

Agreement between the Government of Nepal and the Madhesi People's Right Forum, Nepal

Unofficial translation from the original Nepali, by United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN)

As a continuation and realisation of the feelings of the historic people's movement of 2006/2007, and in order to end all aspects of discrimination against Madhesis, indigenous peoples/janajatis, dalits, women, backward classes and minorities, including the Muslim community, by the centralised and unitary government, and in order to restructure the state as an inclusive democracy and in a federal manner, so as to create an environment inclusive of Madhesis and all Nepali people in the national mainstream, this agreement has been reached today between the Government of Nepal and the Madhesi People's Right Forum, Nepal.

1. To immediately implement the government's decision to honour all Madhesi activists killed during the movement and to provide compensation to their families.
2. To provide relief to those injured, blinded and disabled during the movement and to arrange for the immediate medical treatment of all injured people who are yet to receive treatment.
3. To annul all charges made against the leaders and workers of the Forum during the movement.
4. To ensure balanced proportional representation and partnership of Madhesis, indigenous peoples/janajatis, dalits, women, backward classes, disabled people, minority communities and Muslims who have been excluded for generations, in all organs and levels of government and in power structures, mechanisms and resources.
5. To immediately establish a commission for state restructuring and ensure that it comprises of experts in an inclusive manner.
6. Arrangements will be made for a federal state with regional autonomy while the sovereignty, national unity and integrity of Nepal will be kept intact during the restructuring of the state. The rights, nature and limits of regional autonomy will be as decided by the constituent assembly.
7. To accord national recognition to the identity, language and culture of the Madhesis.
8. To have suitable proportional representation in all political appointments by the government, in Foreign Service and services including the education sector, as well as in commissions.
9. To give public holidays during all major Muslim festivals. To enact laws to protect the ethnicity, language, gender, religion, culture and traditions of Muslim people as well as the Madrassa Board.

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10. To end all discrimination based on ethnicity, language, gender, religion, culture, national and social origin, political and other ideologies and guarantee human rights.
11. To establish a trilingual language policy for official work, education and international communication, including (a) mother tongue, (b) the Nepali language and (c) English.
12. To solve the following dalit-related problems:
 - a) Arrange for severe legal punishment for those who discriminate based on caste and practice untouchability.
 - b) Arrange for the effective implementation of a policy for free and compulsory education for dalits, at least at the primary level.
 - c) Arrange for special opportunities and reservations in education and employment.
 - d) Arrange for homes for landless dalits and alternate means of livelihood.
13. To solve problems related to citizenship by redeploying the Citizenship Distribution Teams to the villages for easy and accessible distribution of the citizenship certificates.
14. To adopt a balanced and just policy for the distribution of revenue and income generated from the Madhes and other rural regions.
15. To continue the process of returning and ensuring the return of houses, land and property seized by the CPN (Maoist) and also to expedite the return of weapons seized by them [CPN (M)] to their rightful owners.
16. To industrialise the country and increase industrial production, and to establish an Industrial Security Force to guarantee industrial security.
17. Both sides to stay committed to conducting the constituent assembly election in an impartial, peaceful and fear-free environment. In order to ensure the impartiality of the constituent assembly, necessary arrangements must be made to prevent the misuse of the current legislature-parliament including the mechanisms, resources and power of the state.
18. The Ministry of Information and Communication to appoint Madhesi media experts and journalists in all organs and levels of government-owned media, including TV, radio and print and to ensure inclusive proportional representation of Madhesi in the government communication commissions, bodies and delegations.
19. To create a search team to look for and conduct a special investigation into the abduction and disappearance of Jitendra Sah, the Chairman of the Madhesi Youth Forum in the Kathmandu valley, and to immediately make the situation public.
20. To immediately establish a High Level Task force for Inclusion to determine the rules and draft laws necessary for the inclusion of Madhesi, indigenous peoples/janajatis, dalits, women, etc. in all organs and levels of the state.

21. To guarantee the constitutional rights of ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities based on the principles of the United Nations and international human rights organisations on the rights of minorities.
22. To bring to an end the various movements being carried out by the Madhesi People's Rights Forum.

The Government of Nepal will immediately fulfil those agreements that can be fulfilled promptly and will fulfil other provisions in the course of time. A United Monitoring Mechanism will be established to carry out and oversee the implementation process and to periodically review the implementation.

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Upendra Yadav
Coordinator

Madhesi People's Rights Forum, Nepal

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Ram Chandra Poudel
Coordinator

Government Talks Team

Date: 30 August 2007 (13 Bhadau 2064)

NOTE: While still demanding the establishment of a republic and a proportional electoral system, the Madhesi People's Right Forum, Nepal will give top priority to the constituent assembly elections, will participate in them and will continue its efforts to make them a success.

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Upendra Yadav
Coordinator

Madhesi People's Rights Forum, Nepal

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