

July 10, 2013

Peter Lallas
Executive Secretary, The Inspection Panel
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Submitted via electronic mail

Dear Mr. Lallas,

We, the citizens of Sindhuli District, Nepal, hereby submit this Request for Inspection to the Inspection Panel regarding violations of the World Bank's Social and Environmental Safeguard Policies resulting from the International Development Association supported Nepal Power Development Project (World Bank Project ID# P043311), specifically the Khimti-Dhalkebar 220 kV Transmission Line Project.

I. Introduction

The Khimti-Dhalkebar 220 kV Transmission Line Project (the "Project") has resulted in violations of World Bank policy, Nepali and international law. In particular, the Project was designed without informing or consulting with affected communities in Sindhuli District; its planned route over schools, homes, and historical sites is likely to result in involuntary displacement and damage to cultural property; and its 30-meter right of way ("RoW") threatens to make the already poverty-stricken communities more vulnerable by harming agricultural production and dividing communities. The Project has caused severe tumult in the region -- security forces have violently repressed peaceful protests against the Project, employing torture, detention, and violent attacks on unarmed women.

This Request is being filed by 103 indigenous and non-indigenous families in three villages of Sindhuli District ("Complainants"), whose homes, lands, and livelihoods have been affected by the Project.¹ They request that the World Bank immediately stop disbursement of the loan and Project construction until such time that all affected people have been fully informed and consulted about the Project plans, impacts, rehabilitation, and mitigation measures. Following suspension, Complainants request the release of all relevant Project-related documents from the World Bank and the Government of Nepal, including a Nepali translation of those documents.

Second, Complainants call for an independent analysis of alternative designs and routes through areas without human settlement, prioritizing the rights and needs of affected communities.

¹ The 103 households have provided LAHURNIP with power of attorney to represent them in the Inspection Panel process (Annex A).

Third, all Project baseline studies and future monitoring reports must be conducted with full transparency and participation of affected communities and civil society, and the results made public.

Finally, the Project must be carried out in full compliance with Nepali law, international law, and World Bank policy.

The 103 indigenous and non-indigenous families affected by the Project file this Request with the assistance of a coalition of civil society organizations and individuals. The Complainants have authorized Shankar Limbu, an advocate at Lawyers' Association for the Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples ("LAHURNIP"), to serve as their representative over the course of the Inspection Panel process, as well as in other legal proceedings.²

II. Project Description

The Project is a high-voltage transmission line that is being constructed as part of the Nepal Power Development Project ("NPDP"). The World Bank Board of Directors approved the NPDP on May 22, 2003, for US\$84.11 million.³ The Project is a double circuit transmission line that will run from Khimti Power Station to Dhalkebar substation.⁴ Starting in Kirnetar village in Dolakha District, the line will cross the Ramechhap, Sindhuli, and Mahottari Districts, and finally connect with 132 kV Dhalkebar substation in Dhanusha District.⁵ In total, the Project will span 75 kilometers across five districts in central Nepal: Dolakha, Ramechhap, Sindhuli, Mahottari, and Dhanusha.⁶ Sixty-meter high towers have been constructed at intervals of 700 meters. Two hundred and eighteen towers have already been built, and twelve remain to be built,

² The civil society coalition supporting the Complainants is comprised of: Shankar Limbu, LAHURNIP; Surya Tamang, NEFIN; Komala Ramachandra, Accountability Counsel; Amanda Cats-Baril, independent consultant ("Working Group"). We request that the Inspection Panel keep the Working Group updated on all steps of the Inspection Panel process through correspondence with Mr. Limbu and Ms. Ramachandra, whose contact information is below.

³ World Bank, "Restructuring Paper on a Proposed Project Restructuring of Nepal Power Development Project Loan and Grant," at 5 (December 21, 2012) (*hereinafter* "Restructuring Paper"); Legal Dept. of World Bank, "Nepal Power Development Project: Development Financing Agreement," at 6 (July 9, 2003), available at <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2003/07/5081833/conformed-copy-c3766-power-development-project-project-agreement> (*hereinafter* "Development Financing Agreement").

⁴ The World Bank, "Nepal Power Development Project: Updated Project Information Document," at 5 (April 10, 2003), available at <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2003/04/2219199/nepal-power-development-project> (*hereinafter* "Updated PID").

⁵ Environment and Social Studies Department of the Nepal Electricity Authority, "Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the Khimti-Dhalkebar 220 kV Transmission Line Project," Executive Summary, at 2 [date unknown] (*hereinafter* "EIA Executive Summary").

⁶ EIA Executive Summary, at 2. Interview by Komala Ramachandra with Surendraswor Moktan, Chairperson of the Protest Committee, Member of the *Tamang* indigenous community, resident of Majhitar, Kamalamai Municipality, Sindhuli District, Ward No. 7 (June 4, 2013). Notes of interviews are on file with Accountability Counsel and available upon request.

including ten in Sindhuli District.⁷ Project documents indicate that a 15-meter right of way (“RoW”) will be required on either side of the transmission lines.⁸

The Project is one of three transmission lines that will be constructed as part of the Nepal Electricity Authority (“NEA”) component of the NPDP.⁹ The objective of the NEA component is to improve grid transmission and distribution¹⁰ and expand access to electricity services in rural areas of Nepal.¹¹ According to the Government of Nepal (“GoN”), the construction of transmission lines will help achieve this goal by enhancing grid reliability and stability, thus reducing system losses¹² and enabling the east-west and north-south delivery of power imported from India through the Nepal-India Electricity Transmission and Trade Project.¹³

Implementation of the NPDP has been delayed, in part due to ongoing resistance from affected communities to the Project and its potential impacts on the livelihoods and homelands. In addition to various changes made to the NPDP Loan in 2009,¹⁴ the GoN sought approval on December 21, 2012, to restructure the NPDP by (1) cancelling US\$42.47 million of project funds,¹⁵ (2) extending the closing date to December 31, 2013, and (3) revising the Monitoring and Evaluation framework in the context of the aforementioned changes.¹⁶

Despite local resistance to the current Project design and requests to the NEA for information and consultation, the Restructuring Paper claims that the Project is the only one of three remaining unfinished transmission line projects in the NPDP that “can be completed within the extended [December 31, 2013] project period.”¹⁷ The construction of ten towers in the Project has been prevented by community opposition in Sindhuli

⁷ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

⁸ EIA Executive Summary, at 2.

⁹ The other components of the NPDP are the (1) Power Development Fund (PDF), implemented by the Department of Electricity Development (DOED); (2) Micro Hydro Village Electrification Program (MHVEP), implemented by Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC). The Hetauda-Bharatpur and Bharatpur-Bardaghat transmission lines are the other two transmission lines planned for construction under the NEA component. *See* Restructuring Paper, at 5.

¹⁰ Updated PID, at 3.

¹¹ Updated PID, at 3.

¹² Updated PID, at 5.

¹³ Restructuring Paper, at 5.

¹⁴ On May 26, 2009, the World Bank provided additional financing of US\$91.66 million to further enhance the MHVEP and NEA components, bringing the total project amount to US\$175.77. The project closing date was further revised to December 31, 2012. Restructuring Paper, at 5; and “Nepal Power Development Project: Financing Agreement (Additional Financing for Power Development Project),” at 1 (August 21, 2009), available at <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2009/08/11162001/project-agreement-financing-agreement-c4637--np-grant-h506-np-conformed> (*hereinafter* “Agreement for Additional Financing”).

¹⁵ Of the US\$42.47 million of funds cancelled, US\$33.03 million came from a reduction of the scope of the NEA component, US\$7.93 million came from a reduction of the scope of the PDF component, and US\$1.51 million represent a cancellation of unallocated funds. Restructuring Paper, at 7.

¹⁶ Restructuring Paper, at 4.

¹⁷ Restructuring Paper, at 8.

District,¹⁸ but the Restructuring Paper claims that the “right-of-way difficulties ... have now been resolved,”¹⁹ though information from the affected people on the ground indicates otherwise.²⁰ Communities in Sindhuli District have had a sustained resistance to the current design of the Project. Community response to the Project, including ongoing resistance, is described in greater detail in the next section.

III. Local Experience with the Project

Several wards and municipalities within Sindhuli District will be affected by the Project, as its intended area of coverage encompasses several populated urban centers,²¹ schools, sacred sites, pastures, and agricultural lands.²² According to the Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) Executive Summary prepared by the Environmental and Social Studies Department of NEA, the total population of the Project area is 114,516 people and 21,668 households.²³ Based on surveying and construction activity, community members report that the Project is also routed to pass over the roofs of four schools²⁴ where 1,575 students study.²⁵

¹⁸ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan. There are twelve towers remaining to be constructed, including two towers in Ramechhap District, two towers in the Khurkot village in Sindhuli District, and eight towers in Kamalamai Municipality, Sindhuli District.

¹⁹ Restructuring Paper, at 6.

²⁰ Interviews by Komala Ramachandra with Sindhuli residents Surendraswor Moktan, Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki, Laxmi Devi Budhathoki Magar, Menuka Kumari Kafle, Tulashi Prasad Kafle, Man Bahadur Magar and Krishna Bahadur Thapa Magar (June 4, 2013). Notes of interviews are on file with Accountability Counsel and available upon request. See also “Armed Police To Be Deployed For Construction Of Transmission Lines,” *Nagarik National Daily* (August 25, 2012); “Works On Khimti-Dhalkebar Transmission Lines Obstructed, To Be Completed Through Use Of Force,” *Janaboli Sandesh National Daily* (November 12, 2012); “Survey Of Electricity Transmission Lines Resumes, Landowners Declare Vehicular Strike In Sindhuli,” *Sindhuli Saugat National Daily* (November 13, 2012).

²¹ Interview by Komala Ramachandra with Laxmi Devi Budhathoki Magar, member of the Magar indigenous group, resident of Bardeutar, Kamalamai Municipality, Sindhuli District, Ward No. 5 (June 4, 2013). Notes of interviews are on file with Accountability Counsel and available upon request.

²² Of particular concern are Project impacts on the following urban areas in Sindhuli District: Kamalamai Municipality Ward No. 6 (Andheri Jasedmar, Panityanki, Baira Bhawan); Kamalamai Municipality Ward No.7 (Bardeutar, Danda Tole, Tallo Bardeutar, Mitra Chowk, Majhitar, Thulitar, Bukka Danda); Belganchi Ward No. 4 (Sano Karkare, Ranichuri); VDC Ward No. 1, (Fiting Bhutiya Danda, Maisthan Karkare under Falchuri); Kamalamai Municipality Ward No. 10 (Bhadrakali VDC Dhunge Bhanjyang, Pipal Bhanjyang) as well as historical Sindhuli Gadhi base in Ward No. 1 of Jalkanya VDC and cable car ferrying people to Sidhababa Temple under Kamalamai Municipality Ward No. 9. See Memorandum submitted by the Sindhuli Protest Committee to the Rt. Honorable Prime Minister, Prime Minister’s Office, Singh Durbar, Kathmandu (January 17, 2012) (Annex D).

²³ EIA Executive Summary, at 4.

²⁴ It is expected that the following four schools will be affected by the Project: Swiss Boarding, Panityanki Higher Secondary School, Ucha Madhyamik Vidhalaya (school for children with disabilities), and Kamalamai Science Higher Secondary School. See Amanda Cats-Baril and Shankar Limbu, “Notes on Meeting of Representatives of Indigenous and Local Communities with World Bank Nepal Officials on Khimti-Dhalkebar 220 KV Transmission Line construction in Sindhuli District” (March 15, 2013) (*hereinafter* “Notes on Community Meeting with the World Bank”) (Annex C). See also interview by Komala Ramachandra with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki, resident of Bardewtar, Kamalamai Municipality in Sindhuli District, Ward No. 7 (June 4, 2013). Notes of interviews are on file with Accountability Counsel and available upon request.

²⁵ Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

Impacts on community life and the local economy

The Project is planned to pass straight through villages and populated areas,²⁶ and the NEA Project Manager, Kanaiya Kumar Manandhar, has told several community members that no activity, or even entry, is permitted within the 15-meter RoW on either side of the transmission line.²⁷ The 30-meter division through the affected communities would have significant impact on their lifestyle. The large majority of affected communities are small, and such a clearance area for the Project will divide families, friends, and the community structure. The EIA Executive Summary acknowledges there will be devaluation of land in the 15-meter RoW on either side of the transmission line, loss of agricultural production, withdrawal of economic opportunity, and farming hindrance.²⁸ It does not, however, discuss the potential impacts on community structure and relations.

Complainants are concerned about the economic impacts of the Project, fearing that it will worsen already poor conditions in the region. The affected communities in Sindhuli District are largely *adivasi* (indigenous) communities from Tamang, Magar, Newar, Gurung, Bhujel, Thami, and Hayu groups, comprising approximately 95 percent of the affected population.²⁹ Some community members are *dalit*, considered to be low caste Hindus.³⁰

Both *adivasi* and *dalit* groups are highly marginalized communities, whose vulnerability is further exacerbated by the high rate of poverty in the region. Most households have seven to nine members, with children helping with farming activities.³¹ People in the region rely on subsistence agriculture for their livelihoods, including small-scale crops³² and animal husbandry.³³ Farming is often insufficient to feed entire families throughout the year. When they are not farming, some community members travel to Kathmandu and other cities to carry out daily wage labor.³⁴ Farming activities, on which

²⁶ Interview by Komala Ramachandra with Menuka Kumari Kafle, resident of Bardewtar, Kamalmai Municipality, Sindhuli District, Ward No. 5 (June 4, 2013). Notes of interviews are on file with Accountability Counsel and available upon request.

²⁷ Interviews with Menuka Kumari Kafle and Krishna Bahadur Thapa Magar.

²⁸ EIA Executive Summary, at 5.

²⁹ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan. All these groups are recognized as indigenous nationalities under The National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities Act, 2002. See also Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities, "Categorization of Indigenous People Based on Development," available at <http://www.nefin.org.np/list/Categorization-of-Indigenous-People-based-on-development-15/95/6>.

³⁰ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

³¹ Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

³² Interview by Komala Ramachandra with Krishna Bahadur Thapa Magar, member of the Magar indigenous community, resident of Mitrachok village, Sindhuli District (June 4, 2013) (noting that common crops include wheat, rice, corn, potatoes, onions). Notes of interviews are on file with Accountability Counsel and available upon the Inspection Panel's request.

³³ Interview with Laxmi Devi Budhathoki Magar.

³⁴ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan. Interview by Komala Ramachandra with Man Bahadur Magar, member of the Magar indigenous community, resident of Kamalamai village, Sindhuli District, Ward No. 7

communities rely for subsistence, will likely be disrupted by the placement of the Project and its RoW under its current design.³⁵ Those who have been told they cannot use their lands within 15 meters of the transmission line have already been affected.

A large number of indigenous and local people are at risk of displacement.³⁶ Sixteen households have already been displaced in Ratanchura, Bhimeswar, Jalkanya, and Bhadrakali villages, where construction of the lines is already completed.³⁷ Displacement resulting from land acquisition for the towers will cause a loss in agricultural productivity in the RoW, forcing people to seek livelihood opportunities outside of Sindhuli District.

There is also deep concern in the affected communities about potential health impacts, especially on children, of the Project's planned high voltage power lines which will run near and over human settlements and schools. Some scientific studies have shown higher rates of illnesses, such as cancer and leukemia, in people living near high voltage power lines.³⁸ Though these findings may not be conclusive, affected communities cannot be expected to take that risk with their lives without complete information about potential impacts, consultation, and ultimately their consent.³⁹

Additionally, Complainants are concerned by how the Project will impact various historical, cultural, religious and sacred sites. The planned route approaches various monasteries, temples, cremation sites, and other sites of cultural significance. One of the Project towers has had serious impacts on Sindhuli Gadhi, the site of the first defeat of the British Army in Asia in 1767, which has great historical value for the local communities and the nation as a whole.⁴⁰ The transmission line will also disturb community rituals. Towers have already been built near a Bhimsen shrine and close to the Kamalamai Temple, a major shrine in the region, over which the transmission line is projected to pass. Worshippers, fearing the effects of the tower and transmission line,

(June 4, 2013). Notes of interviews are on file with Accountability Counsel and available upon the Inspection Panel's request.

³⁵ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

³⁶ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

³⁷ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

³⁸ According to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences website, "current research continues to point to the same weak association" between electric and magnetic field exposure and childhood leukemia, but found no similar links in studies of adults. *Available at* www.niehs.gov/health/topics/agents/emf.

³⁹ The US Environmental Protection Agency states that, "Much of the research about power lines and potential health effects is inconclusive." In a 1998 study conducted by the US National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences on exposure to electric and magnetic fields, they found that "power line frequency magnetic fields are a possible cause of cancer." *Available at* www.epa.gov/radtown/docs/power-lines.pdf.

⁴⁰ Interview with Laxmi Devi Budhathoki Magar. *See also*, "Risk of destruction of historical Sindhuli Fort Impact of Khimti-Dhalkebar 220 KV Transmission lines," *Pravat Samachar National Daily* (December 8, 2011).

cannot practice their rituals in peace.⁴¹ Other shrines, including shrines of Bhadrakali, Siddhababa, Devasthan, and Durga, will also be affected.⁴²

Lack of consultation and failure to disclose information

No consultation about the Project was ever held in Sindhuli District.⁴³ Complainants have not received any information about the Project, nor have they given their permission for the transmission line to go over their land or for towers to be built on their land.⁴⁴ Some Complainants were told that they had to give up their lands by the NEA project manager, Kanaiya Kumar Manandhar, when surveying activities began.⁴⁵ Many community members learned about the 15-meter RoW when they questioned the project manager after work on the Project began in 2011.⁴⁶ Others learned that their land was being acquired through a notice published for an associated roads project in the newspaper *Gorkhapatra National Daily* on 24 March 2013.⁴⁷

The EIA Executive Summary reports that only two consultations or public hearings were held about the Project, in Dhalkebar village in Dhanusha District and in Manthali village in Rammehhap District, both in 2004.⁴⁸ Complainants in Sindhuli District, which are approximately 40-60 kilometers from the site of the public hearings, were not given prior notice of these consultations.⁴⁹ Even if they had been informed, many would not have been able to travel to the consultations, as the only way to reach the public hearing locations at the time was by foot, which would require over a day and a half to travel each way.⁵⁰ The Chief District Officer only informed Complainants about the hearings in 2012, long after the hearings had taken place, when villagers raised concerns about the Project.⁵¹

During early surveying activities in 2006-07, communities in Sindhuli District were not informed about the prospect of a high-voltage transmission line or the Project's objective. Instead, they were led to believe that the surveying was for a small, local electricity distribution project,⁵² a water supply network,⁵³ a radio transmission system,⁵⁴

⁴¹ Interview by Komala Ramachandra with Tulashi Prasad Kafle, Hindu priest, resident of Kamalamai Municipality, Sindhuli District (June 4, 2013). Notes of interviews are on file with Accountability Counsel and available upon the Inspection Panel's request.

⁴² Interview with Man Bahadur Magar.

