



**वकालत मञ्च-नेपाल**  
**ADVOCACY FORUM- NEPAL**  
*Lawyers forum for human rights and rule of law*

**Press Statement**

**Police intervene in peaceful protest: refrain from using unnecessary or excessive force**

10 June 2020

The use of excessive force to disrupt the peaceful protest in Baluwatar on 9 June 2020 is not only a direct violation of human rights but also a blatant incident that ipso facto sabotages the intent of Article 17 (b) of the Constitution of Nepal. An attack on peaceful protesters is an attack on the pillars of democracy and the rule of law. Unfortunately, unnecessary or excessive use of force against the protestors has been a trait of police during the lockdown. Advocacy Forum-Nepal (AF) condemns the attack on people's right to assemble peacefully and excessive use of force by the police in an unnecessary circumstance.

On 9 June 2020, the protestors especially the youths were peacefully protesting against the lack of transparency in fund management, non-expansion of testing numbers of COVID-19, demanding to ease the lockdown to allow economic activities and so on. The media reports clearly show that the protestors were adhering to the physical distancing advised by the Government. In this scenario, the use of water cannons and batons injuring a number of protestors is condemnable and calls for accountability of the police involved in the incident. AF is alarmed by the repeated use of excessive force by the police during peaceful protests and urges the Government to introduce sweeping reforms in the police institution to make it human rights friendly and committed to human rights and rule of law. Where there is a global trend of restricting the excessive use of force by police, AF urges the Government to take concrete steps to prohibit excessive use of force against civilians and ensure accountability where such incidents do occur.

Concerned that Nepal police is continuously repeating the trend of resorting to force and intervening in peaceful protests, AF demands that the Government holds the responsible police personnel accountable, bear the expenses of medical treatment of the injured and ensure that the guaranteed Article 17(b) of the Constitution can be fully exercised by the people under any circumstances.

Om Prakash Sen Thakuri  
Director  
Advocacy Forum - Nepal