



Press Statement

22 September 2023

Investigate the Deaths in Child Correction Homes

Advocacy Forum-Nepal (AF) expresses its concern about the deaths of juvenile delinquents held in three Child Correction Homes (CCH) over the past few days. The tragic incidents in the CCHs in Bhaktapur, Parsa, and Banke districts show that the situation of the CCHs across the country is a matter of concern, and immediate steps need to be taken to solve the problem.

Juveniles held in the Bhaktapur CCH resorted to vandalism, and the situation went beyond control after the death of an 18-year-old juvenile in the CCH on August 20 due to the lack of timely medical treatment. Following the incident, 47 juveniles were transferred to the CCHs in Birgunj, Hetauda, Bhairahawa, and Doti. Stone pelting and vandalism occurred in the Birgunj CCH on September 12. The juveniles involved in these destructive acts have been held in the women's cell in the District Police Office Parsa custody. In the latest incident, one juvenile died, and 11 juveniles were wounded in Banke CCH after a brawl erupted between two sides.

In its regular visits to the CCHs across the country for a long time, AF has found that they hold juveniles beyond capacity. Compounding the problem, the food, snacks, and water provided to the juveniles are sub-standard and not nutritious. There is also a lack of education, health treatment, and vocational training for the juveniles. AF has observed that holding juveniles and adult inmates together is also a cause of the problem.

AF urges the government and the authorities concerned to address the problems seen in the CCHs immediately and implement the following measures:

- Immediately investigate the incidents in the CCHs and take action against the guilty.
- Effectively implement the laws and mechanisms of juvenile justice.
- Build proper physical infrastructure, provide nutritious food and snacks, manage education and vocational training for juveniles.
- Categorize the juveniles in line with their age and keep them in separate CCHs.
- Identify the problems in CCHs and resolve them promptly.

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