⁴³ Interviews with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki, Surendraswor Moktan, Laxmi Devi Budhathoki Magar, Menuka Kumari Kafle, and Krishna Bahadur Thapa Magar.

⁴⁴ Interview with Tulashi Prasad Kafle.

⁴⁵ Interviews with Menuka Kumari Kafle and Man Bahadur Magar.

⁴⁶ Interview with Menuka Kumari Kafle and Krishna Bahadur Thapa Magar.

⁴⁷ Interview with Menuka Kumari Kafle.

⁴⁸ EIA Executive Summary, at 2.

⁴⁹ Interviews with Laxmi Devi Budhathoki Magar, Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki, and Tulashi Prasad Kafle.

⁵⁰ Interviews with Tulashi Prasad Kafle and Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

⁵¹ Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

⁵² Interview with Laxmi Devi Budhathoki Magar.

⁵³ Interviews with Menuka Kumari Kafle and Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

⁵⁴ Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

or a road.⁵⁵ None of these were ever built.⁵⁶ Furthermore, early survey activity indicated that the Project was to be located to the east of its current route, along the banks of Tamile River passing through forests and barren lands, where there is no human settlement.⁵⁷ That design was later abandoned or changed, without the knowledge or consent of Complainants.⁵⁸ It was only when Project construction began that Complainants understood that it was for a high-voltage power transmission line and that its route is *through* their communities.⁵⁹

Even now, over five years after the Project approval date, Complainants lack information about the Project design and route, the actual and intended capacity of the high voltage power lines, the Project's potential health and environmental impacts, land requirements for towers and RoW restrictions, or relocation and compensation plans. Some owners of homes and lands within the 15-meter RoW have been informed that they must leave, or that they are prohibited from entering the RoW.⁶⁰ Others have not been informed about the RoW and whether they will have to be relocated.⁶¹ Of particular concern, Complainants have not been informed about the possibility of relocation for the four schools.⁶²

Towers have been built directly on community members' land without prior notice.⁶³ Community members were told that they should not complain because of the Project's national significance, as it would be providing electricity not just for the district, but for the rest of Nepal and neighboring countries.⁶⁴ They were told that even though they have title to the land, the GoN is the original owner of the land.⁶⁵

Most Complainants were not offered compensation⁶⁶ or informed about any mitigation measures, including those whose land is within 15 meters of the transmission line and close to towers.⁶⁷ However, in some cases where towers were built directly on community members' land, a small amount of compensation was offered.⁶⁸ Others found

⁵⁵ Interview with Menuka Kumari Kafle.

⁵⁶ Interview with Menuka Kumari Kafle.

⁵⁷ Interview with Laxmi Devi Budhathoki Magar.

⁵⁸ Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

⁵⁹ Interviews with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki and Laxmi Devi Budhathoki Magar.

⁶⁰ Interviews with Krishna Bahadur Thapa Magar and Menuka Kumari Kafle.

⁶¹ Interview with Laxmi Devi Budhathoki Magar.

⁶² Interview with Krishna Bahadur Thapa Magar, whose grandchildren study at the Swiss Boarding School which is affected by the transmission line, and Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki, whose grandchildren attend several of the affected schools.

⁶³ Interview with Laxmi Devi Budhathoki Magar.

⁶⁴ Interview with Laxmi Devi Budhathoki Magar.

⁶⁵ Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

⁶⁶ Interviews with Krishna Bahadur Thapa Magar, Menuka Kumari Kafle, and Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

⁶⁷ Interview with Tulashi Prasad Kafle (Tulashi owns 15 dhoors of land (20 dhoor = 1 Katha = 338.57 square meters (3,644.3 sq ft)) within 15 meters of transmission line).

⁶⁸ Interview with Laxmi Devi Budhathoki Magar, noting that she received NRS 28, 216 in compensation, for a 60 meter high tower built on her land within 15 meters of her house, affecting her entire property.

out through the *National Daily* newspaper on March 24, 2013, that compensation would be offered, but have yet to receive compensation.⁶⁹

Community members complained orally to the NEA project manager, Kanhaiya Kumar Manandhar, demanding that they either be offered substitute land or that the transmission line be realigned to an alternative route where there is no human settlement, as they do not want to be relocated. These demands were rejected.⁷⁰ Others have submitted complaints to the Supreme Court.⁷¹

Except for the notice published in the daily newspapers, Complainants have not received any updates about the Project in the last few months.⁷²

Violent repression of peaceful protests

Affected communities have been protesting the Project since learning that high voltage power lines would be passing over or near their homes and schools, demanding that the transmission line be realigned along an alternative route.

When community members obtained more information about the Project and its planned route in 2010, they formed a Protest Committee.⁷³ Protest activities involved attempting to block construction work by lying down in front of building sites and covering pits that had been dug for the towers.⁷⁴ The Government responded by accusing the Protest Committee of extortion.⁷⁵ On March 31, 2011, one of the founding members was arrested for leading protests in the village and was released after a few hours.⁷⁶ Ten days later, another villager protesting against the project was arrested and tortured for two days while in custody, and sustained severe injuries.⁷⁷

Following the brutal police response to the protests, the Protest Committee tried to negotiate with the NEA project manager and the Chief District Officer on at least three occasions to change the Project.⁷⁸ They also held press conferences against the Project at the local level.⁷⁹

⁶⁹ Interview with Menuka Kumari Kafle.

⁷⁰ Interview with Laxmi Devi Budhathoki Magar.

⁷¹ Interview with Tulashi Prasad Kafle.

⁷² Interview with Krishna Bahadur Thapa Magar.

⁷³ Surendra and his relative Chandra Kumar Ghising, also affected by the project, founded the group.

Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

⁷⁴ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

⁷⁵ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

⁷⁶ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

⁷⁷ Protester Bishal Tamang was arrested and tortured for several days by police. Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

⁷⁸ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

⁷⁹ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

On January 17, 2012, the Protest Committee submitted a memorandum⁸⁰ to the Ministry of Energy and the Prime Minister's Office expressing their concerns about the impact of the transmission line on historical, religious, and cultural sites and demanding the realignment of the transmission line.⁸¹ A former parliamentarian representing the constituency, CP Gajurel, has been promoting the realignment of the Project along an alternative route.⁸² A delegation, which included CP Gajurel, presented their demands to the Ministry of Energy and the Prime Minister's Office.⁸³

In response to the Protest Committee's memorandum, the Prime Minister assured them that 95 percent of their demands would be met.⁸⁴ The GoN subsequently formed an expert commission in February 2012 to investigate alternative routes. The commission assured the Protest Committee that their requests would be fulfilled,⁸⁵ but the commission's report and the criteria for selection of the current location of towers and transmission lines were never made public.⁸⁶ The commission did report, however, that changing the route would lead to additional costs.⁸⁷ According to media reports, the expert commission reported that changing the route would not be appropriate for technical and economic reasons.⁸⁸

The Protest Committee announced a new round of protests, including sit-ins and restricting access to their land for Project personnel.⁸⁹ On March 12, 2012, the Ministry of the Interior sent a letter via the District Administration Office to the Protest Committee, promising to fulfill their demands and requesting that they cease protests.⁹⁰ However, in April 2012, the Ministry of Energy submitted recommendations to Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai to acquire the lands for a road and to build the transmission line alongside the road. The Prime Minister accepted those recommendations.⁹¹

On October 7, 2012, a ministerial decision announced the acquisition of lands for the construction of roads – without mention of the transmission line – in Sindhuli District.⁹² Complainants believed the road project is a cover up for continuing the construction of the transmission line and continued to restrict access to the construction sites.⁹³

⁸⁰ Memorandum submitted by the Sindhuli Protest Committee to the Rt. Honorable Prime Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Singh Durbar, Kathmandu (January 17, 2012) (Annex D).

⁸¹ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

⁸² Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

⁸³ Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

⁸⁴ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

⁸⁵ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

⁸⁶ Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

⁸⁷ Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

⁸⁸ "Construction of Khimti-Dhalkebar Transmission Lines Underway," *Aarthik Abhiyan* (April 27, 2012).

⁸⁹ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

⁹⁰ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

⁹¹ "Construction of Khimti-Dhalkebar Transmission Lines Underway," *Aarthik Abhiyan* (April 27, 2012).

⁹² Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

⁹³ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

On November 11, 2012, around 250 armed police officers and 5-6 Project personnel came to begin surveying the area in Kamalamai village in Sindhuli District.⁹⁴ Affected communities began to peacefully protest, preventing them from carrying out the survey and demanding that the transmission lines be relocated away from their homes and schools.⁹⁵ The next day, on November 12, 2012 at around 4:00 am, while people were still sleeping, the surveyors came back, accompanied this time by approximately 500 police officers armed with rifles and batons, circling Project personnel and the survey area to prevent the villagers from blocking their work.⁹⁶ No one was allowed to enter the area.⁹⁷

Around 100-200 unarmed protestors gathered near the restricted area.⁹⁸ Several women tried to enter the area, believing that they would not be harmed and knowing that under Nepali law, only female police officers can arrest women. Police officers violently beat and injured the women with their sticks, boots, and fists, making the women's faces and chests bleed. Ambulances were not allowed to transport the injured.⁹⁹ Journalists and media personnel were also prohibited from entering the area.¹⁰⁰ Ten women were severely injured and had to be taken to the hospital in Kathmandu.¹⁰¹ One was under treatment for two months.¹⁰² The following day, the protestors met with the Chief District Officer and the NEA project manager, who orally promised them that they would be compensated for medical treatment for those who were injured.¹⁰³ No compensation was ever paid.¹⁰⁴ Community members raised funds to cover medical expenses.¹⁰⁵

On April 11, 2013, police and Project personnel visited the communities again, this time with batons but no firearms. The communities chased them away.¹⁰⁶ The police have not come back since,¹⁰⁷ but Complainants live in fear of renewed violence. In order to avoid further violent responses from the police, Complainants filed a complaint with the Nepal Human Rights Commission and a writ petition at the Supreme Court.¹⁰⁸ The Supreme Court writ petition was denied, based on false information given

⁹⁴ Krishna was present and saw the events unfolding. Project personnel claimed to be surveying for the road project, but community members believe that it is to complete the remaining construction for the Project. Interview with Krishna Bahadur Thapa Magar.

⁹⁵ Interview with Krishna Bahadur Thapa Magar.

⁹⁶ Interviews with Man Bahadur Magar, Khadka Panityanki, and Krishna Bahadur Thapa Magar.

⁹⁷ Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

⁹⁸ Interview with Man Bahadur Magar.

⁹⁹ Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

¹⁰⁰ Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

¹⁰¹ Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

¹⁰² Interview with Krishna Bahadur Thapa Magar, noting that Krishna's niece, Ambika Magar, was badly beaten and is still suffering from menstrual problems and poor health, with medical bills of at least NRS 85,000. Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki, noting that one of the women, Nara Bahadur Kami suffered bone fractures and had to undergo serious treatment.

¹⁰³ Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

¹⁰⁴ Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

¹⁰⁵ Interview with Krishna Bahadur Thapa Magar.

¹⁰⁶ Interviews with Krishna Bahadur Thapa Magar and Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

¹⁰⁷ Interview with Krishna Bahadur Thapa Magar.

¹⁰⁸ The Supreme Court writ petition requested an interim order to halt the construction works of the project (Annex B). Interviews with Krishna Bahadur Thapa Magar and Surendraswor Moktan.

by the Nepal Electricity Authority that 95 percent of the land acquisition process had been completed, even though the acquisition of land for construction of local roads was only published after the Supreme Court decision.¹⁰⁹

IV. Violations of the World Bank Policies

A. Operational Policy 4.01 Environmental Assessment

According to Operational Policy (“OP”) 4.01, the NPDP is a Category A project, meaning that “it is likely to have significant adverse environmental impacts that are sensitive, diverse, or unprecedented,” and therefore requires the highest level of environmental assessment.¹¹⁰ However, various Category A requirements have not been fulfilled, nor has the requisite information been made available to the Complainants.

i. Public consultation

As a Category A project, the Bank was required to ensure that the borrower “consult[] project-affected groups and local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) about the project’s environmental aspects and take[] their views into account.”¹¹¹ Bank policy requires that the borrower initiate such consultations “as early as possible”¹¹² and conduct at least two consultations with the affected groups and NGOs prior to project implementation.¹¹³

As discussed above, the project-affected people in Sindhuli District were never consulted about the Project. Though the GoN held consultations in Dhanusa and Rammechhap Districts, the members of Sindhuli District were not made aware of these consultations in advance, and were thus prohibited from attending and participating in the consultations at those sites. Moreover, the affected people in Sindhuli District do not have the means to travel 40-60 kilometers to consultation sites in distant districts, which were only accessible by foot at the time the consultations were held.¹¹⁴ Because the GoN failed to hold consultations in Sindhuli District, community concerns and views about the Project design were not taken into account prior to Project implementation.

According to OP 4.01, the Bank is also responsible for ensuring that “the borrower consults with [project-affected groups and local NGOs] ... throughout project implementation as necessary to address EA-related issues that affect them.”¹¹⁵ The GoN has failed to consult Project-affected people of Sindhuli District throughout the implementation phase. In fact, far from consulting the Project-affected communities to

¹⁰⁹ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

¹¹⁰ OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment, para 8(a), *available at* <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/PROJECTS/EXTPOLICIES/EXTOPMANUAL/0,,contntMDK:20064724~menuPK:64701637~pagePK:64709096~piPK:64709108~theSitePK:502184,00.html>.

¹¹¹ OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment, para 14.

¹¹² OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment, para 14.

¹¹³ OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment, para 14.

¹¹⁴ Interviews with Tulashi Prasad Kafle and Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

¹¹⁵ OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment, para 14.

address the environmental issues that affect them, the GoN has actively and forcefully worked to silence their complaints. As described above, the GoN has twice deployed armed police forces to Sindhuli District to violently ensure that opposition to the Project did not obstruct surveying and construction activities. In November 2012, state-sanctioned security police used violent means to quell community opposition to environmental aspects of the Project, and the affected communities fear recurrence of violence.

ii. Disclosure

For meaningful consultation to take place between the GoN and Project-affected groups and local NGOs, as required under OP 4.01, the GoN was required to provide “relevant material in a timely manner prior to consultation and in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to the groups being consulted.”¹¹⁶ For Category A projects, the Bank is also charged with ensuring that the borrower provides “a summary of the proposed project’s objectives, description, and potential impacts” for the initial consultation. Affected communities in Sindhuli District did not receive any of these materials.

Since the Project’s inception, the GoN has failed to provide affected people in Sindhuli District with the required Project-related materials. The nondisclosure of such materials constitutes a violation World Bank policy.

B. Operational Directive 4.20 Indigenous People

Operational Directive (“OD”) 4.20 aims to “ensure that indigenous people benefit from development projects” and “avoid or mitigate potentially adverse effects on indigenous people caused by Bank-assisted activities.”¹¹⁷ Many people affected by the Project are from indigenous communities, and should be covered under OD 4.20. The NPDP Project Appraisal Document (April 25, 2003), Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet (May 16, 2003), and Policy Framework for EIA (November 1999) reference OD 4.20 as an applicable policy that is triggered by this Project.

i. Identification

The primary policy objective of OD 4.20 is that “indigenous people do not suffer adverse effects during the development process, particularly from Bank-financed projects, and that they receive culturally compatible social and economic benefits.”¹¹⁸ This is achieved through the identification of potentially affected indigenous peoples, and the gathering of baseline data, such as maps of areas inhabited by indigenous people, analysis of local social and economic structures, information on the resources used by indigenous people, and the relationship between indigenous groups and non-indigenous groups.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁶ OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment, para 15.

¹¹⁷ OD 4.20 Indigenous People, para 2 (September 1991).

¹¹⁸ OD 4.20 Indigenous People, para 6.

¹¹⁹ OD 4.20 Indigenous People, para 15(b).

The Bank breached the Indigenous Peoples policy by failing to ensure that Project-affected indigenous people were identified appropriately. Project documents state that though there are indigenous communities among the Project-affected people,¹²⁰ and the indigenous groups in the affected area are recognized as indigenous nationalities under Nepali law.¹²¹ However, only a single plan to address “vulnerable communities,” or those groups living below the poverty line, was developed without specialized research and analysis into the issues, concerns, or preferences of indigenous people.¹²² The Vulnerable Communities Development Plan (“VCDP”) then misidentifies groups, like the Tamang, Newar, and Magar, as “ethnic minorities” and in the same category as traditional ruling classes, like Brahmin and Chhettri, rather than as indigenous people.¹²³

Due to this misidentification, the Project was not able to take into consideration the specific needs, preferences, and rights of affected indigenous peoples, and is now expected to have significant adverse impacts on the livelihoods of local indigenous communities in Sindhuli District.

ii. Consultation and participation

The Bank failed to assess whether the GoN engaged in direct consultation with Project-affected indigenous people that resulted in the informed participation of such communities. This constitutes a breach of World Bank policy.

According to the Indigenous Peoples policy, “the strategy for addressing the issues pertaining to indigenous peoples must be based on the *informed participation* of

¹²⁰ World Bank, “Nepal Power Development Project Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet,” at 8 (May 16, 2003), available at <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2003/05/2352886/nepal-power-development-project> (hereinafter “Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet”).

¹²¹ The National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities Act, 2002. See also Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities, “Categorization of Indigenous People Based on Development,” available at <http://www.nefin.org.np/list/Categorization-of-Indigenous-People-based-on-development-15/95/6>.

¹²² “The presence of ethnic minorities or tribal populations in the project affected area for any sub-project will require the preparation of a separate Vulnerable Communities Development Plan (VCDP) to ensure that ethnic minorities/tribals are provided with assistance in accordance with their own priorities. The VCDP will be prepared in accordance with the provisions of O.D. 4.20 and the EIA/SIA Policy Framework. The VCDP replaces the Indigenous Peoples Development Plan (IPDP) typically prepared to meet the requirements of O.D. 4.20 by extending assistance to vulnerable groups living below the poverty line in the project area.” Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet, at 8.

¹²³ Environmental and Social Studies Department, NEA, “Vulnerable Community Development Plan,” at 7 (February 2006), available at http://www.nea.org.np/images/supportive_docs/VCDPFinal.pdf (hereinafter “VCDP”). The Social Impact Assessment also incorrectly identifies several indigenous groups as ethnic minorities instead of indigenous groups. Environment and Social Studies Department of the Nepal Electricity Authority, “Social Impact Assessment: Final Report for the Khimti-Dhalkebar 220 kV Transmission Line Project,” at 8, 19 [date unknown], available at http://www.nea.org.np/images/supportive_docs/SIAKhimtiFinal.pdf (hereinafter “SIA”).

