



## **Incidents after Parliamentary and Provincial Elections**

Analysis Update – 17

*Period: December 8, 2017 – January 7, 2018 | Published: January 11, 2018*

There were 47 political incidents recorded between December 8, 2017 and January 7, 2018, the one month period after the completion of the second phase of parliamentary and provincial elections.<sup>1</sup> Of all the incidents recorded during this period, 20 incidents were related to the parliamentary and provincial elections. There was a significant decline in incidents related to elections in this period: compared to 64 incidents recorded during the first phase elections campaign period between November 27 and December 4, and 114 incidents recorded during the second phase elections campaign period between October 22 and November 23.<sup>2</sup>

Of 20 election related incidents recorded during this period: seven incidents involved inter-party disputes; two incidents were related to unidentified groups, including the death of a Nepali Congress cadre who had disappeared since the election day on December 7; four incidents were related to intra-party clashes; four incidents involved temporary police personnel protesting for their wages, including one temporary police being shot dead; two incidents involved arrests of persons alleged to be carrying out ‘anti-election activities’; and one incident was related to contestation of the official election result.

Of 47 political incidents recorded during this period: 21 incidents were related to demonstrations by residents demanding their cities to be the capital of their provinces, and six incidents concerned disputes over centers of local units. The protests demanding provincial capitals began to spread in several provinces after the government began preparations for declaring temporary provincial capitals in the first week of January. As these protests intensified, the government postponed the announcement of the capitals and said they would be decided by the newly elected provincial assemblies. It is however likely that

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<sup>1</sup>The Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) has released the final results of the First-Past-the-Post Parliamentary and Provincial elections. Communist Party of Nepal - Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) was the biggest winner securing 80 parliamentary seats and 168 provincial seats. Communist Party of Nepal -Maoist Center (CPN-MC) won in 36 parliamentary seats and 73 provincial seats. Nepali Congress was victorious in 23 parliamentary seats and 41 provincial seats. Sanghiya Samajwadi Forum Nepal (SSFN) secured 10 parliamentary seats and 24 provincial seats while the Rashtriya Janta Party Nepal (RJPN) won 11 parliamentary seats and 16 provincial seats. The ECN is yet to officially announce the results of Proportional Representation votes. Meanwhile, the ECN has announced to hold National Assembly elections on February 7.

<sup>2</sup> See Analysis Update 16 for the incidents from November 27 to December 4, the campaign period before the second phase parliamentary and provincial elections. (<http://democracyresource.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Analysis-Update-16.pdf>) See Analysis Update 15 for the incidents from October 22 to November 23, the campaign period before the first phase parliamentary and provincial elections. (<http://democracyresource.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Analysis-Update-15.pdf>)

such protests will increase when the provincial assemblies eventually decide on the provincial capitals.

### **Overview of Incidents<sup>3</sup>**

#### Protests Related to Restructuring

- On December 17, people of Dhankuta Municipality submitted a memorandum to the government at the Eastern Regional Administration Office to declare Dhankuta as the capital of Province 1. They also organized a rally and picketed the office before submitting the memorandum.
- On December 18, residents of Dhankuta Municipality organized a general strike to emphasize their demands to declare Dhankuta as the capital of Province 1. The strike affected people's daily lives with markets, businesses, schools and transportation system completely shut.
- On December 20, residents of Birgunj Metropolitan City in Parsa demonstrated demanding Birgunj as the capital of Province 2. This protest surfaced as many news outlets reported that the government was preparing to declare Janakpur as the capital.
- On December 31, residents of Biratnagar Metropolitan City in Morang demonstrated demanding Biratnagar as the capital of Province 2. Prominent individuals including representatives of political parties and business community of the district participated in the rally.
- On January 4, residents of Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City in Rupandehi demonstrated to demand Butwal as the capital of Province 5. Police said that the rally was organized by Nepali Congress.
- On January 7, residents of Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality in Doti demonstrated demanding their city as the capital of Province 7. The demonstrators protested in front of the Local Administration Office at Rajpur, Doti and drew a map of the province with Dipayal Silgadhi as its capital.

