



Campaign Period Incidents Prior to First Phase Parliamentary and Provincial Elections Analysis Update – 15

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There was a substantial increase in the number of election-related incidents during the campaign period leading up to the November 26 first phase of parliamentary and provincial elections.¹ 114 election-related incidents were recorded by Nepal Monitor between October 22 and November 23 compared to six incidents between September 29 and October 21.² The increase in incidents can be attributed to the high levels of campaign activities by major political parties, unidentified groups increasing physical attacks on candidates, and security forces increasing preemptive arrests of Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) cadres to prevent potential anti-election activities.

Of the 114 election-related incidents recorded during this period: 51 incidents involved CPN; 45 incidents were related to unidentified groups and improvised explosive devices (IEDs); 10 incidents entailed inter-party disputes; four incidents involved party members' dissatisfaction on selected candidates; one incident concerned dispute between party and the local administration over selection of venue for organizing election program; one incident entailed a candidate being chased away by the villagers; and one incident involved a candidate's supporters assaulting a journalist. There was an additional incident related to residents protesting against changing the center of a newly formed rural municipality.

The number of incidents recorded during this campaign period was higher than during the campaign periods preceding all three phases of the recently concluded local elections.³ The number of incidents involving CPN seems significantly higher during this period.⁴ However, out of 51 incidents linked with CPN, their cadres carried out only nine activities aiming to disrupt the elections. In 42 incidents the CPN cadres were arrested by police reportedly on charges of conducting anti-election activities.⁵ The police appears to have started arresting the CPN cadres pre-emptively after CPN began their activities against the elections in several districts.

¹ This is the first provincial election in Nepal. The parliamentary elections are also being held after 18 years. The last parliamentary elections were held in 1999.

² See [Analysis Update 14](#) before the campaign period of first phase parliamentary and provincial elections.

³ There were 56 incidents recorded during the first phase campaign period of local level elections, 89 incidents recorded during the second phase campaign period and 11 incidents recorded during the third phase campaign period.

⁴ There were 20 incidents recorded involving CPN during the first phase of local elections and 15 incidents recorded during the second phase while no incident recorded involving CPN in third phase.

⁵ More than 300 persons allegedly involved in anti-election activities have been arrested in last three weeks. <http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2017-11-22/govt-to-file-cases-against-anti-poll-elements-in-court.html>

The number of incidents involving IEDs and unidentified groups increased significantly during this period.⁶ National leaders from major parties were targeted, however no leader was reported to have been injured from these explosions. Although there has been a significant rise in number of incidents targeting candidates, this has not affected general campaigning. Continued violence could intimidate the voters and have an impact on election day turnout.

A higher number of incidents were recorded in the districts that go to polls in the first phase on November 26. Of 114 incidents recorded in 56 districts during this period, 67 incidents occurred in 27 of the 32 districts going to polls in the first phase, whereas 47 incidents recorded in 29 of the 45 districts where elections will be held in the second phase on December 7. It is likely there will be an increase in number of incidents in the second phase districts as the election day approaches closer.⁷

Overview of Incidents⁸

Incidents Involving CPN

Activities by CPN Targeting against Elections

- On November 2, CPN claimed that the party captured the Nepali Congress provincial candidate's house at Taksar in Bhojpur Municipality of Bhojpur. The Nepali Congress candidate has contested from provincial constituency 'kha' in Bhojpur. In a press release, CPN mentioned that it had to take the action against the Nepali Congress candidate after he did not withdraw his candidacy despite numerous 'requests' from the party. The district secretary of CPN said that the party has a plan to seize houses of other candidates in Bhojpur. Meanwhile, District Police Office (DPO) refuted all claims of house being captured by CPN in the district.
- On November 5, CPN forcibly put a black flag in a Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist Center (CPN-MC) candidate's home in Salyan.
- On November 8, CPN forcibly installed a black flag at a Left Alliance provincial assembly candidate's home at Ward 5 of Atharai-Triveni Rural Municipality in Taplejung. District Secretary of CPN said that the candidate was earlier urged to withdraw his candidacy in a press release. Police removed the flag on the same day.
- On November 13, CPN called a general strike against the arrest of its cadres on their alleged 'anti-election activities' in Rolpa. The *bandh* affected businesses, schools and public transportation in the district. The district secretary's arrest was the main reason for calling the strike.

⁶ There were 10 incidents recorded involving unidentified groups and improvised explosive devices (IED) during the first phase campaign period of local level elections, 12 incidents recorded during the second phase campaign period of local level elections and eight incidents recorded during the third phase of local level elections.

⁷ The district with the highest number of incidents was Rolpa with seven incidents followed by Bhojpur, Baglung and Nuwakot with five incidents in each of them, and Rasuwa and Dhading with four incidents in each of them.

⁸For a complete list of incidents, see [Nepal Monitor's records](#).