¹²³ The National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities Act, 2002. See also Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities, “Categorization of Indigenous People Based on Development,” available at <http://www.nefin.org.np/list/Categorization-of-Indigenous-People-based-on-development-15/95/6>.

the indigenous people themselves.”¹²⁴ As such, OD 4.20 states that, “identifying local preferences through direct consultation, incorporation of indigenous knowledge into project approaches, and appropriate early use of experienced specialists are core activities for any project that affects indigenous peoples and their rights.”¹²⁵

The GoN did not engage in direct consultation with the Project affected indigenous groups in Sindhuli District, as required by the Bank’s Indigenous Peoples policy. Though the EIA Executive Summary produced by NEA references three indigenous groups located in the project area,¹²⁶ the members of these groups that live in Sindhuli District were neither informed nor consulted about the Project at any stage of its development. While the GoN did hold consultations in Dhanusa and Rammehhap Districts, those consultations were inadequate to satisfy the requirements of the Bank’s Indigenous Peoples policy, as not all Project affected indigenous people had knowledge of the consultations or the ability to attend.

As a result of the GoN’s failure to inform and consult the Project affected indigenous communities in Sindhuli District, these groups were denied the opportunity to participate in the decision-making processes involving the Project’s preparation and implementation. Consequently, local preferences and indigenous knowledge were not identified or incorporated into the Project’s design.

iii. Indigenous Peoples Development Plan

According to OD 4.20,

“The key step in project design is the preparation of a culturally appropriate development plan based on full consideration of the options preferred by the indigenous people affected by the project. Studies should make all efforts to anticipate adverse trends likely to be induced by the project and develop the means to avoid or mitigate harm.”¹²⁷

In the Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet prepared in 2003, the GoN recognized the need to prepare an Indigenous Peoples Development Plan (“IPDP”) in connection with the Project;¹²⁸ however, this plan was never prepared.¹²⁹ The Project-affected indigenous

¹²⁴ OD 4.20 Indigenous Peoples, para 8 (emphasis in original).

¹²⁵ OD 4.20 Indigenous Peoples, para 8.

¹²⁶ EIA Executive Summary, at 4, referencing the Tamang, Newar, and Magar groups, all of which are listed by NEFIN as indigenous groups. See NEFIN, “Categorization of Indigenous People Based on Development,” available at <http://www.nefin.org.np/list/Categorization-of-Indigenous-People-based-on-development-/5/95/6>.

¹²⁷ OD 4.20 Indigenous Peoples, para 14(a).

¹²⁸ “The presence of ethnic minorities or tribal populations in the project affected area for any sub-project will require the preparation of a separate Vulnerable Communities Development Plan (VCDP) to ensure that ethnic minorities/tribals are provided with assistance in accordance with their own priorities. The VCDP will be prepared in accordance with the provisions of O.D. 4.20 and the EIA/SIA Policy Framework. The VCDP replaces the Indigenous Peoples Development Plan (IPDP) typically prepared to meet the requirements of O.D. 4.20 by extending assistance to vulnerable groups living below the poverty line in the project area.” World Bank, Nepal Power Development Project Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet, at 8 (May

people in Sindhuli District were never consulted to determine their preferred options for the Project. As such, the Project has been constructed along a route that is deeply harmful to and opposed by local indigenous communities.

The Bank also violated OD 4.20 by failing to require the assessment and mitigation of adverse impacts on indigenous people affected by the Project. There is no indication that the GoN conducted any studies to evaluate the Project's potential effects on indigenous groups in particular or developed the means to avoid or mitigate such effects. As designed, the Project is expected to adversely impact the productivity of land within the Project area.¹³⁰ Because the indigenous groups within Sindhuli District have traditionally relied on their land for subsistence and income, the likelihood that the Project will disrupt agricultural activities poses a significant threat to their livelihoods and presents an adverse trend that should have been anticipated by the GoN in its IPDP.

Importantly, the Bank's Indigenous Peoples policy recognizes that cases will occur where adverse impacts are unavoidable and adequate mitigation plans have not been developed.¹³¹ In such situations, "the Bank will not appraise projects until suitable plans are developed by the borrower and reviewed by the Bank."¹³² The Bank's appraisal and approval of the NPDP in the absence of a mitigation plan therefore violated OD 4.20.

Finally, the Social Impact Assessment ("SIA") shows particular insensitivity to and prejudice against indigenous communities, stating that "the interaction among different people and ethnic group may attract the rural people towards more advanced society"¹³³ and "experience with other project indicates that sudden cash flow in project area and cash earning of workers is spent unproductively."¹³⁴ The SIA also notes that "normally high cast[e] people are reluctant to low grade physical labor and lower caste people may take advantages of the situation."¹³⁵ These kinds of discriminatory generalizations about ethnic identity and caste reinforce the lack of understanding and attention to affected indigenous communities.

C. Operational Policy/Bank Procedure 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement¹³⁶

16, 2003), available at <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2003/05/2352886/nepal-power-development-project> (hereinafter "Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet").

¹²⁹ A Vulnerable Communities Development Plan was created for the Nepal Power Development project in lieu of an Indigenous Peoples Development Plan "to ensure that ethnic minorities/tribals are provided with assistance in accordance with their own priorities." This is insufficient as the Indigenous Peoples Development Plan under OD 4.20 requires consideration of several elements unique to indigenous peoples that go beyond mere assistance to participation and consultation, legal framework and land tenure analysis, and monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the plan. See Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet, at 8; and OD 4.20 Indigenous Peoples, para 15.

¹³⁰ EIA Executive Summary, at 5.

¹³¹ OD 4.20 Indigenous Peoples, para 9.

¹³² OD 4.20 Indigenous Peoples, para 9.

¹³³ SIA, § 5.1.1.8.

¹³⁴ SIA, § 5.1.1.8.

¹³⁵ SIA, § 5.2.1.1.

¹³⁶ OP and BP 4.12 together replace OD 4.30, *Involuntary Resettlement*. This OP and BP apply to all projects for which a Project Concept Review takes place on or after January 1, 2002. The version of OP/BP

Since its adoption in 1980, the World Bank's involuntary resettlement policy has been intrinsically linked to the Bank's mandate to reduce poverty.¹³⁷ Aiming "to ensure that Bank-supported projects do not contribute to impoverishment through land acquisition and resettlement," the policy focuses broadly on living standards, taking into consideration a wide array of factors, and expands the range and number of people recognized as adversely affected, rather than solely considering expropriated property.¹³⁸

OP 4.12 covers direct economic and social impacts of Bank-assisted investment projects "caused by the involuntary taking of land resulting in (i) relocation or loss of shelter; (ii) lost of assets or access to assets; or (iii) loss of income sources or means of livelihood, whether or not the affected persons must move to another location."¹³⁹ A large number of indigenous and local people in Sindhuli District are at risk of displacement.¹⁴⁰ Sixteen households have already been displaced in areas where construction of towers is completed.¹⁴¹ Many Complainants' homes, schools, and farming lands are within the Project's RoW, and the EIA Executive Summary acknowledges there will be devaluation of land, loss of agricultural production, withdrawal of economic opportunity, and farming hindrance in the RoW.¹⁴² The NEA project manager, Kanaiya Kumar Manandhar, has informed Complainants that they are not allowed to enter or undertake any activity within the RoW.¹⁴³ OP 4.12 should therefore cover the adverse impacts suffered by Complainants.

4.12 cited here is the version that existed in 2003, available in *The World Bank, Involuntary Resettlement Sourcebook: Planning and Implementation in Development Projects*, at 371-398 (2004), available at <http://www4.worldbank.org/afr/ssatp/Resources/HTML/Gender-RG/Source%20%20documents%5CTool%20Kits%20&%20Guides%5CDesigning%20Projects/TLPRO10%20invol%20resettlementsourcebookWB.pdf> (hereinafter "Involuntary Resettlement Sourcebook"). OP 4.12 applies to all components of the project that result in involuntary resettlement, and to other activities resulting in involuntary resettlement, that are (a) directly and significantly related to the Bank assisted project, (b) necessary to achieve its objectives as set forth in the project documents; and (c) carried out, or planned to be carried out, contemporaneously with the project. OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 4.¹³⁷ "The Bank adopted its first involuntary-resettlement policy in 1980, after it recognized the painful shortcomings in development practice that in some cases led to the impoverishment of thousands of people." (...) The broader focus on living standards brings a wide array of factors into resettlement discourse, including social and cultural relationships, public health, and community services. The resettlement process in Bank-assisted projects is no longer the mere mitigation of externalities but an integral part of the development project itself. (...) [T]he emphasis on incomes and living standards, in contrast to the conventional emphasis on expropriated property, expands the range and number of people recognized as adversely affected." Involuntary Resettlement Sourcebook, at xxiv.

¹³⁸ Involuntary Resettlement Sourcebook, at xxiv-xxv

¹³⁹ OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 3(a). OP 4.12, note 7, defines "involuntary" as "without the displaced person's informed consent or power of choice." OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, note 8, notes "Land' includes anything growing on or permanently affixed to land, such as buildings and crops."

¹⁴⁰ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

¹⁴¹ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

¹⁴² EIA Executive Summary, at 5.

¹⁴³ Interview with Menuka Kumari Kafle.

A major policy objective of OP 4.12 is to avoid involuntary resettlement “where feasible” by “exploring all viable alternative project designs.”¹⁴⁴ Where resettlement cannot feasibly be avoided, “displaced persons should be meaningfully consulted and should have opportunities to participate in planning and implementing resettlement programs” and “should be assisted in their efforts to improve their livelihoods and standards of living or at least to restore them, in real terms, to pre-displacement levels.”¹⁴⁵ The Project has breached all three policy objectives of OP 4.12.

i) Consideration of viable alternatives to involuntary resettlement

Under OP 4.12, the GoN was required to prepare a resettlement plan¹⁴⁶ or an abbreviated resettlement plan,¹⁴⁷ which included at minimum, “consultations with displaced people about acceptable alternatives,” among other requirements.¹⁴⁸ A satisfactory draft resettlement plan or an abbreviated resettlement plan is a condition of appraisal and Bank financing for all operations and subprojects that entail involuntary resettlement.¹⁴⁹ The GoN’s commitment to, and capacity for, undertaking successful resettlement should have been a key determinant of Bank involvement in the Project.¹⁵⁰

The GoN was required to inform all potentially displaced persons at an early stage about the resettlement aspects of the project and take their views into account in Project design.¹⁵¹ The Bank task team and GoN staff were required to “explore all viable

¹⁴⁴ OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 2(a). This includes taking into account other Bank policies, such as those on safeguarding cultural property, natural habitats, and indigenous people. OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, note 2.

¹⁴⁵ OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 2(b) and (c). “Displaced” is defined as persons who are affected in any of the ways described in OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 3 and note 3.

¹⁴⁶ “(a) The resettlement plan or resettlement policy framework includes measures to ensure that the displaced persons are (i) informed about their options and rights pertaining to resettlement; (ii) consulted on, offered choices among, and provided with technically and economically feasible resettlement alternatives; and (iii) provided prompt and effective compensation at full replacement cost for losses of assets attributable directly to the project. (b) If the impacts include physical relocation, the resettlement plan or resettlement policy framework includes measures to ensure that the displaced persons are (i) provided assistance (such as moving allowances) during relocation; and (ii) provided with residential housing, or housing sites, or, as required, agricultural sites for which a combination of productive potential, locational advantages, and other factors is at least equivalent to the advantages of the old site. (c) Where necessary to achieve the objectives of the policy, the resettlement plan or resettlement policy framework also includes measures to ensure that displaced persons are (i) offered support after displacement, for a transition period, based on a reasonable estimate of the time likely to be needed to restore their livelihood and standards of living; and (ii) provided with development assistance in addition to compensation measures described in paragraph 6(a) (iii), such as land preparation, credit facilities, training, or job opportunities.” OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 6. *See also* OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 17.

¹⁴⁷ Where impacts on the entire displaced population are minor, or fewer than 200 people are displaced, an abbreviated resettlement plan may be agreed with the borrower. Impacts are considered “minor” if the affected people are not physically displaced and less than 10% of their productive assets are lost. OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 25 and note 25.

¹⁴⁸ OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, Annex A, para 22.

¹⁴⁹ OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, paras 17, 25, 29.

¹⁵⁰ OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 18.

¹⁵¹ OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 19.

alternative project designs,”¹⁵² such as realignment,¹⁵³ “to avoid, where feasible, or minimize displacement.”¹⁵⁴ According to the Bank’s Involuntary Resettlement Sourcebook,¹⁵⁵ “OP 4.12 requires the least possible displacement of people,” and early screening can make it possible to shift the location of the proposed transmission line to reduce negative impacts.¹⁵⁶ “The consultative screening process can provide valuable information on (...) whether to shift the corridor, from marginal adjustments to a choice of alternative routes.”¹⁵⁷

An abbreviated resettlement action plan (“ARAP”), dated 2006, and an SIA with no date, were uploaded to the NEA website in March 2013.¹⁵⁸ While the EIA Executive Summary includes a two-paragraph analysis of alternatives,¹⁵⁹ the SIA and the ARAP do not include this analysis, or any discussion at all of alternative project designs or routes.¹⁶⁰ Complainants have repeatedly requested that the transmission line go along an alternative route, and have offered potential alternative routes. They believe that the transmission line was originally routed to go to the east along the banks of Tamile River passing through forests and barren lands, where there is no human settlement,¹⁶¹ and that the design was later changed, without their knowledge or consent.¹⁶² Another alternative would be through Sola Bhanjyang and Panichuri VDC, adjoining Chure forests where there is no human settlement.¹⁶³

The GoN formed an expert commission in February 2012 to investigate alternatives, but their final report was never made public.¹⁶⁴ According to the media, the

¹⁵² BP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 2(b).

¹⁵³ BP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 2(b), note 4.

¹⁵⁴ BP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 2(b).

¹⁵⁵ The resettlement policy refers to the World Bank’s Involuntary Resettlement Sourcebook for guidance on good practice. OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, note 10; BP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 7; Involuntary Resettlement Sourcebook, at xxiii. Intended to increase the likelihood that Bank-financed projects will achieve the objectives of OP 4.12, the Sourcebook provides guidance on the implementation of policy principles, the procedural requirements for projects, the technical aspects of resettlement planning, and the actual implementation of resettlement. Involuntary Resettlement Sourcebook, at xxiii.

¹⁵⁶ Involuntary Resettlement Sourcebook, at 306, 307.

¹⁵⁷ Involuntary Resettlement Sourcebook, at 306, 307. The sourcebook cites as an example the National Highways Authority of India (Ln 4559), which instituted local consultations on the proposed routing of the major roads to be rehabilitated. In one town, residents preferred to route the highway around their community, rather than widen the existing road through town. To support their argument, they walked the Authority officials along the proposed new alignment of the road around the town and pointed out that 80 percent of the new alignment was on unoccupied land already owned by the government. The Authority’s engineers recognized the cogency of the residents’ argument and rerouted the highway.

¹⁵⁸ See Annex E. The complete Project EIA, which may include a more in-depth analysis of alternatives, was not available at the time of writing either on the NEA website, or on the World Bank website.

¹⁵⁹ EIA Executive Summary, at 5.

¹⁶⁰ See SIA and Nepal Electricity Authority, “Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plan Of Khimti-Dhalkebar 220 kV Transmission Line Project,” at 24 (March 2006) (*hereinafter* “ARAP”).

¹⁶¹ Interview with Laxmi Devi Budhathoki Magar.

¹⁶² Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

¹⁶³ Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

¹⁶⁴ Interview with Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

expert commission reported that changing the route would not be appropriate for technical and economic reasons.¹⁶⁵

For projects that are “highly risky or contentious, or that involve significant and complex resettlement activities,” OP 4.12 suggests the engagement of “an advisory panel of independent, internationally recognized resettlement specialists to advise on all aspects of the project relevant to the resettlement activities.”¹⁶⁶

ii) Consultation

The GoN was required to provide displaced persons and their communities timely and relevant information, not only on project design and location, but also on resettlement options, and to offer them opportunities to participate in planning, implementing, and monitoring resettlement.¹⁶⁷ As a condition of appraisal of the Project, the GoN was required to make the resettlement plan “available at a place accessible to displaced persons and local NGOs, in a form, manner, and language that are understandable to them.”¹⁶⁸ English versions of an ARAP, dated from 2006, and an SIA with no date, were only uploaded to the NEA website in March 2013.¹⁶⁹ These documents are not available on the World Bank website, and have not been provided to affected communities though they were requested by Complainants and their representative.¹⁷⁰ These documents have never been available in local languages.

The GoN was also required to establish “appropriate and accessible grievance mechanisms.”¹⁷¹ The ARAP notes that a Grievance Redress Committee, a grievance mechanism at the project level where anyone can file a complaint, will be created.¹⁷² The grievance committee, which includes a “representative of local affected persons nominated by themselves,” was required to adopt an “internal working procedure” and hold meetings “at regular intervals.”¹⁷³ The filing of complaints and proceedings of meetings were required to be “well recorded” and “transparent.”¹⁷⁴

However, none of the Complainants have ever heard of a grievance committee. Complainants have had to take their complaints to the NHRC and the Supreme Court. The ARAP also mentions a Khimti-Dalkebar Environmental Management Unit (“KDTL-EMU”), whose tasks include conducting meetings with displaced communities, maintaining records of all meetings and discussions, and preparing quarterly and annual reports during constructions.¹⁷⁵ The KDTL-EMU has never been active in Sindhuli, or

¹⁶⁵ “Construction of Khimti-Dhalkebar Transmission Lines Underway,” *Aarthik Abhiyan* (April 27, 2012).

¹⁶⁶ OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, note 22.

¹⁶⁷ OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 13.

¹⁶⁸ OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 22.

¹⁶⁹ See Annex E.

¹⁷⁰ Interview with Laxmi Devi Budhathoki Magar and with Menuka Kumari Kafle.

¹⁷¹ OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 13.

¹⁷² ARAP, at 24.

¹⁷³ ARAP, at 24.

¹⁷⁴ ARAP, at 24.

¹⁷⁵ ARAP, at 25, notes “Prior to project construction NEA shall establish Khimti-Dalkebar Environmental

communicated with Complainants in Sindhuli.

Particular attention should have been paid to vulnerable groups, especially indigenous peoples in the Project design and the ARAP.¹⁷⁶ Because “resettlement of indigenous peoples with traditional land-based modes of production is particularly complex and may have significant adverse impacts on their identity and cultural survival,” the GoN should have explored “all viable alternative project designs to avoid physical displacement of these groups.”¹⁷⁷ Although the vast majority of affected community members are indigenous,¹⁷⁸ the ARAP does not mention indigenous peoples at all. Its “vulnerable groups” section only refers to two *dalit* households and one female-headed household.¹⁷⁹

Because it may only be possible to identify impacts of high-voltage transmission lines through consultations, and because “the populations displaced along the line may be culturally heterogeneous,” the Bank’s Involuntary Resettlement Sourcebook stresses that “Task Team Leaders need to ensure that displaced persons along the entire length of the project are consulted”¹⁸⁰ and “case-by-case solutions may be required.”¹⁸¹ The figures cited in both the ARAP and SIA show that Sindhuli has a much higher number of “seriously project affected people”¹⁸² than Ramechhap and Dhanusha Districts,¹⁸³ yet neither mention a consultation ever being held in Sindhuli.¹⁸⁴ Testimonies of Complainants confirm that no consultation was ever held there. Holding two consultations in Ramechhap and Dhanusha, locations that take a day and a half to reach¹⁸⁵ from Sindhuli, without informing Sindhuli residents, was not sufficient to meet the requirements of OP 4.12. A separate consultation should have been held in Sindhuli District and the views of Sindhuli residents taken into account in the project design.

iii) Compensation

Before taking affected communities’ land and related assets, the GoN was and is required to compensate and provide resettlement sites and moving allowances, in order to “ensure that displacement or restriction of access does not occur before necessary

Management Unit (KDTL-EMU) and appoint required staff and provide logistics to efficiently conduct social and environmental monitoring and mitigation management of the project.”

