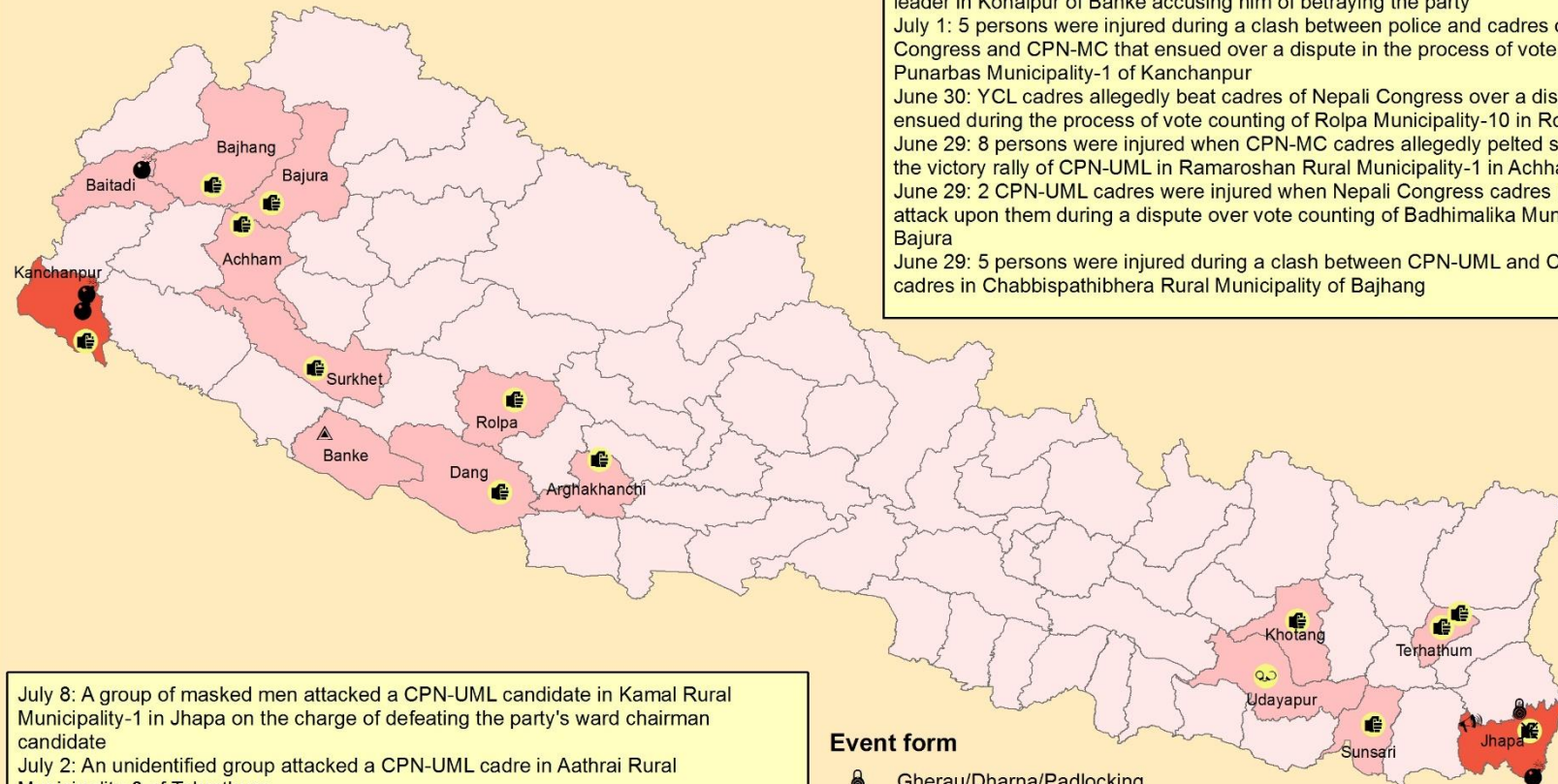
Other incidents

- On June 30, RPP staged a protest in Damak Municipality of Jhapa while accusing the Election Officer of conspiring against RPP's candidate in Ward-1 of Damak. The Election Officer had first announced RPP's candidate as winner of ward chairperson, but then later announced that the CPN-UML and RPP candidates had secured an equal number of votes.

- On June 30, police arrested six persons from various places in Jhapa for being involved in 'anti-election activities'. Five of the arrested were affiliated with CPN and the sixth person was an activist affiliated to the group campaigning for independent Madhesh and led by Dr CK Raut.

- On July 2, major political parties padlocked the vote counting center in Arjundhara Municipality of Jhapa after a ballot paper went missing.

- On July 5, a group of four Nepali Congress cadres forcefully smeared black soot on the face of a fellow cadre alleging him of betraying the party during the election in Kohalpur Municipality of Banke.

Note: Please scroll down to see the map of incidents enlisted in the report.

<center>***</center>

Election Related Incidents, June 29 - July 11, 2017

NepalMonitor.org
nepal monitor
human rights. security. nepal

July 6: Nepai Congress cadres attacked CPN-UML's youth leader in Surkhet over an issue related to local level election

July 5: 4 Nepali Congress cadres smeared black soot on the face of a party's youth leader in Kohalpur of Banke accusing him of betraying the party

July 1: 5 persons were injured during a clash between police and cadres of Nepali Congress and CPN-MC that ensued over a dispute in the process of vote counting in Punarbas Municipality-1 of Kanchanpur

June 30: YCL cadres allegedly beat cadres of Nepali Congress over a dispute that ensued during the process of vote counting of Rolpa Municipality-10 in Rolpa

June 29: 8 persons were injured when CPN-MC cadres allegedly pelted stones at the victory rally of CPN-UML in Ramaroshan Rural Municipality-1 in Achham

June 29: 2 CPN-UML cadres were injured when Nepali Congress cadres resorted to attack upon them during a dispute over vote counting of Badhimalika Municipality in Bajura

June 29: 5 persons were injured during a clash between CPN-UML and CPN-MC cadres in Chabbispathibhera Rural Municipality of Bajhang

Bajhang
Baitadi
Bajura
Achham
Kanchanpur
Surkhet
Rolpa
Banke
Dang
Arghakhanchi

Khotang
Terhathum
Udayapur
Sunsari
Jhapa

July 8: A group of masked men attacked a CPN-UML candidate in Kamal Rural Municipality-1 in Jhapa on the charge of defeating the party's ward chairman candidate

July 2: An unidentified group attacked a CPN-UML cadre in Aathrai Rural Municipality-3 of Tehrathum

July 2: 2 CPN-UML cadres were injured when a group of Nepali Congress cadres attacked CPN-UML's victory rally in Ramdhuni Municipality-5 of Sunsari

Jul 2: Cadres of Nepali Congress padlocked the vote counting center in Jhapa after a ballot paper of Arjundhara Municipality-2 was found missing

June 30: 3 persons were injured when Nepali Congress cadres resorted to attack at the victory rally of CPN-UML in Majhuwagadhi Rural Municipality-1 of Khotang

June 30: Police arrested 5 cadres of CPN and 1 cadre of Doctor CK Raut led Independent Madhes Forum on the charge of being involved in anti-election activities

Event form

🔒	Gherau/Dharna/Padlocking
📣	Demonstration
✕	Interference/Obstruction to Political activities
☠	Arrest of political cadres
△	Other forms of non-violent political protest
👊	Group Clash/Assault
💣	Remote/Symbolic violence involving IED

Total number of incidents

	0
	1 - 2
	3 - 5