- On November 19, the voters of Chanyanath-Rara Municipality in Mugu complained that they received threats from CPN cadres to not participate in the elections. The residents of the municipality said that the CPN cadres also destroyed the flags and posters of political parties from private houses. The Chief District Officer (CDO) acknowledged that he received information of CPN cadres threatening voters to boycott voting.

Arrest of CPN Cadres

- On November 8, police detained four CPN cadres including district secretary from Liwang Municipality in Rolpa on the charges of their 'anti-election activities'. CPN has demanded the authorities to release its cadres.
- On November 8, police arrested two CPN cadres for allegedly conducting 'anti-election activities' from Pauwabhanjyang in Panchthar.
- On November 12, police detained four CPN cadres including district secretary from Argahakhanchi for their alleged 'anti-election activities'.
- On November 11 and 12, eight CPN cadres were arrested from different places in Gorkha. Police said that the CPN cadres were arrested to avoid violent incidents in the district as bombs were exploding in several places in the country. Police further said that the arrests were made after a direct order from the Home Ministry.
- On November 12, police arrested three CPN cadres including district in-charge from different places of Pyuthan for their 'anti-election activities'.
- On November 13, police pre-emptively arrested eight CPN cadres in Taplejung. The CPN district in-charge warned that the party would take election candidates into captivity if the arrested cadres were not released immediately.
- On November 13, police pre-emptively arrested 12 CPN cadres in Pokhara-Lekhnath Metropolitan City to prevent violent incidents in the district. Police said it was looking for people who could be involved in 'anti-election activities'.
- On November 13, police arrested a district member of CPN from his home at Ward 5 of Babai Rural Municipality in Dang for being involved in 'anti-election activities'. The district chapter of CPN released a press statement on November 14 demanding the local authorities to release the district leader unconditionally.
- On November 14, police arrested a central committee member of All Nepal National Independent Student Union-Revolutionary (ANNISU-R), the student chapter of CPN from Damauli Municipality in Tanahun. Police said that this was in a series of arrests of CPN cadres involved in 'anti-election activities'.
- On November 15, police arrested three CPN cadres from Hile Bazar, Pakhribas Bazar and Thalthale Bazar in Dhankuta for carrying out 'anti-election activities'.

- On November 19, three CPN district leaders were arrested in Salyan. On the same day, the CPN district in-charge of Chitwan was arrested in Bharatpur, Chitwan. A district committee member of CPN was also detained in Nuwakot on the same day. They were all arrested on charges of being involved in ‘anti-election activities’.
- On November 19, police arrested three CPN cadres in Jhapa on charges of their involvement in activities targeted to foiling the upcoming elections.
- On November 20, police arrested the district in-charge and the district secretary of CPN on charges of putting suspicious objects at Golpark in Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City of Rupandehi. The Deputy Superintendent of Police claimed that the CPN cadres were trying to spread terror among citizens to discourage the voters to participate in elections.
- On November 20, police arrested 11 CPN cadres in Panchthar. The Inspector of Police said that the CPN cadres were arrested to prevent them from carrying out ‘anti-election activities’ as the CPN cadres had very recently increased their activities against elections in the district.
- On November 20, the CPN district in-charge of Baitadi was arrested by police. His family accused the police of detaining him without any charges while he was observing the funeral rites of his father. The CDO claimed that the in-charge was arrested on charges of conducting ‘anti-election activities’ and terrorizing civilians.
- On November 20, the District Police office of Dang informed that 20 CPN cadres had been arrested in the district in response to the November 22 general strike called by CPN in the district.
- On November 20, police arrested four CPN cadres for possessing explosive materials in Chitwan. According to police, the CPN cadres possessed five kilograms of Gelatin and wires used in making bombs.
- On November 20, police held three cadres of CPN for conducting ‘anti-election activities’ in Hariharpurgadhi Rural Municipality of Sindhuli.
- On November 20, police arrested five CPN cadres from different places of Morang on charges of operating activities against elections in the district.
- On November 20, police arrested the district in-charge and a cadre of CPN from two different locations in Nawalparasi for their alleged involvement in activities against elections.
- On November 21, three district committee members of CPN were held by police on charge of being involved in anti-election activities from different places in Kavrepalanchok.

