On September 18, 2017, Nepal held its third and final phase of local elections. Citizens enthusiastically voted to elect representatives to the 136 local units of Bara, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Parsa, Rautahat, Saptari, Sarlahi and Siraha districts of Province 2. Voter turnout was 77 percent. Polls happened after a number of districts in Province 2 had witnessed significant flooding in the month of August.

Nepal Monitor recorded 11 election-related incidents during the election silence period and on Election Day (September 16 to 18). This was far lower than the number of incidents recorded during equivalent periods of the first and second phase of elections. 81 incidents were recorded during the first phase, and 93 incidents during the second. The lower number of incidents during the third phase silence period and on Election Day is noteworthy, as Province 2 experienced a high number of incidents during intense protests when the elections were announced. The largely peaceful environment was made possible after the Madhes-based parties agreed to take part in the elections.

This fact sheet provides an overview of election-related incidents that occurred during the campaign silence period and on Election Day, and is based on preliminary data recorded by NepalMonitor.org from 12:00 AM on September 16 until 12:00 PM on September 19. This fact sheet complements previous factsheets released after the first and second phase of Nepal’s Local Elections 2017, as well as regular Analysis Updates on election-related incidents that have been published since March 2017. It also provides a brief overview of incidents during all three phases of local elections.

Background: Nepal’s Local Elections 2017

On February 20, 2017 the Government of Nepal announced that the first local elections in nearly 20 years would be held on May 14, 2017. The announcement was met with both enthusiasm and opposition.

Many across Nepal embraced the local elections as an opportunity to finally have elected representatives in their own communities. However, many also remained unsatisfied with the terms of the new constitution and political situation. Madhesh-based parties immediately held significant protests against the decision, demanding a constitutional amendment before the elections. Due to the protests, the government decided to hold the elections in two phases, with
the second phase being rescheduled for June 28. The first phase of elections was held on May 14 across Province 3, 4, and 6.

The Madhes-based parties, especially Rastriya Janata Party Nepal (RJPN), which consists of six Madhes-based parties, continued to oppose the government’s decision after the decision to hold the elections in two phases. The RJPN organized protests, strikes and rallies against the second phase election, which was ultimately postponed in Province 2 to allow time to reach an agreement with the agitating RJPN. A third phase of polls was scheduled in Province 2 for September 18. The second phase was held on June 28 across Province 1, 5, and 7.

On August 21, the government tabled a constitutional amendment bill in parliament, fulfilling a precondition the RJPN had set to participate in the elections. Although the amendment bill failed, the RJPN announced on August 23 that it would participate in the third phase of polls. On September 6, 36,073 candidates filed for nomination for the third phase local election. A total 2,664,950 citizens were registered to vote across Province 2.

The third phase polls were held on September 18, with 76 percent of eligible voters heading to the polls despite recent flooding.

*Note: Please look below to see the pictorial representation of incidents mentioned above.*

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*Through its Nepal Peace Monitoring Project, COCAP | NepalMonitor.org gathers data on violent and non-violent contestation in Nepal. Together with the Democracy Resource Center Nepal (DRCN), COCAP has been releasing periodic analysis updates on incidents related to the local elections.*
FACTSHEET
Electoral Violence and Contestation
Local Election Nepal - Third Phase - Campaign Silence Period & Election Day, September 16 to 18, 2017

TOTAL INCIDENTS
11

VIOLENT 10
- CLASH / ATTACK 7
- EXPLOSIVE DEVICE 3

NON VIOLENT 1
- ARREST 1

DEATH 0
INJURIES 13
BUILDING DAMAGED 0
VEHICLES DAMAGED 0

*Based on NepalMonitor.org’s preliminary data by September 19 noon.

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By 12:00 PM on September 19, NepalMonitor.org recorded eleven election-related incidents, ten of them being violent, and resulting in the injury of at least 13 people. Of the eleven incidents, four involved clashes between members of political parties; three involved attacks on polling centers, election officials or security personal; and three incidents involved Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) being detonated near polling centers. The last incident involved the arrest of eleven people, including nine activists of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) led by Netra Bikram Chand for unspecified anti-election activities in Dhanusha district.
Clashes Involving Political Parties
- On September 16, cadres of Nepali Congress and Communist Party of Nepal – Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML) clashed in Nagarain Municipality-8 of Dhanusha district after a dispute arose over the election.
- On September 16, the personal security guard of a member of parliament from Nepali Congress (NC) was accused of firing a gun during a dispute with the cadres from RJPN in Balara Municipality-3, Sarlahi district. No injuries or arrests were reported.
- On September 18, cadres of Rastriya Janata Party Nepal (RJPN) and Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) clashed at Hanumannagar Kankalini Municipality-9 in Saptari district after a dispute arose during voting.
- On September 18, police fired shots in the air after cadres of the Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist Center (CPN-MC) and Federal Socialist Forum - Nepal clashed with the police over a dispute that arose when party representatives instructed voters on how to cast votes at Maulapur Municipality in Rautahat district.

