



Incidents During the September 18 Elections Vote Counting Period

Analysis Update – 13

Period: September 19-28, 2017 | Published: October 10, 2017

There were eight election-related incidents during the third phase local-level elections counting period.¹ This is the lowest number of incidents during a counting period for all three phases of elections. 13 election-related incidents were recorded during the first phase counting period and 14 were recorded during the second phase.² At the conclusion of this counting period, the third phase elections in Province 2 had the lowest number of incidents of all three phases of local elections. Of the eight incidents that occurred during counting, five involved clashes between political parties, with one incident leading to the death of a RJPN cadre. Three incidents entailed vote counting being temporarily halted.

Overview of Incidents

Inter-Party Incidents

- On September 19, Nepali Congress cadres attacked two Communist Party of Nepal - Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML) cadres at the vote counting center in Brindaban Municipality, Rautahat. The clash occurred after Nepali Congress cadres prevented a CPN-UML Member of Parliament from entering the counting center. The counting was temporarily postponed when party representatives exited the center after the attack occurred.
- On September 20, Nepali Congress and Rashtriya Janta Party Nepal (RJPN) cadres clashed at Baluwatol of Katakariya Municipality, Rautahat, leading to the death of a RJPN cadre. The clash occurred over vote counting. Police detained the Nepali Congress cadres for further questioning.
- On September 23, CPN-UML cadres attacked a Nepali Congress victory rally in Brindaban Municipality, Rautahat, seriously injuring four Nepali Congress cadres. The attack occurred after Nepali Congress cadres started dancing in front of the residence

¹ The third phase of local level election was held on September 18 in Province 2. For election-related incidents during the silence period and on election day (September 16-18) please read the [Factsheet](#). Vote counting began in most counting centers of Province 2 on September 19, and all counting was completed by September 28. Nepali Congress emerged as the largest party in Province 2 with 40 mayoral seats, followed by Sanghiya Samajwadi Forum Nepal (SSFN) with 26 mayoral seats. Rashtriya Janta Party Nepal (RJPN) secured third position with 25 mayoral seats. Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Center) [CPN(MC)] was fourth with 21 mayoral seats. Communist Party of Nepal - Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML) was fifth with 18 mayoral seats.

² Read [Analysis Update 6](#) for election-related incidents during the first phase counting period. [Analysis Update 9](#) lists incidents during the second phase counting period.

of the defeated CPN-UML mayoral candidate. The injured Nepali Congress cadres were treated at Chandranigahapur Hospital.

- On September 23, RJPN cadres attacked the victory rally of Nepali Congress, leading to the serious injury of two Nepali Congress cadres. The attack occurred when the rally passed the defeated RJPN mayoral candidate's residence. After the incident, the local administration deployed police to the site to prevent any further clashes.
- On September 24, cadres of Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Center) [CPN(MC)] and Nepali Congress allegedly clashed with each other at Diman of Tirahut Rural Municipality, Saptari. Sources did not elaborate on the incident.