Incidents Involving Unidentified Groups

- On November 9, an unidentified group shot a bullet aimed at the Ward Chairperson of Ward 9, Raptisonari Rural Municipality in Banke. The bullet missed the target and the Ward Chair escaped without injuries. On November 10, the chairperson handed a memorandum to the Chief District Officer to ensure safety of people in Banke. Police is investigating the incident.
- On November 10, an unidentified group exploded two IEDs aimed at the left alliance parliamentary candidate and Minister Janardan Sharma's vehicle at Ward 8 of Chaurjahari Municipality in Rukum. The incident occurred as Sharma was on his way to address an election rally. The first IED exploded after striking the vehicle and the second one did not explode. Nobody was injured in the incident.
- On November 11, police seized explosive materials used for making IEDs from Ward 11 of Panchpuri Municipality, Surkhet. Among the seized materials were detonators, gelatin and fuse wire. Police suspected that the supply could have been used for 'anti-election activities'.
- On November 11, an unidentified group ambushed former minister Barshaman Pun who was accompanied by his supporters. Mr. Pun is running in parliamentary elections from Rolpa's first parliamentary constituency from Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist Center (CPN-MC). The incident occurred in Ward 1 of Madi Rural Municipality, Rolpa, while Pun was travelling for his election campaign. Nobody was hurt by the incident though the vehicle suffered slight damage.
- On November 12, Barshaman Pun and his campaign team were attacked again by an unidentified group near Kewari Khola of Duikhola Rural Municipality in Rolpa. Four shots were fired at Pun and his supporters while they were travelling to address an election meeting. Police said that Pun and his team were safe and the election meeting was not affected.
- On November 14, Communist party of Nepal – Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML) provincial candidate Sherdhan Rai's vehicle was ambushed at Ward 7 of Tyamkemaayu Rural Municipality in Bhojpur. The vehicle used by Mr. Rai was damaged but he escaped without injuries.
- On November 14, an unidentified group detonated an IED at a Nepali Congress election campaign team at Ward 1 of Beni Municipality in Myagdi. Police said that the explosion was aimed at a parliamentary candidate. A vehicle used by the campaign team was damaged during the incident.
- On November 14, an unidentified group detonated an IED, aimed at the vehicle of a CPN-UML parliamentary candidate at Ward 2 of Sabhapokhari Rural Municipality in Sankhuwasabha. Nobody was injured in the incident, but the vehicle suffered minor damages.
- On November 18, an unidentified group detonated an IED at the vehicle of Nepali Congress leader Ram Chandra Poudel at Nepaldanda, Ward 10 of Bhanu Municipality in Tanahun. The

incident took place when Poudel's campaign team was going to a mass meeting in Lamjung. Nobody was hurt in the incident but glass windows of Poudel's vehicle were broken.

- On November 19, a bomb was found at Nwar in Badigad Rural Municipality in Baglung. Nepal Army defused the bomb after the residents of Nwar informed the police about a suspicious object. According to the Inspector of Police, the police have been looking for the culprits.
- On November 19, a bomb was exploded by an unidentified group at Damechaur in Thakre Rural Municipality of Dhading. According to the reports, the explosion was targeted to the CPN-UML parliamentary candidate contesting from constituency 1 while he was driving to attend an election campaign program. No one was injured by the explosion. On the same day, a bomb planted in the premises of District Election Office (DEO) in Dhading was defused by the Nepal Army. The District Police Office informed that they are looking for the groups involved in incidents, and the security in the district has been heightened after these incidents.
- On November 20, an IED was found near the house of a Nepali Congress candidate for parliamentary elections in Uttaragaya Rural Municipality of Rasuwa. A joint team of Nepal Army and Nepal Police disposed the IED.
- On November 20, an unidentified group torched a parked vehicle used in election campaign by CPN-UML at a bus park in Sankhuwasabha. The vehicle was badly damaged.
- On November 20, a bomb was exploded in a vehicle owned by the provincial candidate of Nepali Congress contesting from constituency 4(1). The vehicle was parked in front of the house of driver in Jitpru-Simara Sub-Metropolis of Bara. The vehicle was heavily damaged.
- On November 20, a bomb was exploded at the residence of Minister of Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation in Laligurans Chowk, Baglung. While the explosion damaged the walls of ground floor of the house, no one was reported to have been injured. The Baglung DSP said the police is investigating the incident.
- On November 20, a bomb exploded near the house of the CPN-UML provincial candidate contesting from constituency 2(1) at Ranighat in Birgunj Metropolitan City, Parsa. No one was reported to have been injured from the explosion.
- On November 21, a Nepal Army team disposed a bomb planted by an unidentified group behind the house of Minister for Forests and Soil Conservation in Bharatpur, Chitwan. The minister, a central committee member of Rashtriya Prajatantra Party Nepal (RPPN), is contesting for parliament from constituency 3 of Chitwan.
- On November 21, a bomb disposal squad of the Nepal Army defused a bomb planted by an unidentified group at Hariharpur Bazaar area in Gujara Municipality of Rautahat. It disrupted the vehicular movement for four hours in the area.
- On November 21, an unidentified group threw a bomb at a group of Nepali Congress cadres while they were walking through a forest at Yangmang in Nisikhola Rural Municipality of Baglung. According to the chairperson of rural municipality, who was among the group

campaigning for the party candidates, no one was injured from the explosion as the bomb thrown at them hit a tree and exploded down the road in a field.