¹⁷⁶ OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 8.

¹⁷⁷ OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 9.

¹⁷⁸ Interview with Surendraswor Moktan.

¹⁷⁹ ARAP, at 13.

¹⁸⁰ Involuntary Resettlement Sourcebook, at 308.

¹⁸¹ Involuntary Resettlement Sourcebook, at 320.

¹⁸² The ARAP defines “seriously project affected people” as those who must be relocated because their houses are in the RoW. ARAP, at 10.

¹⁸³ “[O]ut of the 100 seriously project affected people 17 are in Ramechhap, 59 are in Sindhuli and 24 are in Dhanusha District respectively.” ARAP, at 10.

¹⁸⁴ “Public hearing program were organized at Manthali of Ramechhap District and Dhalkebar of Dhanusha District in order to provide opportunity for the maximum participation of local people.” ARAP, at 6. “The team organized nine focus group meetings at Ramchandra Tole, Dhamsar, Majhitar, Panitanki, Dadakhark, Khimti, and other places.” ARAP, at 24.

¹⁸⁵ Interviews with Tulashi Prasad Kafle and Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki.

measures for resettlement are in place.”¹⁸⁶ Minimal compensation was only offered in a few cases, only after a 60-meter tower was built directly on Complainants’ land, without prior notice or compensation.¹⁸⁷

It is not clear what the effects of the RoW will be or what restrictions will be imposed. The local Project manager told Complainants that no activity is allowed in the RoW and that they are prohibited from entering the RoW.¹⁸⁸ According to the SIA, no houses can be built within the RoW for safety reasons.¹⁸⁹ The ARAP mentions that the houses and schools located in the RoW need to be relocated,¹⁹⁰ however the SIA notes that “resettlement is not applicable for this project because the number of houses to be affected by the project is low and scattered in 9 VDCs of 3 districts.”¹⁹¹ According to the SIA, “farming hindrance (...) is unavoidable”¹⁹² and “private land (68.44 ha) within the RoW will be compensated at current market price as per standard practice of HMG/N. Such amount will be paid 10% of the total amount of land value,” yet “the land within RoW will be utilized as usual by the respective landholders.”¹⁹³ Complainants request clear information about the restrictions imposed in the RoW.

Bank policy is directed at improving incomes and living standards, rather than merely compensating people for their expropriated assets.¹⁹⁴ Preference should be given to land-based resettlement strategies for displaced persons whose livelihoods are land-based, ensuring that they are provided with land for which “a combination of productive potential, locational advantages, and other factors is at least equivalent to the advantages of the land taken.”¹⁹⁵ However, the ARAP uses a different approach to compensation, noting that, “[h]ouses(...) are evaluated at replacement value considering construction materials used” rather than productive potential and locational advantages.¹⁹⁶ According to OP 4.12, payment of cash compensation for lost assets may be appropriate in certain limited circumstances.¹⁹⁷ The ARAP claims that, “76 percent of the relocates prefer cash compensation considering that such mode of payment will be easy in handling.”¹⁹⁸ However, Complainants have never mentioned cash compensation in their testimonies;

¹⁸⁶ OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 10, further noting that “taking of land and related assets may take place only after compensation has been paid and, where applicable, resettlement sites and moving allowances have been provided to the displaced persons.”

¹⁸⁷ Interview with Laxmi Devi Budhathoki Magar.

¹⁸⁸ Interview with Menuka Kumari Kafle.

¹⁸⁹ SIA, § 5.1.2.3.

¹⁹⁰ ARAP, at 4.

¹⁹¹ SIA, § 6.1.2.

¹⁹² SIA, § 6.2.4.

¹⁹³ SIA, § 6.2.3.

¹⁹⁴ “Th[e] improvement of incomes and living standards broadens the objective of the policy to include the restoration of income streams and retraining of people unable to continue their old income-generating activities after displacement. The broader focus on living standards brings a wide array of factors into resettlement discourse, including social and cultural relationships, public health, and community services. The resettlement process in Bank-assisted projects is no longer the mere mitigation of externalities but an integral part of the development project itself.” Involuntary Resettlement Sourcebook, at xxiv-xxv.

¹⁹⁵ OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 11.

¹⁹⁶ ARAP, at 21.

¹⁹⁷ OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement, para 12.

¹⁹⁸ ARAP, at 5.

they requested instead that the route be realigned or that they be offered substitute land. While the ARAP notes that, “the records of these meetings are given in Annex 4,” no annex is provided in the document.¹⁹⁹

The ARAP states that the average cost per family is estimated to be NRS 2,611,567, excluding benefits from community support program,²⁰⁰ and it also notes that on average “each household will receive [NRS]264,700 excluding benefits from [the] community support program.”²⁰¹ One Complainant received much less than the stated amount when a tower was built directly on her land.²⁰² Most Complainants have not been offered any compensation.²⁰³

D. Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines for Electric Power Transmission and Distribution

The Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines (“EHS Guidelines”) apply to projects where one or more members of the World Bank Group are involved, and are based on Good International Industry Practice. The EHS Guidelines for Electric Power Transmission and Distribution were published on April 30, 2007, after approval of the NPDP but before the initiation of the Project. Additionally, when there is a difference between the EHS Guidelines and host country regulations, the more stringent of the two are to be applied in Bank-supported projects.²⁰⁴

The EHS Guidelines acknowledge that though there is conflicting and limited evidence of the impacts of the electric and magnetic fields (“EMF”) created by power transmission lines, “it is still sufficient to warrant limited concern.”²⁰⁵ The EHS Guidelines go on to make various recommendations for the management of EMF exposure, including that the siting of new facilities should “avoid or minimize exposure to the public,” and that “installation of transmission lines or other high voltage equipment above or adjacent to residential properties or other locations intended for highly frequent human occupancy, (e.g. schools or offices), should be avoided.”²⁰⁶

Additionally, there are a number of recommended mitigation measures in cases where EMF levels are higher than the recommended exposure limits. In this case, there has to be a study of the levels of EMF exposure for those living near the Project route and an investigation of alternative routes away from areas of frequent human occupancy, and

¹⁹⁹ ARAP, at 24.

²⁰⁰ ARAP, at 26.

²⁰¹ ARAP, at 28.

²⁰² Interview with Laxmi Devi Budhathoki Magar, noting that she received NRS 28, 216 in compensation for a 60-meter high tower built on her land within 15 meters of her house, affecting her entire property.

²⁰³ Interviews with Sindhuli residents Surendraswor Moktan, Surya Bahadur Khadka Panityanki, Menuka Kumari Kafle, Tulashi Prasad Kafle, Man Bahadur Magar, and Krishna Bahadur Thapa Magar.

²⁰⁴ World Bank Group, “Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines for Electric Power Transmission and Distribution,” at 1 (April 30, 2007) (*hereinafter* “EHS Guidelines”).

²⁰⁵ EHS Guidelines, at 6.

²⁰⁶ EHS Guidelines, at 6.

only then should these mitigation measures be considered. No documentation of either of these studies has been provided to Complainants in Sindhuli District.

E. Operational Policy Note 11.03 Management of Cultural Property

The NPDP Project Appraisal Document²⁰⁷ and Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet²⁰⁸ reference Operational Policy Note (“OPN”) 11.03 as an applicable policy that is triggered by this Project.

According to OPN 11.03, “[t]he Bank normally declines to finance projects that will significantly damage nonreplicable cultural property, and will assist only those projects that are sited or designed so as to prevent such damage.”²⁰⁹

The NPDP was not designed to prevent significant damage to cultural property. To the contrary, the Project was sited near various monasteries, temples, cremation sites, and historical landmarks. As discussed above, one example of a historically significant site that is vulnerable to significant damage by the Project is Sindhuli Gadhi, the battleground of the historic 1767 defeat of the British Army by Nepalese forces. Currently, one of the Project towers is planned for construction inside the Sindhuli Gadhi site. Because the Project is likely to result in significant damage to cultural property, the Bank breached its Cultural Property policy by financing the Project.

In addition, OPN 11.03 requires the Bank to “assist in the protection and enhancement of cultural properties encountered in Bank-financed projects... In some cases, the project is best relocated in order that sites and structures can be preserved, studied and restored intact *in situ*.”²¹⁰

The Bank has failed to assist in the protection and enhancement of cultural property in the Sindhuli District, as required by OPN 11.03. First, the Project did not include the “training and strengthening of institutions entrusted with safeguarding [Nepal’s] cultural patrimony.”²¹¹ Additionally, realignment of the Project was not adequately considered, despite the fact that alternative routes for the project exist, many of which would avoid damage to cultural property in Sindhuli District. Though an expert commission was formed to investigate various alternative routes, its analysis was never made public, and the GoN has since refused to consider alternative designs for the Project. As such, the Project’s route has not changed, and Project towers have not been relocated to ensure the protection and preservation of cultural property.

V. Violations of Nepali Law

²⁰⁷ World Bank, “Nepal Power Development Project Appraisal Document,” at 36-37, (April 25, 2003), available at <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2003/04/2290452/nepal-power-development-project> (hereinafter “Project Appraisal Document”).

²⁰⁸ Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet, at 4.

²⁰⁹ OPN 11.03 Management of Cultural Property in Bank-Financed Projects, para 2(a).

²¹⁰ OPN 11.03 Management of Cultural Property in Bank-Financed Projects, para 2(b) (emphasis in original).

²¹¹ OPN 11.03 Management of Cultural Property in Bank-Financed Projects, para 2(b).

The Project ignores the existence of indigenous peoples even though it is located in traditional homelands of indigenous peoples. In Nepal, the rights of indigenous peoples are recognized constitutionally and under Nepali laws.²¹² Indigenous peoples were recognized under the Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007. The 2007 Interim Constitution guarantees indigenous peoples and other excluded groups the fundamental right to participation.²¹³ In contrast, indigenous and other local peoples of Sindhuli District have not been included at any stage of the Project cycle.

The Local Self-Governance Act of 2055 (1998 A.D.), Sections 134, 135, 138, 197, 198, 200, and 201, stipulates that the process of development must include the participation of indigenous and local people in project identification, formulation, planning, and implementation through local councils. The Project has not been included in any development plan of the Sindhuli District municipalities or village development committees, showing that it is not a priority of the local people who have had no say in its planning and implementation.

The Interim Constitution also states that local people have priority in access to and benefit from natural resources.²¹⁴ Indigenous people are entitled to special measures for protection, empowerment, and advancement for development in accordance with the Article 13 of the Interim Constitution. The World Bank and GoN have not prioritized indigenous peoples in the design or implementation of the Project.

The Project violates the fundamental right of right to information, guaranteed under Article 27 of the Interim Constitution, Section 3 of the Right to Information Act of 2064 (2007 A.D.), and mandatory provisions under the Environmental Protection Act of 2053 (1997 A.D.), as no public hearing was conducted in Sindhuli District and Complainants were not provided with Project information upon their request.

The Constitution also guarantees the right to healthy environment,²¹⁵ right to culture,²¹⁶ and right to property.²¹⁷ The Project not only threatens the health of local communities, it also encroaches on cultural, historical, and religious sites.

Based on a notice from the District Administration Officer (“CDO”), the ownership of lands in Project areas is under lien, and local residents cannot sell or mortgage their lands. The decision of the CDO contradicts Section 5, Subsection 5 of Local Administration Act of 2028 (1971 A.D.), which says the mandate of the CDO is limited to maintaining peace and security. In accordance with the Collateral Directives of Commercial Bank of 2007, Section 7.1, the Bank will not accept as collateral any land or house in the 15 meter right of way on both sides of the Project transmission line. Given

²¹² National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities Act (2002).

²¹³ Interim Constitution of Nepal, Article 21 (2007) (*hereinafter* “Interim Constitution”).

²¹⁴ Interim Constitution, Article 35(4).

²¹⁵ Interim Constitution, Article 16.

²¹⁶ Interim Constitution, Article 17.

²¹⁷ Interim Constitution, Article 19.

the economic hardship that this has caused small landowners living under and near the proposed transmission lines, the Project cannot be qualified as an act of public interest, which is required to acquire private lands.²¹⁸ The Interim Constitution guarantees the right to property and the Project has violated these fundamental rights without due process.

Regulation No. 50 of the Electricity Regulation of 2052 (1993 A.D.) prohibits constructing houses and planting trees under high tension power lines, which has immense effect on peoples' ability to use their land. Furthermore, the Project violates Regulation No. 52 of the Electricity Regulation of 2052 (1993 A.D.), which prohibits the passage of all electricity lines above houses, is clearly violated by the Project.

VI. Violations of International Law

The Government of Nepal has signed a number of treaties creating international obligations to protect and promote human rights within its borders. Relevant here, Nepal is a signatory party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ("ICCPR"), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ("ICESCR"), ILO Convention 169 on the Rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples ("ILO 169"), as well as to the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ("UNDRIP"). Collectively, these treaties ensure Nepalese peoples the rights to: their traditional livelihood and subsistence activities; their homelands and territories and the natural resources embedded within them; consultation; participation in decision-making; and, to determine their own development priorities.

Significantly, international law has a special status in Nepal insofar as it is enforceable in domestic courts and takes precedent over national law should a conflict arise between the provisions of domestic and international law. This status is protected in both Nepali legislation (1990 Treaty Act, Article 9) and under the Interim Constitution (Article 33(m)). Given this special status and added enforceability, the Government of Nepal is particularly obliged to respect international legal provisions and standards and any organization working in Nepal should be wary and respectful of these commitments. Indigenous peoples and other communities have the right to challenge the Government of Nepal's violation of international treaty rights in Nepali courts.

Implementation of the Project violates Nepal's international obligations. This is particularly true as the presence of indigenous peoples in Sindhuli District triggers several international legal requirements; namely, the requirement to consult with indigenous peoples. UNDRIP in Article 29 embodies the indigenous right to free, prior and informed consent ("FPIC") in relation to development projects undertaken on their lands; while not a veto right, FPIC does require that indigenous peoples who are affected by a development project are consulted in good faith, before the project is undertaken, and that they are provided with full information on the proposed project so that they can make a free choice to provide or withhold their consent. According to community

²¹⁸ "The State shall not, except in the public interest, acquire or create any encumbrance on the property of any person." Interim Constitution, Article 19(2).

members in Sindhuli District, no information was provided about the project until its implementation phase was underway and therefore the communities were deprived of the opportunity to consent or not to the project.

Article 6 of ILO 169 also requires that indigenous peoples be consulted in relation to any decision which will affect their rights; even more pertinently, if a project will require forced relocation of community members, a higher standard for consultation is triggered under Article 16(2). This higher standard mirrors the requirements of UNDRIP insofar as it requires that consultations with indigenous peoples be “free and informed.” Since certain members of the indigenous groups in Sindhuli District will have to relocate because their houses fall within the thirty meter right of way corridor of the Project, the higher standard for consultation applies in this case.

Under both UNDRIP and ILO 169, indigenous peoples have the explicit right to determine their own development priorities and to make unhindered and informed choices about the use of their lands. In the case of the Project under discussion, indigenous peoples have repeatedly stated that they do not want the Project to be continued on its current route. This statement should be respected as an expression of the will of the people and their desires and proposals for the Project’s course should be considered.

VII. Prior Attempts to Resolve the Problems with the World Bank

On at least two occasions, the Complainants have raised their Project-related issues and concerns with the World Bank.

On February 18, 2013, LAHURNIP and NEFIN submitted a letter to the World Bank staff on behalf of the Complainants, requesting that the World Bank consider alternatives for the NPDP in Sindhuli District. The letter emphasized the Project’s failure to inform and consult local communities, the inaccurate estimates of affected people within the SIA and EIA, and violations of the rights of indigenous peoples. The Complainants’ letter also referenced incidents of state-sanctioned violence against project opponents, citing personal safety as a major concern for local people.

On February 27, 2013, the World Bank responded to the Complainants’ February 18 letter. Jie Tang, the new Task Team Leader for the NPDP, assured the Complainants that he took the concerns and complaints raised in their letter very seriously, and proposed a meeting between World Bank staff and the affected communities, to help the World Bank better understand the details of the Complainants’ concerns and to assess the situation in the field.

The meeting between the Complainants and the World Bank took place on March 15, 2013, and was attended by three World Bank representatives, members of Sindhuli District, an independent indigenous rights expert and three representatives from LAHURNIP. Several concerns were raised by the Complainants at this meeting, namely: the lack of information disclosure by the World Bank and the local government with

respect to the Project's purpose and impacts; the failure to consult with the local community and indigenous peoples; the destruction of human settlements and sacred sites; the potential health impacts on households and schools located under the transmission line; and the use of excessive violence against local people by state-sanctioned security police. The Complainants also clearly requested that the Project be constructed along an alternative route. The Complainants identified possible alternatives and reiterated that they would not oppose the Project if it avoided human settlement.²¹⁹

In response to the Complainants' concerns and requests, the World Bank affirmed its interest in working with the Complainants to resolve their issues with the Project. The World Bank representatives agreed to share all information as required by the World Bank disclosure policy, and offered to discuss allegations of noncompliance with disclosure and consultation policies in the course of Project implementation with the NEA. In addition, the World Bank representatives said they would visit Project affected areas. The World Bank informed the Complainants that it would contact them after speaking with the NEA in order to discuss how to move forward.

Despite the Complainants' various efforts to raise their concerns with the World Bank, no change has been made to the Project plans and the requested information has not been disclosed. World Bank officials reportedly visited the community in March 2013, but community members reported not being able to communicate with them because of language barriers.²²⁰ On June 24 and 25, 2013, a World Bank team visited the Project site, but did not meet with Project-affected people.

VIII. Requested Next Steps

We, the undersigned Complainants, request that the Inspection Panel conduct an investigation that affirms the violations of Bank policy described above. The Complainants trust that the Panel process will result in the Bank taking steps to remedy the issues raised in this Request. The World Bank must immediately stop disbursement on the NPDP loan and all construction activity on the Khimti-Dhalkebar 220 kV Transmission Line Project, until such time that affected communities have been fully informed and consulted about the Project details, impacts, rehabilitation and mitigation measures, and an independent analysis of alternative designs, in which the rights and needs of people affected by the Project construction are made the priority. The first step in such a process would be the release of all relevant documents from the World Bank or the Government of Nepal, including the full EIA in English and Nepali, reports and minutes of meetings of the Grievance Committee and KDTL-EMU mentioned in the ARAP, and clear information about the restrictions imposed in the RoW. In addition, the Project must be carried out in full compliance with Nepali law, international law, and the social and environmental safeguard standards of the World Bank.