#### Intra-Party Disputes

- On December 29, a group of disgruntled Rashtriya Janta Party Nepal (RJPN) cadres vandalized the party headquarters in Babarmahal, Kathmandu. Binod Singh, who led the group, was discontent with the party as it did not nominate him for a proportional representative seat in the federal parliament. Some furniture and the office signboard were damaged in the incident.

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<sup>3</sup> For a complete list of incidents, see Nepal Monitor's records.  
(<https://nepalmonitor.org/reports/index/?z=6&s=1512065700&e=1517422499&c=178&i=day> )

- On December 29, Jhanka Parajuli, a cadre of Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist Center (CPN-MC), allegedly attacked central level leaders of the party, Hitman Shakya and Jhakku Prasad Subedi, at the party headquarters in Paris Danda, Kathmandu. Parajuli was unhappy after the party did not nominate him for a proportional representative seat in the provincial parliament of Province 3. Jhakku Prasad Subedi said that Parajuli could not be nominated as the party is obliged to nominate more women in the parliament to ensure their share of mandatory representation.

#### Inter-Party Disputes

- On December 8, vote counting agents of Nepali Congress and Communist Party of Nepal – Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) engaged in a physical clash that resulted in minor injury for the Nepali Congress agent at Ward 10 of Sanphebagar Municipality in Achham.
- On December 10, cadres of Sanghiya Samajwadi Forum Nepal (SSFN) and Nepali Congress clashed during a victory rally of SSFN at Rajpur Municipality in Rautahat. Police shot three rounds of blank fire and eight rounds of tear gas to take the situation under control. The clash reportedly started when Nepali Congress cadres threw stones at the victory rally of SSFN.
- On December 11, cadres of Nepali Congress and RJPN clashed in Malangwa, Sarlahi after disagreements emerged during vote counting. The clash occurred in front of Sarlahi Campus, the vote counting center of the district, when a ballot box had only five seals instead of the required seven seals. Two persons suffered serious head injuries and the police fired two rounds of tear gas to disperse the crowd.
- On December 11, cadres of CPN-UML and Nepali Congress clashed in Bhimad Municipality of Tanahun. CPN-UML cadres went on a victory rally from Damauli to Bhimad and allegedly beat a Nepali Congress cadre and a police constable. Both of them sustained injuries and were treated at Fishtail Hospital in Pokhara.
- On December 11, cadres of CPN-UML and Nepali Congress clashed at District Coordination Office of Inaruwa Municipality, Sunsari. The clash occurred over an argument on vote counting.
- On December 12, cadres of the ‘Left Alliance’ and Nepali Congress clashed at Ward 1 of Dhankaul Rural Municipality in Sarlahi over the election result. Two persons sustained minor injuries from the clash. Police shot five rounds of blank fire to disperse the crowd. Two arrests were made in connection to the incident.
- On December 13, cadres of SSFN and Nepali Congress clashed at Pacharauta Municipality of Bara during SSFN’s election victory rally. The clash occurred when

the rally reached near the house of the defeated Nepali Congress provincial assembly candidate. Police shot dozens of blank fire and tear gas to control the situation.

#### Incidents Involving Unidentified Groups

- On December 8, an unidentified group threw an improvised explosive device (IED) at a government vehicle that was transporting ballot boxes to the vote counting center. The incident occurred at Kainapani in Ward 12 of Parashuram Municipality, Dadeldhura. Police said that ballot boxes were safe but the vehicle suffered minor damages.
- On December 27, Chetnath Bhandari, a Nepali Congress supporter was found dead at a canal in Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City, Dang after disappearing on December 7, the second phase federal and provincial elections day. One of Bhandari's relatives said that he might have been murdered for his political loyalty. Police has since launched an investigation on the incident.