- On November 22, a bomb was found at the Prithvi Highway in Gajuri Rural Municipality of Dhading. The traffic was halted for one and half hours and it was eventually defused by a Nepal Army team.

Intra-Party Dispute

- On October 25, a district leader of Rashtriya Janta Party Nepal (RJPN) started hunger strike in Rajbiraj Municipality, Saptari to protest against the party for disregarding honest cadres and not picking them as candidates in the upcoming elections.
- On November 1, CPN-UML cadres from Bhaktapur Constituency 1 in Bhaktapur padlocked the district party office to protest their party's decision to not field election candidates from their constituency. CPN-UML had officially decided to support the CPN-MC candidates in the constituency in both provincial and parliamentary elections. The cadres insisted that the party was wrong to ignore the strong support base. The district chairperson of CPN-UML dismissed the incident as an action of only a handful cadres.
- On October 31, youth leaders of CPN-UML in Saptari began a hunger strike at the district party office in Rajbiraj Municipality demanding the party to field a candidate in Constituency 1 of the district. The cadres said that it was wrong for the party to support the CPN-MC candidate in the constituency for parliamentary election despite a strong support base for CPN-UML.
- On November 2, dissatisfied Nepali Congress cadres padlocked the district party office in Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City in Banke. The cadres were discontent with the party's decision to support the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) candidate in Constituency 2 of the district for parliamentary election.

Inter-Party Dispute

- On October 22, cadres of CPN-UML and Nepali Congress clashed at Bukakhola of Ward 4 in Chhayanath-Rara Municipality, Mugu. The clash started when CPN-UML cadres attempted to stop Nepali Congress cadres who were in a procession with a musical band to nominate their election candidate in Gamgadi. Five people were injured in the clash. Nepali Congress cadres also threw stones at the CPN-UML procession in response.
- On November 5, cadres of CPN-UML and CPN-MC clashed in Mudkechula Rural Municipality of Dolpa as they were discontent with the electoral alliance between the parties. A CPN-UML cadre was seriously injured in the incident.
- On November 10, cadres of Nepali Congress and CPN-MC clashed in Sotang Rural Municipality of Solukhumbu. The clash occurred while Nepali Congress cadres were

campaigning for the election. A Nepali Congress leader said that the Maoist cadres attacked and chased them away. While, a Maoist leader said that they had to retaliate as the Nepali Congress cadres tore their posters, flags and leaflets.

- On November 15, three Nepali Congress cadres sustained injuries when CPN-UML cadres attacked them at Duragaun of Likhu Rural Municipality in Ramechhap. Police said that two people connected with the incident were arrested.
- On November 20, Nepali Congress cadres attacked left alliance cadres while returning from an election campaign program in Phikuri of Kispang Rural Municipality, Nuwakot, which left three left alliance cadres injured. Police arrested three people who were involved in the incident.
- On November 20, a group of left alliance cadres burned the election promotion materials of Nepali Congress after seizing them from a Nepali Congress cadre at Salleri in Chumsubri Rural Municipality of Gorkha. The left alliance cadres also beat and injured the Nepali Congress cadre who had carried the election materials, and his son and a relative accompanied by him. Police held 11 left alliance cadres from the location where incident took place.

Local Restructuring-related Incident

- On November 10, residents from Wards 1, 2, 3, 12 and 13 of Chedgaun Municipality in Jajarkot protested to stop a special municipal assembly to remove Manghat as the center of the municipality. The residents suspect that the assembly could select Thalha Bazar as the center. The Nepal Gazette has already fixed the municipality center at Manghat. But the Municipality Chairperson is against Manghat as the municipal center and seeks to change it through the special assembly. The Vice Chairperson on the other hand is content with Manghat as the center. The residents called a *bandh* shutting down markets and schools.

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

This is the fifteenth 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.

Table of Incidents Involving IEDs

Political parties targeted	No. of Incidents (45)	Candidates/Leaders targeted	Actors
Nepali Congress	11	Ram Chandra Paudel	Unidentified
		Ram Saran Mahat	
		Amar Singh Pun	Unidentified
		Uddhav Kumar Thapa	CPN
		Mohan Achrya	Unidentified
		Radha Krishna Thakuri	Unidentified
		Champa Devi Khadka	Unidentified
CPN-UML	12	Bhumi Tripathi	Unidentified
		RajendraGautam	Unidentified
		Sherdhan Rai	Unidentified
		KP Oli	Unidentified
		Ram Chandra Sah	Unidentified
CPN-MC	5	OnsariGharti Magar	Unidentified
		Barshaman Pun	Unidentified
		Janardan Sharma	Unidentified
RPP	1	Bikram Pande	Unidentified
Non-targeted	16		Unidentified

Election Related Incidents, October 22 - November 23, 2017