We request that the Project follow an alternative route in Sindhuli District that will not cause such detrimental impact to our lives, the lives of our children and future

²¹⁹ For full minutes of meeting, *see* Notes on Community Meeting with the World Bank (Annex C).

²²⁰ Interview with Krishna Bahadur Thapa Magar.

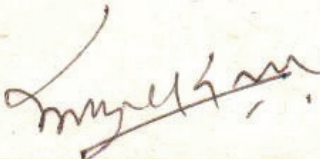
generations, our environment, and our livelihoods. This may be achieved through the appointment of an independent expert panel to assess viable alternatives that do not affect our homes and lands. We, as affected people, should be allowed to participate in the analysis and decision making process for possible alternatives.

Those who have already been affected by Project construction and loss of land use should be retroactively compensated for lost agricultural produce. For land that has already been acquired, comparable substitute land should be provided, or fair and adequate compensation should be paid.

Finally, if these steps are taken, we request that all baseline studies and future monitoring reports be done with full transparency and participation of affected communities, and the results made public.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have. Please send correspondence to Shankar Limbu (shankar193q@gmail.com) and Komala Ramachandra (komala@accountabilitycounsel.org). We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



.....
Surendraswor Moktan

Chairperson of Struggle
Committee of Sindhuli
High tension Affected
People



.....
Advocate Shankar Limbu

LAHURNIP



.....
Komala Ramachandra



Accountability Counsel
Organization








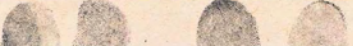
Annex A

Power of Attorney Agreement







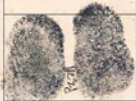
लिखितम् हामी तपसिलमा लेखिएका मानिसहरु आगे विश्व बैंकको लगानी रहेको नेपाल सरकारको नेपाल विद्युत प्राधिकरणले निर्माण गरिरहेको खिम्ति डल्केबर २२० के भी विद्युत प्रसारण लाइनको सम्बन्धमा विश्व बैंकको इन्सपेक्सन प्यानलमा उजूरी दर्ता गर्न परेको हुनाले हामीहरुको सट्टा ऐनले वारिस दिनमिल्ने नेपालका आदिवासिहरुको मानवअधिकार सम्बन्धि वकिल समूहका (लाहुर्निप) सचिव अधिवक्ता शंकर लिम्बुलाई यो अख्तियारनामा वारेसको कागजलेखि दिई पठाएका छौ । निजवारेसले हामी निवेदकहरुको तर्फबाट विश्व बैंक इन्सपेक्सन प्यानलमा उजूरी दर्ता गरी मुद्दामा पुरपक्ष गरेमा हामीहरुको मञ्जुर छ । हामीहरुको मनोमान खुसिराजिसंग यो वाअख्तियारनामाको कागजका.म.न.पा. बडा नं ३२ स्थित लाहुर्निपको कार्यलयमा बसि यो वारेसनामाको कागज किनारामा लेखिएका साक्षीहरुको रोहबरमा यो वारिस अख्तियारनामाको कागज लेखि तपाई अधिवक्ताशंकर लिम्बुलाई दियौ ।

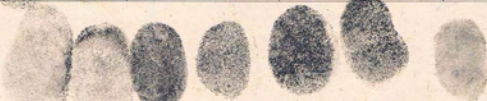
तपसिल





हस्ताक्षर	नाम	ठेगाना	उमेर
	सुरेन्द्र स्वर मोक्तान	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	५१
	पवित्रामोक्तान	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	४६









	उक्तबहादुर थापा (मगर)	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	४८
	मैनाकुमारी प्रधानथापा		४९
	धरुबहादुर आले	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	३६
	चिनीमायाआले	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	६५
	गोपी मगर	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	२८
	धनबहादुर बस्नेत	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	५४
	सम्भु खडका	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	६९
	लोक बहादुर पुर्वेछाने	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	४३

सिन्धुली जिल्ला
सिन्धुली जिल्ला

	शेर बहादुर पुर्वेछाने	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	४०
	लालबहादुर श्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	२८
	हस्तकुमारी श्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	५४
	शिवनारायण घिसिङ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	६३
	सोम बहादुर तामाङ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	२८
	विष्णुमाया घिसिङ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	
	सुर्य बहादुर खडका	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	५५








	हस्तबहादुर गुरुड	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	६७
	वीर बहादुर साडतान	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	
	डम्बर बहादुर आले	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	४०
	चन्द्र बहादुर विश्वकर्मा	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	५६
	रिपुमर्दन कार्की	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	६५
	पुर्ण बहादुर खत्री	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	२३
	वीर बहादुर खत्री	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	४३








	सीताकुमारी खत्री	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	४३
	दीर्घ बहादुर कार्की	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	४१
	मुद कुमारी कार्की	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	३५
	निर्मलाकुमारी कामी	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	३६
	रिनाकुमारी बुढाथोकी	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	५५
	साकी लामा	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	३१
	नेर बहादुर विश्वकर्मा	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	५२
	राममायापाखिन	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	४२

		न.पा.बडा नं. ७	
	रामबहादुर बाईबा	सिन्धुली जिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	५८
	विरेन्द्र गोले	सिन्धुली जिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	३४
	मानबहादुर थापा मगर	सिन्धुली जिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	४९
	वेदबहादुर सुनुवार	सिन्धुली जिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	५०
	दिपकुमार जोगी	सिन्धुली जिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	३८
	कृष्ण बहादुर कार्की	सिन्धुली जिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	४५
	सुर्य बहादुर विश्वकर्मा	सिन्धुली जिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	४५

दलबहादुर खडका	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	५८
न.पा.वडा नं. ७		
रामबहादुर बस्नेत	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	
न.पा.वडा नं. ७		
विमलकुमार खडका	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	४४
न.पा.वडा नं. ७		
नन्दा देवीकाकी	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	
न.पा.वडा नं. ७		
चुडा कुमारी गौतम	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	४६
न.पा.वडा नं. ७		
बालकुमारी थापा	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	५१
न.पा.वडा नं. ७		
दलबहादुर घिसिङ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	६४
न.पा.वडा नं. ७		
चन्द्र बहादुर ठकुरी	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	६८















		न.पा.बडा नं. ७	
	डोर बहादुर थापाछेवी	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	६६
	विष्णुमायाश्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	५१
	भीमबहादुर श्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	५१
	धनबहादुर श्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	६९
	धनकुमारी प्रधान	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	६८
	धित्रमायाप्रधान	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	६२
	मिनाकुमारी पुलामी	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	३३

रमेशप्रधान	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	४९
पुशपतिप्रधान	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	४०
गोपालकुमार दमाई	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	४१
छत्र कुमारी बुढाथोकी	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	
हरि बहादुर काकी	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	४८
देवकुमारी काकी	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	
धनबहादुर भोक्तान	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	४९

	भीमबहादुर श्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्ला. रतनचुरा गा.वि.स. वडा नं. २	
	गोरख बहादुर राई	सिन्धुलीजिल्ला. रतनचुरा गा.वि.स. वडा नं. २	७४
	धिव्रबहादुर श्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्ला. रतनचुरा गा.वि.स. वडा नं. २	४०
	देवकीश्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्ला. रतनचुरा गा.वि.स. वडा नं. २	३४
	भैरव बहादुर बुढाथोकी	सिन्धुलीजिल्ला. रतनचुरा गा.वि.स. वडा नं. २	६३
	भीमबहादुर श्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्ला. रतनचुरा गा.वि.स. वडा नं. २	
	ठट्ट विक्रमबुढाथोकी	सिन्धुलीजिल्ला. रतनचुरा गा.वि.स. वडा नं. २	
	भक्तबहादुर श्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्ला. रतनचुरा	६८

विष्णुमायामाफी	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	५८
	न.पा.बडा नं. ७	
तुलसा देवीखत्री	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	
	न.पा.बडा नं. ७	
गोविन्दमाफी	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	६७
	न.पा.बडा नं. ७	
बलबहादुर माफी	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	६६
	न.पा.बडा नं. ७	
सुनमायामाफी	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	६२
	न.पा.बडा नं. ७	
विष्णुकुमारी कार्की	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	
	न.पा.बडा नं. ७	
भक्तबहादुर राउत	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	
	न.पा.बडा नं. ७	
बलबहादुर खडका	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	७०

	रामकुमार तामाङ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	
	चन्द्र कुमारी बस्नेत	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	
	नन्दकुमारी खत्री	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	४८
	पशुपतिबहादुर तामाङ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	२१
	शम्भुलामा	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	२९
	बहादुर घिसिङ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	
	मंगलबहादुर धामी	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.वडा नं. ७	
	योमायाश्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	६३

		न.पा.बडा नं. ७	
 	पन्व घिसिड	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	
 	नन्द राज पहाडी	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	५९
 	पदमबहादुर खुलाल मगर	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	२९
 	अम्बिकाथापा मगर	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	२९
 	हस्ती देवीलामा	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	५८
 	हेलीमायातामाङ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	
 	लालमायाघिसिड	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	



मोतीलालश्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	४८
न.पा.वडा नं. ७		
बहादुर श्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	४४
न.पा.वडा नं. ७		
कृष्ण बहादुर बुर्जा मगर	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	४८
न.पा.वडा नं. ७		
राधीकामायाश्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	३५
न.पा.वडा नं. ७		
तिलकबहादुर खडका	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	५७
न.पा.वडा नं. ७		
बालकुमारी श्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई	५६
न.पा.वडा नं. ७		
लिलामायाश्रले	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाभद्रकालीगा. वि.	४२
स. वडा नं. २		
श्यामबहादुर ठाडा मगर	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाभद्रकालीगा. वि.	३५





		न.पा.बडा नं. ७	
	गोकुलमानश्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	६३
	गणेश मानश्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	४९
	इन्द्र बहादुर खडका	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	६८
	छेसाडलामा	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	
	छवीलाल श्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	६९
	मिठुलालश्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	५६
	रामबहादुर श्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाकमलामाई न.पा.बडा नं. ७	६८

५३ जिल्ला






रामबहादुर

५३ जिल्ला








रामबहादुर

		स. वडा नं. २	
	भक्तबहादुर धापा	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाभद्रकालीगा. वि. स. वडा नं. २	६५
	शम्शेर गुर्मछान मगर	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाभद्रकालीगा. वि. स. वडा नं. २	
	गोविन्दबहादुर दहालखत्री	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाभद्रकालीगा. वि. स. वडा नं. २	३४
	फणिन्द्र बहादुर धापा मगर	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाभद्रकालीगा. वि. स. वडा नं. २	
	तारा देवी राउत	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाभद्रकालीगा. वि. स. वडा नं. २	
	चन्द्र मायाश्रेष्ठ	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाभद्रकालीगा. वि. स. वडा नं. २	६७
	इन्द्र माया राउत	सिन्धुलीजिल्लाभद्रकालीगा. वि. स. वडा नं. २	६४

		गा.वि.स. बडा नं. २	
	इन्द्र बहादुर बुढाथोकी	सिन्धुलीजिल्ला, रतनचुरा गा.वि.स. बडा नं. २	
	चित्रबहादुर थापा मगर	सिन्धुलीजिल्ला, रतनचुरा गा.वि.स. बडा नं. २	
	तारा कुमारी लुङ्गेली मगर	सिन्धुलीजिल्ला, रतनचुरा गा.वि.स. बडा नं. २	६०
	उदकबहादुर थापा मगर भन्ने उचोग बहादुर थापा मगर	सिन्धुलीजिल्ला, रतनचुरा गा.वि.स. बडा नं. २	६१
	बुद्रम् बहादुर धिङ्गतामाङ	सिन्धुलीजिल्ला, रानीचुरी गा.वि.स. बडा नं. १	३१
	गोपालबहादुर बुढाथोकी	सिन्धुलीजिल्ला, रानीचुरी गा.वि.स. बडा नं. १	५३
	सावित्री प्रसाई	सन्धुलीजिल्ला, रानीचुरी गा.वि.स. बडा नं. १	५५

  	गणेश बहादुर काकी	सन्धुलीजिल्हाकमलामाई न.पा.	३२
 	भोजराजकाफले मगर	सन्धुलीजिल्हाकमलामाई न.पा.	६३

ईतिसंबत २०७० असार गते रोज सुभम ।



Translation of Power of Attorney Agreement

We the undersigned people, have prepared this power of attorney to authorize Advocate Shankar Limbu (Secretary of the Lawyers' Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples, LAHURNIP) to file a complaint to the Inspection Panel against the World Bank funded Project Khimti-Dhalkebar 220 High Voltage Transmission Line that constructed and owned by Nepal Electricity Authority (Nepal Bidhut Pradhikaran). We give our consent to Advocate Shankar Limbu to file Complaints and legally represent in whole procedure that is undertaken by the Inspection Panel.

ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने भरत कुमारकी श्रीमती वर्ष ५५ की रिना कुमारी बुढाथोकी	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने वर्ष ३१ को सार्की लामा	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने जीत बहादुर कामीको छोरा वर्ष ५२ को नर बहादुर कामी (विश्वकर्मा)	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने पोतेलाल घिसिडको छोरा वर्ष ४२ की राम माया पाखिन	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने जगत रामको छोरा वर्ष ५८ को राम बहादुर वाईवा	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने चन्द्र बहादुरको छोरा वर्ष ३४ को विरेन्द्र गोले	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने चक्र बहादुरको छोरा वर्ष ४९ को मान बहादुर थापा मगर	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने खडक बहादुरको छोरा वर्ष ५० को बेद बहादुर सुनुवार	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने खडक बहादुरको छोरा वर्ष ३८ को दिप कुमार जोगी	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने विर्ष बहादुरको छोरा वर्ष ४५ को कृष्ण बहादुर कार्की	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने विच्छे को छोरा वर्ष ५५ को सुर्य बहादुर विश्वकर्मा	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने सैन ध्वजको छोरा वर्ष ५८ को दल बहादुर खडका	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने टेक बहादुर बस्नेतको छोरा वर्ष ४९ राम बहादुर बस्नेत	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने टेक बहादुरको छोरा वर्ष ४४ को विमल कुमार खडका	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने दिल बहादुरको श्रीमती वर्ष ६५ नन्दा देवी कार्की	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने कुबेर बहादुरको श्रीमती वर्ष ४६ की चुडा कुमारी गौतम	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने नारायण बहादुर थापाको श्रीमती वर्ष ५१ की बाल कुमारी थापा	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने भीम बहादुरको छोरा वर्ष ६४ को दल बहादुर घिसिड	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने जय बहादुरको छोरा वर्ष ६८ को चन्द्र बहादुर ठकुरी	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने कर्ण बहादुरको छोरा वर्ष ६६ को डोर बहादुर थापा छेत्री	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने भीम बहादुरको श्रीमती वर्ष ५१ की विष्णु माया श्रेष्ठ	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने धन बहादुरको छोरा वर्ष ५१ को भीम बहादुर श्रेष्ठ	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने कृष्ण बहादुरको छोरा वर्ष ६९ को धन बहादुर श्रेष्ठ	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने रित मानको श्रीमती वर्ष ६८ की धन कुमारी प्रधान	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने टेपलाल प्रधानको श्रीमती वर्ष ६२ की चित्र माया प्रधान	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने ओम प्रकासको छोरी वर्ष ३३ की मिना कुमारी पुलामी	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने रितमान को छोरा वर्ष ४९ को रमेश कुमार प्रधान	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने रित मानको छोरा वर्ष ४० को पुशपति प्रधान	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने राम बहादुरको छोरा वर्ष ४१ को गोपाल कुमार दमाई	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने गन्ज बहादुरको छोरा वर्ष ४८ को हरि बहादुर कार्की	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने पन्चविरको वर्ष ४९ को धन बहादुर मोक्तान	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने कृष्ण बहादुरको श्रीमती वर्ष ४८ की नन्द कुमारी खत्री	१

(२)

ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने मान बहादुरको छोरा बर्ष ३१ को पशुपति बहादुर तामाङ	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने शम्शेर तामाङको छोरा बर्ष २९ को शम्भु लामा तामाङ	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने टंक लालको श्रीमति बर्ष ६३ की योमाया श्रेष्ठ	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने काशीनाथ को छोराबर्ष ५९ को नन्द राज पहाडी ...	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने छत्र बहादुरको छोरा बर्ष २९ को पदम बहादुर खुलाल मगर ...	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने अर्जुन थापाको श्रीमती बर्ष २९ की अम्बिका थापा मगर ...	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने राम बहादुरको श्रीमती बर्ष ५८ की हस्ती देवी लामा ...	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने बिर बहादुरको श्रीमति बर्ष ५८ की विष्णु माया माभी	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने रुद्र बहादुरकी श्रीमती बर्ष ५६ की तुलसा देवी खत्री	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने धन बहादुरको छोरा बर्ष ६७ को गोविन्द माभी	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने धन बहादुरको छोराबर्ष ६६ को बल बहादुर माभी	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने बल बहादुरको श्रीमती बर्ष ६२ की सुनमाया माभी	१
ऐ. ऐ. वडा नं. १० बस्ने बर्ष ७० को बल बहादुर खडका	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने पहल मानको छोराबर्ष ६३ को गोकुल मान श्रेष्ठ	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने नर बहादुरको छोरा बर्ष ४९ को गणेश मान श्रेष्ठ	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने बर्ष ६८ को इन्द्र बहादुर खडका	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने काजि मान कोछोराबर्ष ६९ को छवीलाल श्रेष्ठ	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने हर्ष मानको छोरा बर्ष ५६ को मिठु लाल श्रेष्ठ	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने नन्द कुमारको छोरा बर्ष ६८ को राम बहादुर श्रेष्ठ	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने विष्णुकुमारको छोरा बर्ष ४८ को मोतीलाल श्रेष्ठ ...	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने रामबाबुको छोरा बर्ष ४४ को लेख बहादुर श्रेष्ठ	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने राम बहादुरको छोरा बर्ष ४८ को कृष्ण बहादुर बुर्जा मगर	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने मान बहादुरको श्रीमती बर्ष ३५ की राधीका माया श्रेष्ठ	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने मान बहादुरको छोरा बर्ष ५७ तिलक बहादुर खडका	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने कुल बहादुरको श्रीमति बर्ष ५६ की बाल कुमारी श्रेष्ठ	१
ऐ. ऐ. भद्रकाली गा. वि. स. वडा नं. २ बस्ने शिव बहादुरको छोरी बर्ष ४२ की लिला माया आले	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने धन बहादुरको छोरा बर्ष ३५ को श्याम बहादुर ठाडा मगर ...	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने पुर्ण बहादुरको छोराबर्ष ६५ को भक्त बहादुर थापा ...	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने ईन्द्र बहादुरको छोरा बर्ष ३४ को गोविन्द बहादुर दहाल खत्री	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने पुर्ण बहादुरको श्रीमति बर्ष ६७ की चन्द्र माया श्रेष्ठ	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने मेख बहादुरको श्रीमतिबर्ष ६४ की इन्द्र माया राउत ...	१

