

POLITICAL INCIDENTS AFTER DISSOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN NEPAL

(December 2020 to December 2021)

Overview

On December 20, 2020, the then Prime Minister and Chairperson of the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) KP Sharma Oli dissolved the House of Representatives (HoR). With the dissolution of the HoR, Nepal entered into another phase of political unrest and uncertainties.¹ Opposition political parties protested against the dissolution of the parliament, calling it as an unconstitutional move. Disgruntled factions of the ruling party also resisted this step. Different sections of citizens under the banner of Citizens Movement also took to streets against this move. Impacts of political conflicts in the federal parliament (or at the federal level) were visibly seen at the provincial level. Gandaki Province witnessed a change in its government whereas Province 2, Lumbini Province, Sudurpashchim Province and Karnali Province governments went through reshuffles in their coalition partners. These political conflicts seriously affected the functioning of governments at all levels. Fluidity in politics complicated issues of governance and democracy. This might also affect the implementation and institutionalization of federalism. This points to a greater attention from civil society organizations on the (sub)national politics and governance.

After the dissolution of the federal parliament, political conflicts and incidents increased in Nepal. It is therefore important to track and analyze political incidents with a view that how they are going to impact the political course and upcoming elections.² This analysis update aims to inform and analyze the number, type, nature, actor, cause and impact of incidents. This

¹ However, the supreme court reinstated the parliament on February 23, 2021, the prime minister again dissolved the parliament on May 22, 2021. The supreme court is hearing the case of dissolution and is expected to deliver its verdict soon.

² The tenure of local governments is completing in May 2022, whereas tenures of the federal parliament and provincial assemblies are concluding in December 2022.

update tracks and analyzes political incidents occurred between December 2020 and December 2021.

Analysis of incident

A total of 736 political incidents were recorded from December 2020 to December 2021.³ Of them, 366 incidents were related to the dissolution of the HoR - 353 were against the dissolution, and 13 were in support of dissolution. All the incidents in support of the dissolution of the HoR were done by the NCP's KP Oli faction. The second most political incidents were related to intra-party disputes. Out 96 such incidents recorded, the NCP had 50 internal disputes while Nepali Congress (NC) got involved in 28 internal conflicts. There were 36 political incidents demanding the restoration of monarchy. In the midst of political turmoil, pro-monarchy groups took this opportunity to raise their activities. The next highest number of political incidents were 30 over the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).

Political incident based on Province

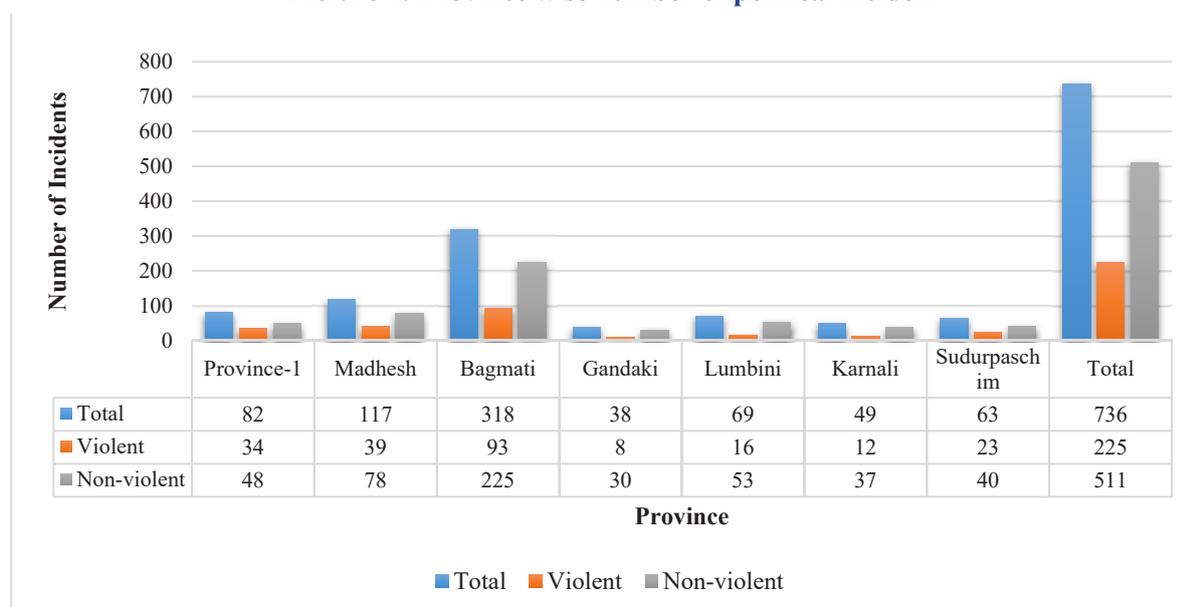
Bagmati had the highest number of incidents recorded at 318. Of these, 93 were violent incidents (41.33%). Gandaki Province witnessed the lowest number of incidents in total with 38 incidents. Out of which eight incidents were violent.