#### Temporary Police Personnel's Protests

- On December 14, temporary police personnel protested at Birgunj Metropolitan City in Parsa as the government reportedly paid them less than their official wages. The government had initially recruited them for 55 days during the provincial and parliamentary elections for NPR 61,000 each. But the government terminated their contract after 45 days, paying them only NPR 45,000 each.
- On December 22, Bibek Aidi, a temporary policeman was shot dead by the police in front of the District Police Office (DPO) in Manma, Kalikot. He died when a clash broke between temporary police and the police with the former claiming that the DPO had cut their pay by NPR 3,000. Aidi fell down in front of the DPO gate and was left there for about thirty minutes before being taken to the District Hospital. A doctor from the hospital said that Aidi had died before his body reached the hospital.

#### Arrests Based on 'Anti-Election Activities'

- On December 15, two supporters of CK Raut, who has been campaigning for an 'Independent Madhesh', were arrested in Mahottari for encouraging voters to deliberately invalidate their votes before the December 7 election. They were both asked for a bail of NPR 7,000 each. As they did not deposit the amount, they were transferred to Jaleswor Jail.
- On December 10, police arrested Pemba Sherpa, a Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) district member in Phidim, Panchthar. Sherpa had visited the police station to deposit bail for arrested CPN cadres but he was also arrested with a charge of being involved in IED explosions. Police said they already had a charge against Sherpa. District Secretary of CPN condemned arrest of sixteen CPN cadres in Panchthar and demanded their immediate release.

### Contestation on Election Result

- On December 14, thousands of CPN-UML cadres protested in Inaruwa, the district headquarters of Sunsari, claiming that the Nepali Congress candidate Bijay Gachchhadar won the election by misusing governmental resources. Nepal Police and Armed Police Force were deployed in the streets of Inaruwa but the protesters in the streets could not be controlled. Earlier on December 13, the CPN-UML candidate Bhagwati Chaudhari had lost the First Past the Post parliamentary election by a slim margin of 321 votes. On the same day, Chaudhari contested the election result and announced that she would seek legal remedies.

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

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*This is the seventeenth in a series of periodic analysis updates that Democracy Resource Center Nepal (DRCN) and the Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP) / NepalMonitor.org have been releasing around elections and politics. This project receives financial and technical support from The Asia Foundation and The Carter Center.*

## Political Incidents, December 8, 2017 - January 7, 2018

January 3: Locals of Doti enforced a vehicular strike in Dipayal Silgadhi demanding to designate it as provincial capital

January 1: Locals of Dhankuta enforced a general strike in Dhankuta demanding Dhankuta to be declared the capital of province 1

December 26: 3 cadres of Nepali Congress were injured during a clash at the meeting of Nepali Congress in Gulmi held to review the parliamentary and provincial assembly elections

December 22: A temporary policeman was killed when police fired shots at temporary police personnel who were protesting against wage cuts