(३)

१

ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने बर्ष भीम बहादुर श्रेष्ठ ...	१
ऐ. ऐ. रतनचुरा गा.वि.स. वडा नं. २ बस्ने चन्द्र बहादुरको छोरा बर्ष ७४ को गोरख बहादुर राई	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने छल बहादुरको छोरा बर्ष ४० को चित्र बहादुर श्रेष्ठ ..	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने यम लालको छोरी बर्ष ३४ की देवकी श्रेष्ठ .	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने बर्ष ६३ को भैरव बहादुर बुढाथोकी ...	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने बर्ष ६८ को भक्त बहादुर श्रेष्ठ	१
ऐ. ऐ. वडा नं. १ बस्ने बम बहादुरको श्रीमती बर्ष ६० की तारा कुमारी लुङ्गेली मगर	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने भक्त बहादुर थापाको छोरा बर्ष ६१ को उदक बहादुर थापा मगर भन्ने उद्योग बहादुर थापा मगर	१
ऐ. ऐ. रानीचुरी गा.वि.स. १ बस्ने भीम बहादुरको छोरा बर्ष ३१ को बुद्धम् बहादुर थिड तामाङ	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने वम बहादुरको छोरा बर्ष ५३ को गोपाल बहादुर बुढाथोकी .	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने खडक बहादुरकी श्रीमती बर्ष ५५ की सावित्री प्रसाई	१
ऐ. ऐ. कमलामाई न.पा. वडा नं. ४ बस्ने दिप बहादुरको छोरा बर्ष ३२ को गणेश बहादुर कार्की	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने गणेश बहादुरको छोरा बर्ष ६३ को भोजराज काफले मगर ...	१
ऐ. ऐ. बस्ने दिप बहादुरको श्रीमति बर्ष ५१ की एबमाया कार्की समेत जना १०३ को वारेस ललितपुर जि. टिकाथली गा.वि.स. वडा नं. ९ बस्ने अधिवक्ता रामहरी श्रेष्ठ	१

विरुद्

सम्माननीय प्रधानमन्त्री तथा मन्त्री परिषदको कार्यालय, सिंहदरवार काठमाडौं	१
श्री नेपाल सरकार गृहमन्त्रालय, सिंहदरवार, काठमाडौं	१
श्री नेपाल सरकार विज्ञान प्रविधि तथा वातावरण मन्त्रालय, सिंहदरवार, काठमाडौं	१
श्री नेपाल सरकार उर्जा मन्त्रालय, सिंहदरवार काठमाडौं	१
श्री स्वास्थ्य तथा जनसंख्या मन्त्रालय	१
श्री नेपाल सरकार संस्कृति, पर्यटन तथा नागरिक उड्डयन मन्त्रालय, सिंहदरवार, काठमाडौं	१
श्री नेपाल सरकार जलस्रोत मन्त्रालय सिंहदरवार काठमाडौं	१
श्री नेपाल नागरिक उड्डयन प्राधिकरण, प्रधान कार्यलय बबरमहल काठमाडौं	१
श्री नेपाल विद्युत प्राधिकरण, केन्द्रिय कार्यलय, रत्नपार्क काठमाडौं	१
श्री खिम्ति ढल्केबर २२० विद्युत प्रसारण परियोजना तथा प्रमुख कन्हैया कुमार मानन्धर, नेपाल विद्युत प्राधिकरण, केन्द्रिय कार्यलय, रत्नपार्क काठमाडौं	१
सिन्धुली जिल्लाका प्र.जि.अ.केशव राज आचार्य, प्रजिअ कार्यालय सिन्धुली,	१
श्री नेपाल नागरिक उड्डयन प्राधिकरण प्रधान कार्यलय बबर महल, काठमाडौं	१

विपक्ष

(४)

१

१२

उप निर्देशक मुकुन्द ज्वालानन्द राजोपाध्या, नेपाल नागरिक उड्डयन प्राधिकरण प्रधान कार्यालय बबर महल, काठमाडौं	१
जिल्ला सिन्धुली भिमेश्वर गाविस तथा तात्कालिन सचिव भिमेश्वर गा.वि.स. वडा नं. ९ माथिलो बेसी बस्ने अनन्त राज देवकोटा	१
जिल्ला सिन्धुली रतनचुरा गाविस, तथा तात्कालिन सचिव क.न.पा. वडा नं. ७ मित्रचोक बस्ने नारायण बहादुर थापा,.....	१५
जिल्ला सिन्धुली जलकन्या गाविस, तथा तात्कालिन सचिव क.न.पा. ६ राममाडी बस्ने राम बाबु कार्की.....	१
जिल्ला सिन्धुली भद्रकाली गाविस सचिव, कनपा ९ बस्ने गोपी नारायण श्रेष्ठ,.....	१५
जिल्ला सिन्धुली रानीचुरी गाविस, तथा तात्कालिन सचिव रानीचुरि क.न. पा.वडा नं. ६ गैरीबजार बस्ने मुकुन्द दाहाल,.....	१५
जिल्ला सिन्धुली कमलामाई नगरपालिका का कर्मचारी दामोदर भण्डारी (कार्यकारी अधिकृत)	१
शासत्र सुरक्षा बेशक्याम्प सिन्धुली, तथा कार्यलयको स.प्रहरी निरिक्षक कैलाश कटुवाल	१५
जिल्ला, जिल्ला प्रहरी कार्यलय, सिन्धुली	१५

हामी रिट निवेदकहरु निवेदन वापत लाग्ने दस्तुर रु ५००१-बुझाएको निस्सा साथै राखी निम्नलिखित निवेदन गर्दछौं ।

हामी रिट निवेदकहरु सिन्धुली जिल्लाको कमलामाई नगरपालिका वडा नं. ४, ७ र १०, ११ भद्रकाली गा.वि.स. वडा नं. २, र रतनचुरा गा.वि.स. वडा नं. १ र २ का स्थायी बसोवास गर्ने विपक्षीहरुबाट संचालन गर्न खोजिएको खिम्ति ढल्केबर २२० के.भी. प्रसारण परियोजनाबाट पीडित नेपालका नागरिक हौं । विपक्षीहरुमध्ये नेपाल सरकार उर्जा मन्त्रालय अर्न्तगतको विधुत प्राधिकरणबाट उल्लिखित परियोजना सञ्चालन गर्ने सन्दर्भमा हामी रिट निवेदकहरुको नेपालको अन्तरिम संविधान- २०६३ द्वारा प्रत्याभूत सम्मानपूर्वक बाँच्न पाउन, सम्पति, स्वतन्त्रता, वातावरण तथा स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा तथा संस्कृति, धर्म, बालबालिकाको हक, लगायत राष्ट्रिय तथा अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय कानूनद्वारा संरक्षित अधिकारहरुको ठाडो उल्लंघन गरी अन्याय, अत्याचार र स्वैच्छाचारी ढंगबाट समाजलाई नै आतङ्कित बनाई हाम्रो नीजि सम्पती स्वतन्त्रपूर्वक प्रयोग र उपभोग गर्नबाट बञ्चित गरेको तथा घरबास भत्काइ उठीबास बनाउने र गाउँमा बस्नै नसक्ने अत्यन्तै गम्भिर परिस्थिति सृजना गरेकोले तल प्रकरण प्रकरणमा खुलाई, सम्मानीत सर्वोच्च अदालतमा तत्काल न्याय (Urgent Justice) दिलाई पाउनको लागि नेपालको अन्तरिम संविधान २०६३ को धारा १२ (३) ड र च, १६, १७ (३), १८ (२), १९ (१) (२), २३, २६, ३२ र १०७ बमोजिम यो रिट निवेदन दिन आएका छौं ।

१. उल्लिखित खिम्ति ढल्केबर २२० के.भी. प्रसारण लाइन नेपाल कै सबै भन्दा ठुलो परियोजना (हालसम्म यस्तो लाइन विस्तारै नभएको) दोलखा जिल्लाको शहरे गाउँ विकास समिति किर्नेटारबाट

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प्रारम्भ भई रामेछाप जिल्लाको तामाकोशी नदी क्षेत्रको छ वटा गाउँ विकास समिति हुँदै सिन्धुली जिल्लाको खुरकोटबाट सिन्धुलीगढी, महाभारत श्रृंखला पार गरी कमलामाई नगरपालिका क्षेत्रको मध्यभाग हुँदै रानीचुरी खण्डबाट महोत्तरी जिल्लाको गौरीबास र धनुषा जिल्लाको तुलसी चौडा बेगडावार र अन्तिममा ढल्केवार सब स्टेशनमा जोडिएपछि समाप्त हुन्छ। यस आयोजनाले दोलखा जिल्लाको शहरे गाउँ विकास समिति रामेछापको गेलु, खिम्ती, तिलपुङ, कठजोर, मन्थली र भलुवाजोर तथा सिन्धुली जिल्लाको भिमेश्वर, रतनचुरा, जलकन्या, भद्रकाली, रानीचुरी गाविस र कमलामाई नगरपालिका क्षेत्र भएर लैजाने प्रस्तावमा उल्लेख गरिएको छ। यस आयोजनाबाट उत्पादित विद्युत निरन्तररूपमा भारतमा लैजाने र पूर्वि भेगमा सहयोग पुऱ्याउने उक्त परियोजनाको उद्देश्य रहेको विपक्षी विद्युत प्राधिकरणले गरेको वातावरण प्रभाव मुल्याङ्कनको प्रतिवेदनमा उल्लेख छ।

Prima Folio

सर्वप्रथम, एच.ए.ब.ब.ब. रूपमा उक्त परियोजना २०५५/०५६ भन्दा अगावै पटकपटक सिन्धुली जिल्लाको भिमेश्वर गाउँ विकास समिति, रतनचुरा गाउँ विकास समिति पूर्व महाभारतको जंगल हुँदै रानीचुरी गाउँ विकास समितिको जंगल, धमिले खोलाको किनारैकिनाराबाट कमलामाई नगरपालिका-१० को कल्याणी मन्दिर निकाल्ने गरी सर्वेक्षण भएको थियो। उक्त सर्वे गरिएको ठाउँमा कुनै मानव बसोबास नभएको र अधिकांश खाली जमीन तथा जंगल पर्ने भएको कारण उक्त हाइटेन्सन लाइन लागि हामी रिट निवदेकहरुलाई कुनै असर पर्ने स्थिति थिएन र अहिले पनि सोही स्थानहरुबाट सोही बाटो भएर लागिमा असर पर्ने स्थिति नभएको निवेदन गर्दछौं। यस सन्दर्भमा मिति २०६८ पौष १८ गते बसेको सर्वदलीय र सर्वपक्षीय बैठकमा हाल आयोजनाको निर्माण कार्यलाई स्थगित गरी बैकल्पिक रुट (बाटो) को अध्ययन अनुसन्धान गरी जनतालाई असर नपर्ने गरी अन्यत्र ठाउँबाट लैजानलाई सम्बन्धित पक्षलाई अनुरोध गर्ने निर्णय समेत गरिएको छ। यसबाट पनि आयोजनाको विकल्पमा स्थानीय जनता लगायत राजनीतिक पार्टिहरुसमेत रहेको प्रष्टिन्छ। परियोजना प्रतिबेदनमा पनि तीनवटा विकल्प रहेको प्रष्ट उल्लेख गरिएको छ (पारा ६.१, पृ ७७) त्यसकारण यो परियोजना नेपाल पक्ष राष्ट्र रहेको नागरिक तथा राजनीतिक अधिकार सम्बन्धी अनुबन्धको धारा १, अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय श्रम संगठन महासन्धि नं १६९ को धारा (६) (१), (७) (१), (२), (३) र (४), आदिवासी जनजातिहरुको अधिकार सम्बन्धी संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघीय घोषणापत्र २००७ को धारा (२३), (२६) १ र २ र (२८) (१) (२) अनुसार जनताहरुलाई आफ्नो स्वामित्वमा रहेको जमिन वा भूभागमा संचालन गरिने विकासमा प्राथमिकता निर्धारण गर्न पाउने अधिकार (Right to determine priorities in development) अनुसार पनि यस परियोजना तथा सो सम्बन्धि निर्णयहरु कानूनी दायरा भन्दा बाहिर रहेको छ।

यस सन्दर्भमा, २०५६ साल तिर एककासी मानिसहरु आई हाम्रो नाममा दर्ता श्रेस्ता भई एकलौटी हकभोग रहेको जग्गा नाप्ने कार्य शुरुवात गरियो। त्यस सम्बन्धमा हामीहरुले बुझ्न खोज्दा खानेपानीको निम्ति सुनकोशीको पानी आउँछ की आउदैन भनेर सर्वे गरेको वा समुन्द्रको सतह मापेको भन्ने गलत जानकारी दिइयो। तर एककासी धनुषा जिल्लाको ढल्केवर क्षेत्रबाट परियोजनाको

टावर गाढ्दै आउँदामात्र उक्त नापजाँच हाइटेन्सन लान गरिएको एकिन भयो र हाम्रो घरजग्गामाथिबाट हामीलाई असर पर्ने गरी लैजाने योजना भएको थाहा लाग्यो । तत्पश्चात् मात्र विद्युत प्रसारण लैजान सभै गरिएको निश्चित भयो । यसबाट हामी रिट निवेदकहरुको कित्ता विभिन्न कि.नं. का क्षेत्रफल ४५ विगा, ८९ रोपनी जग्गाहरु र हामीहरुमध्येको १०० वटा र अन्यको १५० घरधुरी गाउँबस्ती माथिबाट हाइटेन्सन लाने योजना निश्चित भइसकेको देखिन्छ । उक्त हाइटेन्सन विद्युत नियमावली २०५० नियम ४२ अनुसार हाइ भोल्टेज प्रसारण प्रणाली अन्तर्गत पर्ने हुँदा त्यसले मानवीय जीउ ज्यानमा उच्च खतरा निम्त्याउने स्थिति छ । प्रविधिक हिसाबले ६६ हजार भोल्ट (६६ के.भी.) प्रसारण लाइनबाट ०.८ मीटर क्षेत्रको हावामा पनि विद्युत तरंगको प्रवाह हुन्छ । पानी परेको बेला धेरै तल सम्म प्रवाहित हुन्छ (नागरिक ९ जनवरी वर्ष ४ अंक २५३ पृ ८) यस हाइटेन्सन लाइन अत्यन्त उच्च २,२०,००० भोल्ट करेन्ट प्रवाह हुने भएकोले वायुमा र पानी परेको समयमा करेन्ट प्रवाह अझ बढि हुने भएको हुनाले हामी रिट निवेदकहरु लगायत त्यस गाउँ विकास समितिमा बसोबास गर्ने कसैको, कुनै पनि समयमा दुर्घटनामा परी मृत्यु, अंगभंग लगायतको क्षती हुने उच्च खतराको प्रवल सम्भावना रहेको छ ।

अर्को तर्फ कहिले कसको कुन हिसाबले जीवन समाप्त हुने हो भनि सधै चिन्तामा रहन पर्ने असुरक्षित (Insecure) अवस्था सृजना भएको छ । यो हाइटेन्सन हाम्रो लागि मृत्युको एम्बुस (धराप) थापे सरह भएको छ । यसले हामी रिट निवेदकहरु लगायत त्यस ठाउँका बासिन्दाहरुलाई गम्भिर शारिरिक मानसिक स्वास्थ्य र सुरक्षामा हानी पुऱ्याउँदछ । संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ विश्व स्वस्थ संगठनको प्रतिवेदन अनुसार, उच्च भोल्टको हाइटेन्सनले headaches, anxiety, suicide and depression, nausea, fatigue and loss of libido लगायत गर्भपतन र क्यान्सरसम्म बढाउने उल्लेख छ । यस सम्बन्धमा High voltage power lines सम्बन्धी गरिएका विभिन्न अध्ययन प्रतिवेदनहरुले मानिसको शारिरिक मानसिक र गर्भमा रहेको भ्रुण समेतलाई असर पार्ने, सामान्य देखि निकै नहुने अल्जमेर (Alzheimer's disease, miscarriages, mal, blood and circulatory problems लगायत रोग लाग्ने, पशु प्राणी समेतलाई असर पार्ने प्रतिवेदनहरुले देखाएको छ । त्यही कारण विद्युत नियमावली २०५० को नियम ५२ मा स्पष्टसंग "घरदेखि माथि विजुली लान निषेध" गरिएको भए तापनि हाम्रो घर तथा विद्यालय घना गाउँबस्ती माथिबाट विद्युत लाइन लान निश्चित गरिएको छ । यस सम्बन्धमा विपक्षी उर्जा मन्त्रालय समेतले मिति २०६८/१०/१७ मा गृहमन्त्रालयलाई पठाएको पत्रमा समेत स्पष्टसंग स्थानीयलाई पर्ने जाने असरको वारेमा स्वीकार गरिएको छ । नेपालको अन्तरिम संविधान २०६३ को धारा १२ (१) मा मौलिक हकको रुपमा प्रत्याभूत "प्रत्येक ब्यक्तिलाई सम्मान पूर्वक बाँच्न पाउने अधिकार" विपरित यस परियोजना सञ्चालन हुनगइ रहेको छ । उक्त हाइटेन्सन लाइन कमलामाई नगरपालिका वडा नं वडा नं ७ ठूलिटार गाउँमा अवस्थित विद्यालय स्वीस बोर्डिङ स्कूलको भवन माथिबाट लाने योजना गरिएको हुँदा त्यस विद्यालयमा शिशु देखि १० कक्षासम्म अध्ययन गर्ने र गराउने करीब ४०० विद्यार्थी, शिक्षक तथा कर्मचारी समेत प्रत्यक्षरुपमा जोखिममा पर्ने देखिन्छ । ऐ ऐ को वडा नं

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६ मा अवस्थित पानी टयाङ्गी उच्च मा.वि.कक्षा १ देखि १२ सम्म अध्ययनरत १००० विद्यार्थी लगायत शिक्षक कर्मचारी प्रभावित हुने । ऐ ऐ वडा नं ७ मा अवस्थित एकेडेमि बोर्डिङ स्कूलमा कक्षा १ देखि १० सम्म अध्ययनरत ३०० जति विद्यार्थी र शिक्षक कर्मचारि समेत प्रत्यक्ष प्रभावित हुने देखिन्छ ।