³ Democracy Resource Center Nepal (DRCN) analyzed these incidents based on the data collected and aggregated by COCAP/ Nepal Monitor. Nepal Monitor has been recording political incidents in Nepal. Mapping all the incidents that took place across Nepal, Nepal Monitor classifies and categorizes the types of incidents under various headings based on the nature of the incident. The data is publicly available at www.nepalmonitor.org. The objective of recording such incidents is to alert local organizations to human rights and security issues happening in different places of Nepal, and to allow anyone to easily share incidents they see with local, national and international organizations. It intends to help these organizations better respond to what happens around them and keep themselves safe. It also aims to help government institutions respond better through necessary policy changes.

Actor involved in incident

Political parties were at the forefront of conducting incidents. Out of the total 736 incidents, 68 % were

done by political parties. Actors involved in political incidents are listed in the table below:

Picture 1: Province wise number of political incident**Table 1: Number of incidents by actors**

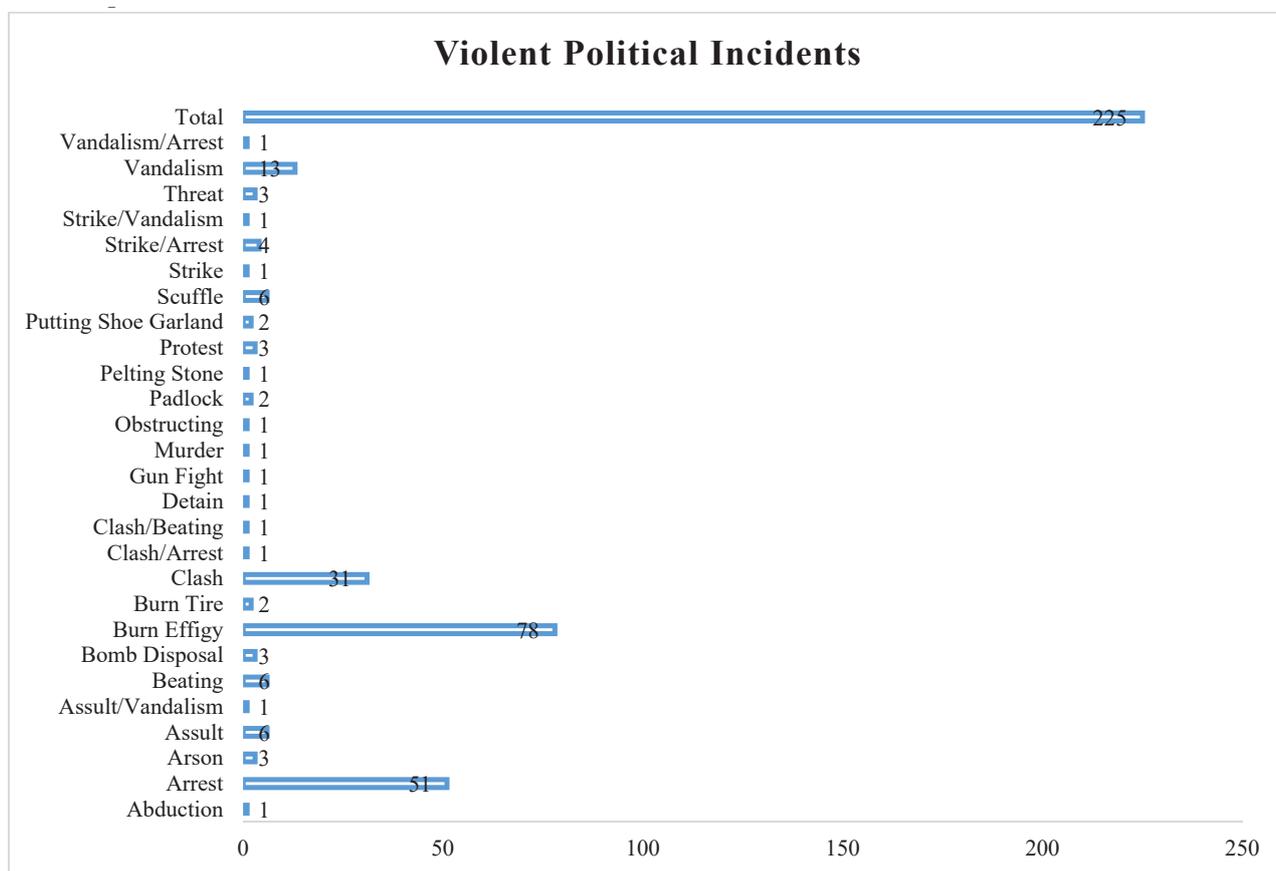
Actors/Agencies	Total	Types	
		Violent	Non-violent
Citizens	16	6	10
Civil Society Organizations	41	4	37
Journalists	4	0	4
Law Entrepreneurs	6	1	5
Local Level Elected Representatives	5	4	1
MCC Abolition Joint Struggle Committee	2	1	1
Member of Parliament	1	1	0
Political Party	499	145	354
Pro Monarchy Group	16	0	16
Province Assembly Members	2	1	1
Student Union	126	57	69
Trade Union	4	0	4
University Professors	1	0	1
Youth	13	5	8
Total	736	225	511

Political incidents based on type

Violent political incident

Of the total 736 political incidents, 225 turned violent. A total of 78 incidents were related to effigy burning which was recorded highest among other categories followed by 51 arrests by police. Political parties, civil society organizations as well as other groups burned effigy to express their political dissatisfaction and to draw attention to their demands. Many cadres of CPN Maoist (Biplav) were arrested by the police. Protesters

carrying out various political activities in the streets and other public spheres were also arrested. Incidents of clash were 31. Most clashes took place between the cadres of different political parties. Likewise, there were clashes between protestors and the police during demonstrations. There were 13 incidents of vandalism. Numbers of private and public vehicles were also vandalized in strikes called by different political parties. There were violent incidents of threat, strike, putting shoe garland, scuffle, protest, beating, assault and arson as well.