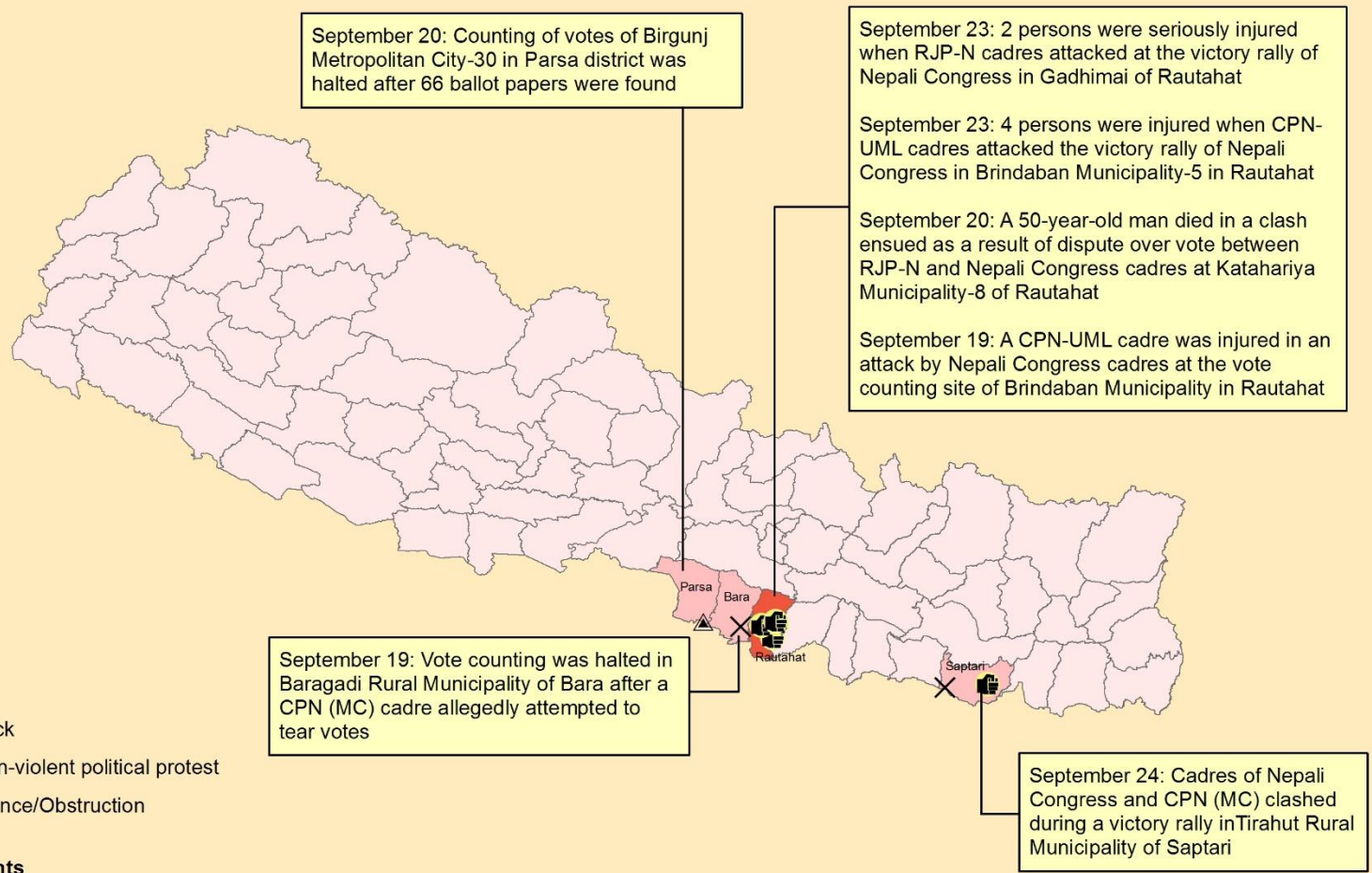
Vote Counting Postponed

- On September 19, representatives of CPN-MC stopped vote counting twice in Baragadi Rural Municipality, Bara. They were dissatisfied that ballot boxes had been opened in their absence. It was reported that the representatives attempted to shred ballot papers in the opened boxes, but that this did not happen. The counting resumed on the same day when Members of Parliament of different political parties in the district mediated between the party representatives.
- On September 21, representatives of all major political parties except CPN-UML demanded a recount in Ward 30 of Birgunj Metropolitan City in Parsa. The count was postponed after Nepali Congress representatives walked out of the counting center, demanding the recount. Problems began on September 20. Election officials initially declared victory of the Nepali Congress ward chairperson candidate by a single vote. However, the Chief Returning Officer later declared the CPN-UML candidate as the winner of the ward chairperson election after a re-count, demanded by CPN-UML Members of Parliament. The Election Commission then decided to legitimize the second result and did not accept to do another re-count as demanded by the political parties.
- On September 24, a correspondent from Janta Television said that the Chief District Officer (CDO) of Saptari snatched his camera and damaged it at Rajbiraj Municipality Office. The CDO also did not allow the journalist to cover the meeting that was being held to find a way to resume postponed vote counting. After the incident, the Federation of Nepalese Journalists released a statement condemning the incident and demanded that the authorities launch an investigation, punish the guilty, and create a safe environment for journalists to cover news.

Note: Please look below to see the map of incidents enlisted in the report.




This is the thirteenth in a series of periodic analysis updates that Democracy Resource Center Nepal (DRCN) and the Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP) | NepalMonitor.org will be releasing during the upcoming elections period. This project receives financial and technical support from The Asia Foundation and The Carter Center.

Election Related Incidents, September 19 - September 28, 2017






Legend

Event form

-  Group Clash/Attack
-  Other forms of non-violent political protest
-  Program Interference/Obstruction

Total number of Incidents

-  0
-  1 - 2
-  3 - 4