२. विपक्षीहरुले माथी प्रकरण नं १ मा उल्लेख गरे बमोजिम साविकबाट सर्वेक्षण भएको स्थान परिवर्तन गरी २२० के.भी.प्रशारण लाइनको हाइटेन्सन लाने योजना मुताविक टावर (विद्युतको खम्बा) गाड्न शुरु गर्न लागिएको कार्यले हामी रिट निवेदकहरुको एकलौटी हकभोग रहेको घरजग्गाबाट विना सूचना र जानकारी नदिई विस्थापन गर्ने र हाम्रो निर्वाध सम्पतिको उपभोग र प्रयोग गर्नबाट बञ्चित गरी प्रत्यक्ष असर पार्दछ । आयोजनाको वातावरणीय प्रभाव मुल्याङ्कनमा नै प्रष्टसँग "Some of the cultivated areas which will be permanently acquired for the construction of tower pad, will lose its production forever" (Para 6.3.2.2) "The land falls in the Right of Way (RoW) will be ristrected for infracture development and only used to the agriculture farming. The land of the roadsides areas and urban areas will be devaluated after the transmission line construction." (Para 6.3.2.3) अर्थात्, केही खेती योग्य जग्गा स्थायी रूपमा लिइने र उत्पादन सधैंको लागि समाप्त हुने । कुनैपनि भौतिक विकास र खेती गर्न प्रतिबन्ध लगाइने उल्लेख छ । हाइटेन्सनको दुवैतर्फ १५ मीटरका दरले प्रभाव पर्ने उल्लेख गरिए तापनि १२१/२ मीटर मात्र अधिग्रहण गरिनेछ भन्ने उल्लेख गरिएको छ । यस हाइटेन्सनले छुने घर जग्गालाई हाल बैंक लगायतको वित्तिय संस्था समेतले बैकिङ कारोबार गर्नलाई बन्देज गरेको छ । यस सन्दर्भमा नेपाल राष्ट्रिय बाणिज्य बैकले जारी गरेको धितो सुरक्षण मुल्याङ्कन निर्देशीका २०६४ (७.१) त अनुसार विद्युतको ३२ के.भी. वा सो भन्दा बढिको ज्जज त्मलकष्यल ष्षभ भएको जग्गा र यसको १५ मीटर भित्रको जग्गा बैंकले सुरक्षणबापत सुरक्षणमा धितो लिन नमिल्ने र नगरिने प्रष्ट नीति रहेको कारण हाम्रो घरजग्गा विकी वितरण, हक हस्तान्तरण वा धितोबन्धक राख्न वा उद्योगधन्दा लगायत अन्य कुनै काम गर्न नसकिने अवस्था सृजना गरिएको प्रष्ट छ । विद्युत नियमावली २०५० को नियम ६६ ले हाइटेन्सनको तार मुनी घर निर्माण र रुख विरुवासमेत रोप्न निषेध गरेको छ ।

अर्कोतर्फ, विना सूचना, गैरकानूनी तथा क्षेत्राधिकार विहिनरूपमा विपक्षी प्रजिअको आदेशमा स्थानीय बासिन्दाको नाममा रहेको जग्गाहरु रोक्का राखिएको छ । (जनबोली सन्देश राष्ट्रिय दैनिक, बर्ष १, अंक १५४ मंगलबार १९ पौष २०६८ पृ १) यसबाट नेपालको अन्तरिम संविधान २०६३ को धारा ९ (१) द्वारा प्रत्याभूत सम्पतीको हक प्रत्यक्ष कुण्ठित गरिएको स्थिति विद्यमान छ । यस धाराको उपधारा २ अनुसार सार्वजानिक हितको लागि बाहेक राज्यले कुनै व्यक्तिको सम्पती अधिग्रहण गर्न पाउँदैन । तर ५ वटा जिल्लाका १,१४५१६ जनसंख्यालाई प्रत्यक्ष वा अप्रत्यक्ष असर पर्ने यस परियोजनाको कार्य सार्वजानिक हितको कार्य हुन सक्दैन । यस परियोजनाको उद्देश्य

(८)

छिमेकी राष्ट्र भारतलाई विद्युत उपलब्ध गराउने भएको आधारमा पनि यस परियोजनाले हामी रिट निवेदकहरु लगायत त्यस भेगका जनताको हित गर्नमा सञ्चालन भएको मान्न सक्ने स्थिति विद्यमान देखिँदैन । अन्तरिम संविधान २०६३ को धारा ३३ (ण) ले स्पष्टसँग "मुलुकमा विद्यमान जलस्रोत लगायत प्राकृतिक स्रोतसाधनको राष्ट्रहितमा प्रयोग गर्ने" भनी राज्यको दायित्व तोकिएको विपरित यस परियोजना मुलुक र जनताको हित विपरित रहेको प्रष्ट देखिन्छ । संविधानको धारा ३५ (४) मा "राष्ट्र हित अनुकूल देशको प्राकृतिक स्रोत तथा सम्पदाको परिचालन गर्दा स्थानीय समुदायलाई प्राथमिकता दिइने नीति राज्यले अवलम्बन गर्ने " राज्यका नीति विपरित यस परियोजना सञ्चालन भएको छ । यस सम्बन्धमा श्री सर्वोच्च अदालतबाट भोजराज तिमिल्सिना वि.नेपाली काँग्रेस पार्टी एवं सभापति, भएको उत्प्रेषण परमादेश, मुद्दा, रिट नं ०६३-WO -०९०२० सर्वोच्च अदालत नजीर संग्रह भाग २ पृ १३० मा "संविधान बमोजिम राज्यको दायित्व, नीति तथा निर्देशक सिद्धान्तहरु अदालतबाट लागू हुने ब्यवस्था होइन तापनि राज्यको नीति दायित्व र निर्देशक सिद्धान्तलाई मौलिक हकसँग मिलाएर harmonious र purposive interpretation गर्नुपर्दछ तबमात्र मौलिक हकको खास प्रयोजन हुन जाने । "तसर्थ विपक्षीहरु, राज्यका जिम्मेवार निकाय समेत भएको आधारमा संविधानको मौलिक हक उल्लंघनका साथै निजहरुबाट राज्यको निर्देशक सिद्धान्त समेत बर्खिलाप गरिएको प्रष्ट छ ।

नेपाल पक्ष राष्ट्र रहेका नागरिक तथा राजनीतिक अधिकार सम्बन्धी अनुबन्ध १९६६ तथा सामाजिक तथा साँस्कृतिक तथा आर्थिक अनुबन्ध १९६६ को साभ्ना धारा १ को उपधारा २ ले आत्मनिर्णयको अधिकार अर्न्तगत All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence. अर्थात् जनताले आफ्नो उद्देश्यको लागि आफ्नो प्राकृतिक सम्पति र स्रोतबारे स्वतन्त्ररूपमा उपभोग गर्न सक्छन् । आफ्नो जिविकोपार्जनको साधनबाट कुनैपनि अवस्थामा जनतालाई बञ्चित गराउन मिल्दैन । यी कानूनहरुलाई नेपालपक्ष राष्ट्रको हैसियतले पालना गर्नुपर्ने अवस्थामा विपक्षीहरुको कार्यले हामी रिट निवेदकहरुलाई खेती गरि जिविकोपार्जनको एकमात्र जग्गा जमिनबाट बञ्चित गराउने प्रष्ट छ ।

३ यस परियोजनाले स्थानीय वातावरण, जैविक विविधतामा, पहिरो जाने, पानी प्रदुषण, २४१७३ रुख काटिने, बन पैदावरको प्रयोगमा चाप बढने, निजी घरजग्गा प्रभावित हुने, जीवजन्तु प्रभावित हुने, धेरै सामुदायिक बन प्रभावित बन्ने जस्ता प्रत्यक्ष असर पार्ने कुराहरु परियोजनाको प्रतिवेदनमा उल्लेख छ (पारा ४.२, ५.० इ) । यसबाट त्यस क्षेत्रको स्वच्छ वातावरण नकरात्मक असर पर्ने, जैविक विविधतामा ह्रास आउने समेत उल्लेख छन् । वातावरण विनासलाई न्युनिकरण गर्ने उपायको रूपमा रुख लगाउने भनिए तापनि सो सम्बन्धमा कुनै पनि कार्य गरिएको छैन, केवल रुखहरु काटने र जंगलहरु फाड्ने काम मात्र गरिएको छ ।

(५)

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उल्लिखित परिस्थितिहरू विद्युत ऐन २०४९ को दफा २४ अनुसार वातावरणमा उल्लेखनीय प्रतिकूल असर पार्ने प्रष्ट छ । नेपाल पक्ष राष्ट्र रहेको जैविक विविधता सम्बन्धी महासन्धि १९९२ को धारा १४ मा उल्लेखित प्रभाव विश्लेषण र नकरात्मक असरको न्यूनीकरणका कुनै प्रक्रिया र उपायहरू अपनाइएको देखिन्दैन । यस सम्बन्धमा Greeting Australia Ltd. V. Redbank Power Company Pty Ltd and Singleton Council sf] d'2fdf Land and Environment Court of New South Wales n] "Where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damages, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation. In application of the precautionary principle, public and private decisions should be guided by: careful evaluation to avoid, wherever practicable, serious or irreversible damage to the environment, and an assessment of the risk-weighted consequences of various options" September, 10 November 1994 Compendium of judicial decisions, national decisions volume I. P. 335 परियोजनाले हालसम्म वातावरणमा पर्ने प्रभावको उल्लेख गरिए तापनि सावधानी पूर्वक क्षतीमा नपर्ने गरी मुल्याङ्कन गरिएको छैन र उत्पन्न खतराले सृजना गर्ने गम्भीर परिस्थितिको समधानको उपायको पनि मुल्याङ्कन गरेको देखिँदैन । परियोजनाले विद्युतलाइन नेपालको ढल्केबरदेखि भारतको मजफ्फुरसम्म जमिनभित्रबाट लाने कार्य गर्ने देखिन्छ तर हामीहरूको ठाउँमा टावर बनाएर लाने कार्यले सुरक्षामा विल्कूल लापरबाही गरि हाम्रो जीउ, ज्यान र धन समाप्त पार्न खोजिएको छ । परियोजनाले गरेको प्रतिवेदन अध्ययनमा हामी प्रत्यक्ष पिडितहरूलाई परामर्श, सहभागिता वा हामीलाई पर्ने नकरात्मक असरको वारेमा अन्य कुनै तरिकाले स्वतन्त्र सुनुवाई गरिएको छैन । सूचना पनि दिइएको छैन, परामर्श वा कुनै प्रकारको सहभागिता नै गरिएको छैन । उल्टै बदनियतपूर्वक सार्वजानिक सुनुवाई सिन्धुली जिल्लामा नगरी हाम्रो पहुच भन्दा बाहिर बेजिल्लाका मानिसहरूलाई राखेर अन्य जिल्लामा सार्वजानिक सुनुवाई गरिएको छ ।

४ परियोजनाले हामी रिट निवेदकहरूको धार्मिक, सामाजिक, आर्थिक, साँस्कृतिक हकको ठाउँ उल्लंघन गर्दछ । यस परियोजनाले सिन्धुलीगडी ऐतिहासीक महत्वको स्थल, भद्रकाली गा.वि.स.का भद्रकाली को प्रसिद्ध मन्दिर, कमलामाई नपा ९ अवस्थित सिद्धवावाको थान लगायतको धार्मिक तथा ऐतिहासिक स्थल असर पार्ने प्रतिवेदनमा प्रष्ट उल्लेख छ । सिद्धवावा मन्दिरमा दर्शनार्थीहरूको सुविधाका लागि नगरपालिकाबाट जग्गा समेत लिई सुरु गरीएको केवलकारको निमार्ण गर्ने कार्य समेत यही हाइटेन्सन लाईनको कारणले पुग्ने खतराको कारणले खारेज भयो । यी स्थलहरू माथिबाट हाइटेन्सन लगेपश्चात् त्यसमा निर्वाध आवागमन, पूजाआजा गर्न आउने र संरक्षण गर्ने मानिसहरूलाई असुरक्षित बनाउँदछ । यस स्थितिमा हामी रिट निवेदकहरूको नेपालको अन्तरिम संविधान २०६३ को धारा १७ (३) द्वारा प्रत्याभूत आफ्नो संस्कृति, साँस्कृतिक सभ्यता र सम्पदाको संरक्षण र संर्बद्धन गर्ने हक, धारा २३ (२) समेतले प्रत्याभूत गरेको धार्मिक स्थल संचालन गर्ने हक उल्लंघन गरिएको छ । यस सन्दर्भमा, श्री सर्वोच्च अदालतबाट अरुण श्रेष्ठ समेत वि.म.प.स भएको उत्प्रेषण मुद्दामा ".... नागरिकको धर्म सम्बन्धी हकमा नै दखल दिन वा राष्ट्रिय सम्पदाको रूपमा

(१०)

रहेको, धार्मिक, साँस्कृतिक, सम्पदा प्रभावित हुने गरी कुनै क्रियाकलाप संचालन गर्न नपाउने" भन्ने ब्याख्या भएको विपरित विपक्षीहरूको कार्य भएको छ । ऐतिहासिक सिंधुलीगढी आफैमा नेपाली इतिहासको धरोहर तथा प्राचीन स्मारक संरक्षण ऐन २०१३ (२) को परिभाषा अर्न्तगत प्राचीन स्मारक तथा पुरातात्विक महत्व भित्र पर्ने क्षेत्र हो । यसको महत्व, सुन्दरता र भौतिक अवस्थालाई परिबर्तन गर्ने गरी भएको कार्य ऐनको दफा ३ (५) अनुसार पुरतत्व विभागबाट अनुमति लिन पर्दछ । तर परियोजनाले कुनै अनुमति लिएको प्रतिवेदनमा उल्लेख भएको देखिँदैन । यस सम्बन्धमा २२० केभि प्रसारण लाइनको नाममा जथाभावि गाडिएको पोलहरूले .. नेपालकै ऐतिहासिक सिंधुली गढी समेतको अस्तित्व नामेट हुने अवस्थामा पुगेको छ भन्ने समेत विभिन्न संचार माध्यमहरूले निरन्तर प्रसारण गरी मिडियाकर्मीहरूले विरोध गर्दा समेत । (राष्ट्रिय दैनिक प्रभात समाचार बर्ष ११ अंक २२४, २०६८ साल मंशीर २२ विहिवार पहिलो पृष्ठ) कुनै सुनुवाई भएको छैन ।

५. हामी रिट निवेदकहरू खेती किसान गरी जिविको पार्जन गर्ने पेशागतरूपमा कृषकहरू हौं । यस परियोजनाले हाम्रो पेशा गरेर खाने जग्गा अधिग्रहण गर्ने र खेती किसानी कार्य गर्नलाई जाँदा ज्यान नै जोखिममा पार्ने, संघै त्रसित भएर गुञ्जन पर्ने परिस्थिति सृजना गरेको छ । हाइ भोल्टेज लाइन सम्बन्ध गरिएका अध्ययनहरूले खेती तथा पशुहरूमा पनि गम्भीर असर पर्ने देखाएको छ । त्यसबाट स्वतन्त्ररूपमा पेशा अवलम्बन गर्न पाउने संविधानको धारा १२ (३) (च) र ऐ को (ड) ले स्वतन्त्र आवागमन र बसोबास गर्न पाउने हक कुण्ठित गरेको छ ।

६ यस परियोजना, अन्यन्त गैरजिम्मेवार, हचुवा पूर्ण, संबेदनहीन र अमानवीय तौरले संचालन गरिएको छ । परियोजनाको प्रतिवेदन अनुसार कमलामाई न.पा. को वडा नं १० र ११ मा नत सर्वेक्षण गर्ने अनुमति लिइएको छ न हाइटेन्सनको टावर गाड्ने नै, तर पनि यहाँ रहने हामी रिट निवेदकहरूको जग्गाबाट हाइटेन्सन लैजान खोजिएको छ भने जग्गा पनि रोक्का गरिएको छ । यसरी यस परियोजना मनोमानी र स्वेच्छाचारी ढंगले संचालन गर्न खोजिएको छ । कुनै पनि विकासको काम मानवीय पक्ष र अधिकारलाई नजर अन्दाज गरी गर्न मिल्दैन । नेपाल समेतले सहमति जनाएको मानवअधिकार सम्बन्धी भियाना घोषणापत्र र कार्ययोजना १९९३ को धारा ८ ले स्पष्ट रूपमा उल्लेख गरिएको छ । जस अनुसार, Democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundmental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. अर्थात् लोकतन्त्र, विकास र मानवअधिकार तथा आधारभूत स्वतन्त्रता अन्तरनिर्भर र साँगसँगै लागूहुने विषय हुन् । त्यस अर्थमा नेपालले अधिकारमूलक विकास (Right to development) लाई उल्लंघन गर्न मिल्दैन । अधिकारमा आधारित विकासको घोषणापत्र १९८६ (Declaration on the Right to Development) को धारा १ अनुसार विकासको अधिकार अहरणीय मानव अधिकार हो । यसले सबै मानवअधिकार र आधारभूत स्वतन्त्रता पूर्णरूपमा महसूस गरिएको हुनुपर्दछ । घोषणापत्रको धारा ३ अनुसार States have the right and the duty to formulate appropriate national development polities that aim at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals, on the basis of the active, free and meaningful participation in development. धारा ६ (३) अनुसार

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States should take steps to eliminate obstacles to develement resulting from failure to observe civil and political rights as well as economic social and cultural rights. राज्यले सबै जनसंख्याको समृद्धी कायम गर्नु पर्ने तथा नागरिक तथा आर्थिक अधिकारमा परेको बाधा हटाएर विकास गर्ने दायित्व विपरित उल्टै हाम्रो भएको घरबास तथा जग्गाजमिन बाट उठीबास लगाउन खोजेको प्रष्ट छ ।

Handwritten signature: *Role of law*

७ विपक्षी प्रतिवादीहरुको कार्य विधिको शासन ~~चाहिँ यो बिध~~ विपरित र क्षेत्राधिकार विहिन तथा गैरकानूनी समेत रहेको छ । विपक्षीहरु मध्ये भिमेश्वर गाविसका सचिव अनन्त राज देवकोटा, रतनचुरा गाविसका सचिव नारायण बहादुर थापा, जलकन्या गाविस का सचिव रामबाबु कार्की भद्रकाली गाविस सचिव गोपी नारायण श्रेष्ठ, रानीचुरी गाविस का सचिव मुकुन्द दाहाल, कमलामाई नगरपालिकाका कर्मचारी दामोदर भण्डारी (कार्यकारी अधिकृत) समेतले आयोजना संचालन गर्ने अनुमति सहितको सिफरिस दिएको देखिन्छ । गाविस सचिवलाई परियोजना संचालन गर्न स्थानीय स्वायत्त शासन ऐन २०५५ तथा नियमावली २०५६ ले कहिकतै त्यसतो अधिकार दिएको छैन । उक्त ऐन को दफा २६ र २८ ले गाविस क्षेत्रमा गर्ने विकास योजना गाउँ विकास समिति र परिषदले निर्णय गर्ने अधिकार राख्दछ । त्यसमा पनि २२० के. भी. प्रसारण जस्तो गम्भिर परियोजना संचालन गर्ने अधिकार गा.वि.स. सचिवलाई छँदै छैन । परियोजनाको प्रतिवेदनले जनताको जीउ ज्यान र सम्पतीमा असरपार्ने देख्दा देख्दै कुनै अध्ययन अनुसन्धान र हामी रिट निवेदक लगायतका सम्बन्धित पिडितहरूसँग सरोकार नै नराखी गरेको सिफरिस गैर जिम्मेवारी र हचुवाको परकाष्ट देखिन्छ जुन प्रचलित ऐन नियमले गर्ने नभिल्ले कुराहरु हुन् । परियोजना प्रतिवेदनमा स्पष्टसँग मन्थलीको हवाई मैदानलाई खतरा पुग्ने उल्लेख छ । जस अनुसार About 35-400 m section of the alignment runs near to the Mnathali airport at a distance of about 730 m from the existing airport . This may interfere with the air traffic movment causing danguer during landing period. However "No objection" letter for the alignment is already given by the Civil Aviation Authority.... Para 6.3.2.) यस सम्बन्धमा १९३२ देखि २०१३ सम्म हाइटेन्सन् लाइनकै कारण संसारमा धेरै हवाई दुघटना भएको सुचनाहरु उपलब्ध भएका देखिन्छ । यसरी खतरा पूर्ण अवस्था विद्यमान रहँदा रहँदै विपक्षी नेपाल नगरिक उड्डयन प्राधिकरणले मिति २०६०/३/१३ मा परियोजना सञ्चालन गर्न दिएको प्रष्ट देखिन्छ जसबाट हवाई सेवा जस्तो संवेदनशील विषयमा पनि खेलवाड गरी जनताको जीउ ज्यान र सम्पतिलाई खतरामा पारेको प्रष्ट छ ।