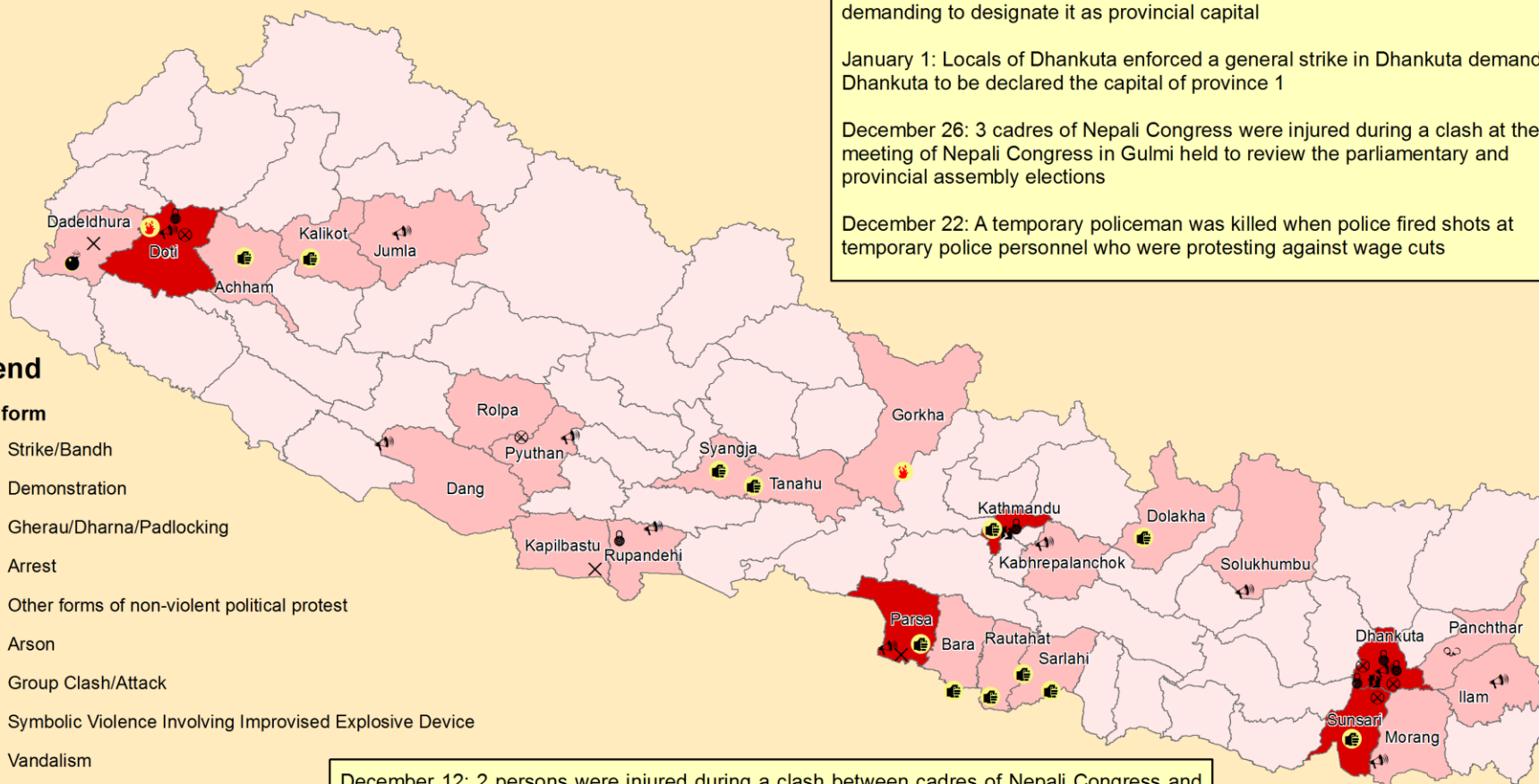
### Legend

#### Event form

- ⊗ Strike/Bandh
- 👤 Demonstration
- 🔒 Gherau/Dharna/Padlocking
- 👤 Arrest
- ✕ Other forms of non-violent political protest
- 🔥 Arson
- 👤 Group Clash/Attack
- 💣 Symbolic Violence Involving Improvised Explosive Device
- 👤 Vandalism

#### Total Number of Incidents

- 0
- 1 - 2
- 3 - 7



December 12: 2 persons were injured during a clash between cadres of Nepali Congress and Left Alliance in Dhankaul Rural Municipality-1 of Sarlahi

December 13: 3 temporary policemen were injured during a clash between cadres of Sanghiya Samajbadi Forum Nepal (SSFN) and Nepali Congress in Pacharauta Municipality of Bara

December 12: Two Nepali Congress cadres in Bhimad Municipality of Tanahu were injured after being assaulted by Left Alliance cadres who were taking out a victory rally from Damauli

December 11: 2 persons were injured during a clash between cadres of Nepali Congress and RJPN in Malangawa of Sarlahi