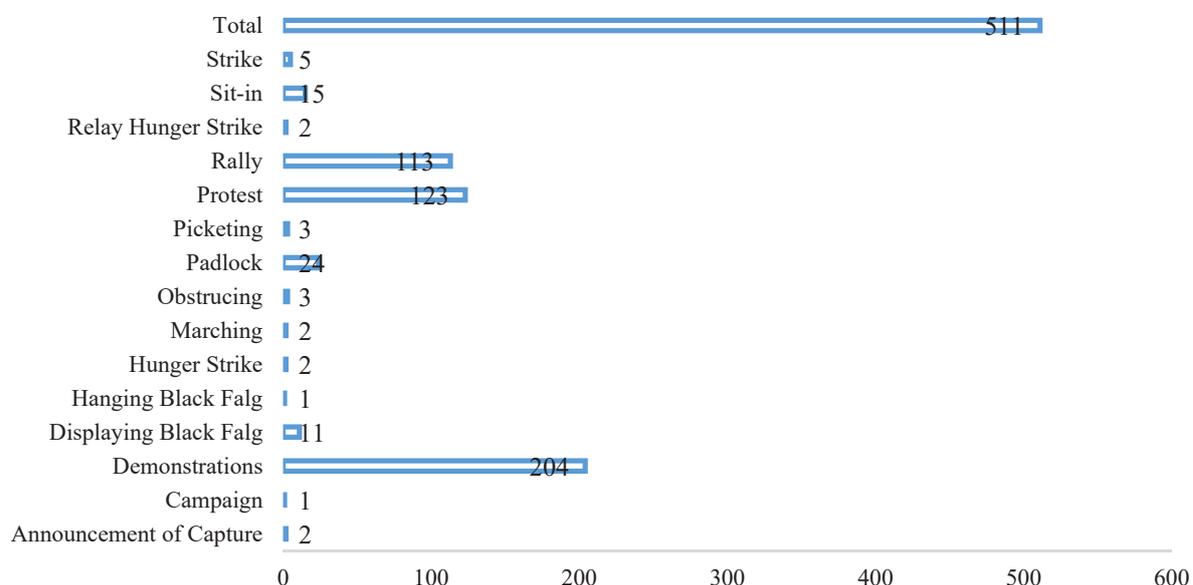


Non-violent incident

Of the total 736 political incidents, 511 were non-violent. The number of peaceful demonstrations accounted highest number with 204. This was followed by peaceful rally and protest marches 123 and 113

respectively. Other incidents accounted less than 20 included activities like padlocking, sit-in, silent marches and campaigns.

Non-violent Political Incidents



Political incidents based on issue

Dissolution of the House of Representatives

A total of 366 political events took place in relation to the dissolution of Parliament. Of them, 353 were against the dissolution of parliament and 13 were in support.

Intra-party dispute

There were 96 political incidents related to intra-party disputes. Among them 44 incidents counted as the violent.

Millennium Challenge Corporation

CPN (Revolutionary) - Mohan Baidhya Led party, Communist Party of Nepal - Rebel, CPN-UML, Nepal Workers Peasant Party, Nepali Congress, Rastriya Janamorcha and CPN-Masal, RPP (Rastriya

Prajantra Party) and All Nepal National Free Students Union (ANNFSU), a student Union carried out demonstrations against MCC. The MCC Abolition Campaign Joint Struggle Committee also protested against the issue.

During the given timeline, there were 39 political incidents in this regard. 12 of them were violent incidents.

Reinstatement of monarchy

Political parties like, Rastriya Prajatantra Party, Shivasena, United National People's Movement Front, Pro-monarchy and pro-Hindu youths under the Nationalist Campaign, Rashtriya Nagarik Andolan Samiti 2077, carried out various political activities for the restoration of the monarchy and the Hindu Kingdom.

CPN Maoist (Biplov)

There have been 15 political incidents carried out by the CPN Maoist (Biplov). Nepal Police and Nepal Army arrested numbers of cadres of the CPN Maoist (Biplov). They were arrested in charge of blast, inciting terror by asking for donations, extortion and having explosive ammunition. All the activities involving that group have been counted as violent political incident.

Other issue

There were several other issues which led to political conflicts and incidents. Those incidents, relatively smaller in the number, were especially on issues such as: against the ordinance on party split of NCP;

against KP Oli led government's inability to address contemporary issues; against Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' for allegedly speaking against 'national sovereignty'; against supreme court's order to restore the HoR; demanding step down of Chief Justice Cholendra Shamsher Rana.

Conclusion

The increase in political conflicts and incidents after the dissolution of the House of Representatives have raised concerns over the future course of Nepali politics including conduction of elections in time. It is anticipated political incidents would rise in upcoming days and months if political parties failed to reach an agreement.