Attack on Polling Center, Election Official, and Security Personnel
- On September 18, a person was injured when stones were thrown at Motipur polling center in Kaudena Rural Municipality in Sarlahi district.
- On September 18, two people were arrested at Dhangadi, Municipality-1 in Siraha district for beating a polling officer near the polling center.
- On September 18, a person was arrested for manhandling a police officer during a clash between cadres of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) and RJPN at Bardibas-10 in Mahottari district.

Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Detonation
- On September 16, a girl was injured after an IED exploded at Balara Municipality-2 in Sarlahi district near the Indian border when the victim picked up the device, thinking it was a doll. Three more devices were disposed by the army bomb disposal squad.
- On September 17, an IED detonated at Birgunj Municipality-19 in Parsa district in the morning. No further details were available.
- On September 18, an unidentified group detonated an IED in Hariaun Municipality-1 in Sarlahi district. The incident took place when ballot boxes were transported from the voting center in Bilandi Basic School to the vote counting center. None of the ballot boxes were damaged.

Anti-Election Activity and Proxy Vote Arrests
- On September 16, 11 people were arrested from different parts of Dhanusha district including nine activists of the Netra Bikram Chand led CPN for unspecified alleged anti-election activities.
- On September 18, 48 people in total were arrested from various parts of Siraha, Sarlahi and Saptari district for trying to cast proxy votes.

For an updated list of election related incidents in September, please click here
Incidents During Local Elections, Third Phase
September 16-18, 2017

Forms of violence
- 🔥 Group Clash/Attack
- ⚡ IED/Explosive Device

Number of incidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Only incidents with injuries reported are mentioned*

**Province 2**
- Sep 18: Stone hurled in Motipur polling centre
- Sep 18: Tension flares as firing goes in Rautahat, eight injured
- Sep 17: Girl injured in Sarlahi explosion
- Sep 17: Man arrested on the charge of beating polling staff in Siraha
- Sep 16: NC and UML cadres clash in Dhanusha, two injured
Electoral Violence and Contestation - Overview
Feb. 20 to Sept. 18, 2017

**Trends in Electoral Incidents since February 20, 2017**

Election-related incidents in March and April were mainly related to the Madhes-based party protests that followed the announcement of election, and the Government of Nepal's response to these protests. During May and June, there was a marked increase in election-related incidents as the first and second phase of local elections occurred. During the first phase of elections 169 incidents (133 of those violent) were recorded. During the second phase of elections 163 (128 violent) were recorded. During the most recent third phase of local elections 29 incidents (27 violent) were recorded.

Violent incidents during the first phase of local elections were mainly driven by clashes between candidates and supporters of major political parties, and to some extent the activities of CPN (Chand) trying to disrupt the elections. During the second phase of elections, there was significant increase in the use of IEDs, with 78 incidents related to IEDs being recorded. Third phase polls in Province 2 were the most peaceful in the period immediately around election day, and this is largely attributed to the Madhes-based parties agreeing to take part in the elections. However, 224 incidents were recorded in Province 2 since February 20 when local elections were first announced, making it the geographic area with the highest number of election-related incidents recorded over the full election period.
## Overview Electoral Incidents, by phase

### Incidents, by district

### Incidents, by form of Electoral Violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident Type</th>
<th>Phase 1 (May 2-14)</th>
<th>Phase 2 (June 16-28)</th>
<th>Phase 3 (Sept. 6-18)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clash/Attack</td>
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<tr>
<td>IED</td>
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<td>70</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vandalism/Arson</td>
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### Death

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### Injuries

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<tr>
<td>148</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>29</td>
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### Abduction

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### Violent incidents

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<tr>
<td>133</td>
<td>128</td>
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### Total no. of incidents

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Phase 1 (May 2-14)</th>
<th>Phase 2 (June 16-28)</th>
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<td>169</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>29</td>
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