८ यसरी माथि प्रकरण प्रकरणमा उल्लेख गरे अनुसार आयोजनाले हामी रिट निवेदकहरुको आजिवनको पसिनाको कमाईबाट जोडिएको, पुख्यौली थलो, जिविका गर्ने घरबास जग्गाबाट उठीबास लगाई हाम्रो परिवारहरुको विल्लिबाठ पार्ने र चारवटा विद्यालयमा अध्ययन गर्ने विधार्थीहरुको ज्यान, शुरक्षा र भविष्यमाथि प्रत्यक्ष खेलबाड गर्ने, असर पार्ने स्थिति आए पश्चात् आयोजनासँग सम्बन्धित विभिन्न व्यक्ति, कर्मचारी, संस्थाहरुलाई पटक पटक ज्ञापनपत्र, छलफल

Handwritten signature and date: 1931

लगायतबाट न्यायको लागि गुहार गर्दा कुनै सुनुवाई भएन । उल्टै राज्य शक्तिको दुरुपयोग गर्दै प्रमुख जिल्ला अधिकारीले हामी रिट निवेदक लगायत पीडितहरूलाई डर धाक धम्की दिने, प्रहरी, सशस्त्र प्रहरी परिचालन गरेर यातना दिने, आतंकीत बनाउने कार्य निरन्तर जारी राखि परियोजनाको टावर गाढन प्रयास भई आएको छ । विकल्प छ, साविक सर्भे भएको ठाउँबाट लगियोस् भनि पटकपटक प्रधानमन्त्री सम्बन्धित मन्त्रालय, निकाय तथा परियोजना सम्बन्धिहरूसँग लिखित मौखिक अनुरोध गर्दा पनि कुनै सुनुवाई भएको छैन । मिति २०६८ साल चैत्रमा उर्जा मन्त्रालयमा स्थानीय जनता, परियोजना र सरकार तर्फबाट उपस्थित प्रतिनीधिहरु बीच छलफल हुदा स्थानीय जनताले दिएको बैकल्पिक बाटो प्रयोग गर्ने र ५ जनाको समिति गठन गरी सोको रिपोर्ट बुझाउने भनी सहमती भएको थियो । उक्त विज्ञ समितिले के प्रतिवेदन बुझायो हालसम्म सार्वजनिक गराइएको छैन ।

सम्माननीय प्रधानमन्त्री समेतलाई विकल्प तथा न्यायको निमित्त ज्ञापनपत्र बुझाई सकिएको थियो । त्यो अवस्थामा प्रधानमन्त्रीले विकल्प छु छैन भनी आयोजना प्रमुख कन्हैया कुमार मानन्धरलाई प्रश्न गर्दा निजले विकल्प रहेको छ भनेको र प्रधानमन्त्री समेतले तत्काल विकल्प प्रयोग गर्ने आश्वासन दिनुभएको थियो । त्यसैको आधारमा बैकल्पिक मार्ग अपनाउँछु भन्ने लागेको थियो । तर त्यसको विपरित प्रधानमन्त्रीले बल प्रयोग गरेर, जसरी पनि पुरा गर्न स्थानीय प्रशासनलाई निर्देशन दिएको त्यसको कार्यान्वयनमा विपक्षी प्र. जि.अ.केशवराज आर्चायले स्थानीयले अवरोध नहटाए बल प्रयोग गरेरै भए पनि काम पुरा गर्ने, (राष्ट्रिय दैनिक जनबोली सन्देश, वर्ष २ अंक १०३ सोमबार २७ कार्तिक २०६९ पृ १) निजले मिति २०६९ कार्तिक १८ मा भएको छलफलको क्रममा स्थानीय स्तरबाट कुनै अवरोध आएमा सुरक्षाकर्मी लगाएर गोली ठोक्ने निर्देशन दिएको अवस्था विद्यमान छ । (सिन्धुली सौगात राष्ट्रिय दैनिक, वर्ष २ अंक १०६, २०६९ कार्तिक २३ विहिवार पृ १) खिम्ति ढल्केबर प्रसारण लाइनको बाँकी काम पुरा गर्न सरकारले सशस्त्र प्रहरी परिचालन गर्ने भएको छ । (नागरिक राष्ट्रिय दैनिक, शनिबार ९ भदौ २०६९ पृ १४) सरकारले पहिले सेना परिचालन गरेको थियो तर सेनाले स्थानीयहरुको पीरमर्का बुझेर कुनै कारवाही नबढाएपछि सेनाको ठाउँमा सशस्त्र प्रहरीलाई जिम्मा लगाईएको हो । परियोजनाले स्थानीय जनतालाई प्रशासनको सहयोगमा पटक पटक भुक्काउने, बल प्रयोग गर्ने, प्रलोभन देखाउने, डरत्रास देखाउने, जस्ता कामहरु गरीआएको छ । यसै सन्दर्भमा मिति २०६९ साल कार्तिक २६ गते टावर गाढन सर्भे गर्न शसस्त्र सहित प्र.जि.अ.समेत आउदा स्थानीय जनताले उक्त कार्य नगर्न अनुरोध गर्दा सर्भे गर्नको लागि २०६९ कार्तिक महिनाको २७ गते शसस्त्र सुरक्षा बेश क्याम्पका इन्पेक्टरको कमाण्डमा आएका १५० जना शसस्त्र प्रहरीहरुले प्र.जि.अ.को आदेश कार्यान्वयन गर्ने सन्दर्भमा जथाभावि निहत्था जनतामाथि राइफलको कुन्दा, लाठी, बुट र सशस्त्र प्रहरीको बढी प्रोटेक्टरले थिची हानी कुटी आक्रमण गर्न लगाइयो जसबाट कमलामाई नपा ७ बस्ने वर्ष ४२ को मैना कुमारी प्रधान थापा-१, ऐ ऐ बस्ने वर्ष २८ को प्रमिला आले-१, ऐ ऐ बस्ने वर्ष २८ को सावित्रा थापा -१, ऐ ऐ बस्ने वर्ष ४२ को विमला

(१३)

बस्नेत -१, ऐ ऐ बस्ने वर्ष ४६ को चन्द्र कुमारी बस्नेत -१, ऐ ऐ बस्ने वर्ष ५५ को सूर्य कुमारी खडका-१, ऐ ऐ बस्ने वर्ष ५७ इन्द्र ठकुरी-१, ऐ ऐ बस्ने वर्ष २८ को गोपी मगर-१, ऐ ऐ बस्ने वर्ष २६ को उर्मिला बस्नेत -१, ऐ ऐ बस्ने वर्ष २९ को अम्बिका थापा मगर -१, जम्मा १० महिलालाई कुटपीट गरी गम्भीर घाईते बनाईयो । क.न.पा ७ मित्रचोक बस्ने वर्ष ५९ को नारायण बहादुर थापा - १, ऐ बस्ने वर्ष ४८ को कुमार पाल्पाली - १, ऐ बर्देउटार बस्ने वर्ष ४८ को उक्त बहादुर थापा मगर समेत लाई बिना कारण सोहि दिन विहान ६ बजे जिल्ला प्रहरी कार्यलयमा थुनामा राखी बेलुकी ६ बजे मार्ने समेतको धम्की लगायतको मानसिक यातना दिदै राखियो । दर्जनौ मान्छेहरुलाई पक्राउ गर्ने अनाहकमा प्रशासनमा बोलाई दुख दिने पक्राउ गर्ने गरेका छन् । गम्भिर घाईतेमध्ये अम्बिका थापा मगरको सिन्धुली जिल्ला स्वास्थ्य कार्यालय (अस्पताल) मा उपचार हुन नसकि काठमाडौं रिफर गरेको कारण विनायक नर्सिड होम काठमाडौंमा उपचार भइ रहेको छ यदि निको नभएमा अप्रेसन गर्नपर्ने अस्पतालले जानकारी दिएको छ ।

७) तसर्थ: माथी प्रकरण प्रकरणमा उल्लेख गरिए बमोजिम विपक्षीहरुको कार्यले हामी रिट निवेदकहरुको मौलिक तथा कानूनी हक उल्लंघन गर्नुका साथै उक्त कार्य संविधान तथा कानूनी राज्यको मान्य सिद्धान्त विपरित भएको हुनाले नेपालको अन्तरिम संविधान, २०६३ को धारा ३२ र १०७ बमोजिम निम्न बमोजिमको जो चाहिने उपयुक्त आज्ञा वा आदेश जारी गरी पाउँ ।

(क) विपक्षी प्रजिअले हामी रिट निवेदकहरुलाई धम्क दिदै सरकारको जग्गा हो लालपुरजा मात्र तिमीहरुको हो । जग्गा त सरकारको भएकोले परियोजनाको काममा बाधा पुराउनेलाई यो खाल्टोमा पुर्नु भन्ने माथिको आदेश छ । तिमीहरु कोही पनि बोल्न पाउदैनौ म जे गर्छु त्यो नै कानून हो, यो ठाउँ छाडेर जहाँ जानुपर्छ जाँदा हुन्छ, जस्लाई मर्नु छ त्यो मात्र बस्नु भनी डर त्रास देखाई आएको हुँदा यो विधुत प्रसारण लाईन परियोजनाले गाउलेलाई आतंकित पारेको छ । मिति २०६८ जेष्ठमा विधुत पोल गाढ्न खाल्डो नखन्नु अनुरोध गर्दा कमलामाई तपा-४ सानो ककरेका स्थानीय दिप बहादुर कार्कीलाई टावर गाढ्न खनेको खाल्डोमा राखी स्क्वाभेटर प्रयोग गरी माटोले जिउँदै पुर्ने प्रयाश गरिएको तर निजको छोरा तथा छरछिमेकीले बचाएको, नत्र उनलाई पुर्ने निश्चित देखिन्थ्यो खाल्टोमा हाल्दा निजलाई लागेको चोटपटकको खत हालसम्म रहेको छ । यसरी हदैसम्म यातना दिइएको अवस्था विद्यमान रहेको छ । (यसको समचार मिति २०६८ साल फाल्गुण १९ सिन्धुली सौगात राष्ट्रिय दैनिकमा समेत प्रकाशित भएको छ) यसरी राज्य प्रशासन र प्रजिअलाई स्थानीय प्रशासन ऐन २०२८ लगायतका ऐन नियमले जनतालाई गोली हान्ने, जिउँदै गाढ्ने अधिकार प्रदान गरेको छैन, यसरी निज प्रजिअले तथा विपक्षीहरुले अधिकारको दुरुपयोग गर्दै हामी निमुखा रिट निवेदकहरुको हक अधिकार हनन् गर्ने, यातना दिइ, घरजग्गाबाट विस्थापन गर्ने प्रवल सम्भावना रहेको हुँदा सर्वोच्च अदालत नियमावली २०४९ को नियम ४१ बमोजिम विपक्षी हरुको नाममा यस रिट निवेदनको टुङ्गो नलागे सम्म रिटनिवेदकहरुको शान्तिपूर्णरूपमा वाँच्न पाउने, निर्वाधरूपमा आवागमन गर्न पाउने हक कुण्ठीत हुने र घरजग्गालाई असर पार्ने गरी तथा परियोजना सम्बन्धि

९४

कुनै पनि कार्य नगर्नु नगराउनु भनी विपक्षीहरूको नाममा अन्तरिम आदेश जारी गरिपाउँ ।

(ख) तात्कालिन श्री ५ को सरकार जलस्रोत मन्त्रालय (सचिव स्तर) को मिति २०६०/२/१९ को निर्णय अनुसार साविकको क्षेत्र शंसोधन गरी सर्वेक्षण अनुमति दिइ हाल कायम गरेको भिमेश्वर, रतनचूरा, रानीचुरी, जलकन्या, भद्रकाली, कमलामाई नपामा हामी निवेदकहरूको शहरीकरण गाउँबस्ती घरसमेत र विद्यालयको भवनमाथी बाट हाइटेन्सन लाने योजना विद्युत नियमावली २०५० को नियम ५२ विपरित भई हामी रिट निवेदक तथा त्यहाका बासिन्दालाई अपुरणीय क्षती पुग्ने हुनाले विपक्षीहरूको निर्णय उत्प्रेषणको आदेशले बदर गरि पाउँ ।

(ग) प्रकरण २ मा उल्लेखित उक्त आयोजना शुरुमा सभै गरिएको ठाउँबाटै हाइटेन्सन लैजान वा परियोजना प्रतिवेदनमा पनि विकल्प खोज्न सकिने उल्लेख भएको आधार समेतलाई दृष्टिगत गरी हाम्रो हक अधिकार कुण्ठीत नहुने गरी विकल्पको लागि उपयुक्त आज्ञा आदेश जारी गरिपाउँ ।

(घ) हामी रिट निवेदकहरूलाई कुनै जानकारी वा सुनुवाईको मौकासमेत नदिइ, क्षेत्राधिकार विहिन तथा विद्युत ऐन २०४९ को दफा ३२ बमोजिम पूर्व सुचना नदिइ, ऐ को दफा ३३ बमोजिमको प्रक्रिया नअपनाई गैरकानूनी रूपमा जग्गा रोक्का गर्ने विपक्षी प्र.जि.अ.को निर्णय उत्प्रेषणको आदेशद्वारा बदर गरी पाउँ ।

(ङ) यस रिटनिवेदन दर्ता गर्ने हाल कानून ब्यावसायी मुकरर गरेको छैन । पछि हाम्रो तर्फबाट रहने कानून ब्यवसायीहरूको तर्फबाट प्रेसित हुने बहस, जिक्ति र नजिर समेतलाई यसै रिट निवेदनको अभिन्न अंग मानिपाउँ ।

यस कुराको प्रमाण:-

कारगज:-

(क) नागरिकताहरूको फोटोकपी

(ख) नक्साको फोटोकपि

(ग) गा.वि.स.ले दिएको सिफारिसको फोटोकपी

(घ) वातावरण प्रभाव अध्ययन सम्बन्धी प्रतिवेदनको सम्बन्धित विषयको फोटोकपी

(ङ) सर्वे नापीको फोटोकपि

(च) प्रधानमन्त्रीलाई बुझाएको ज्ञापनपत्र फोटोकपि

(छ) डाक्टरको रिपोर्ट तथा उपचार विलहरू

(ज) मिति २०६८ पौष १८ गते बसेको सर्वदलीय र सर्वपक्षीय बैठकको माईनुट फोटोकपी

(झ) हवाई दुर्घटना सम्बन्धि सुचनाको फोटो कपी

(ञ) रिस्पान्सिबल एलेक्ट्रीसिटी ट्रान्समिसन फर अलब्रटान्स को प्रतिवेदन फोटोकफी

(ट) विश्व स्वास्थ्य संघको सुचना

(ठ) विभिन्न मितिमा प्रकाशित पत्रिकाहरूको फोटोकपीहरू

९) यो रिट निवेदनमा लेखिएको ब्यहोरा ठीक साँचो छ । भुट्टा ठहरे कानून बमोजिम सहुला बुझाउँला ।

इतिसम्मत २०६९ साल पौष गते रोज शुभम्

रिट निवेदकहरूको वारिस
अधिवक्ता रामहरी श्रेष्ठ

Annex C

WORLD BANK MEETING MINUTES ON KHIMTI-DHALKEBAR 220 KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN SINDHULI DISTRICT

March 15, 2013
10 am, Karnali Room
Yak & Yeti, WB Office KTM

In attendance:

1) From LAHURNIP:

- Shankar Limbu
- Prabindra Shankya
- Santosh Rai

2) Independent expert: Amanda Cats-Baril

3) From the Community (Sindhuli):

- Surendra Moktan
- Surya Pakhrin, NEFIN
- Ukata Bahadur Thapa
- Chetu Moktan
- Ujwal Bhujel
- Milan Budhathoki
- Manoj Pradhan
- Man Bahadur Thapa
- Ganesh Man Shrestha
- Subha Bal Shanmbha

4) From the World Bank:

- Jie Tang, Lead Energy Specialist
- Rabin Shrestha, Energy Specialist
- Ghosh, Safeguard Specialist

Notes

- **Jie Tang:** first meeting in response to complaint letter, welcoming NEFIN; LAHURNIP; and local Joint Struggle Community
 - Aware of issues facing line; visited in January/February before the complaint was received
 - Want to know full extent of demands of community and what the major issues are
 - “What’s in the mind of the community?”
 - Before making any commitment have to know full picture

- **Shankar, LAHURNIP**
 - Want more information regarding project
 - Community is not fully aware (wasn't made fully aware)
 - Disclosure issue
 - Tried to get information from National Energy Authority but couldn't
 - Community stated that when surveying in the area was started they were not informed about high tension line
 - Thought was for water supply or telephone line

- **Surendra Moktan**
 - Since beginning of survey, community has been “duped” because survey was taken in relation to water/telephone
 - Local community not aware of purpose of project
 - No public hearing with communities who will be affected (in Sindhuli, municipality)
 - Only after land and houses were acquired and towers were erected did they realize what project was about; power supply with high voltage line
 - Then formed Struggle Committee and informed local authorities about concern
 - Went to Prime Minister's office as well
 - Concerned that powerlines will destroy local settlement and want to understand why the project is going ahead despite expressed concerns
 - Community believes that it is because the World Bank is behind the project that the Government is determined to go through with it
 - Will continue to fight, even if it means using force
 - Excessive police force has been used against the community
 - Force was mobilized in the name of the Project
 - Emphasize that local people are not against project; merely want Government to look for alternative routes that wouldn't affect village (MINIMIZE IMPACT)
 - Aware that there are alternatives
 - Current course affects four villages in Sindhuli; densely populated area
 - Eight public schools and religious and cultural places – huge significance; will affect burial ground
 - Want World Bank to support study (or pressure Government to do so) to determine alternative, way to protect local people
 - Won't let the construction work move forward (“ready to die”)

- **Surya Pakhrin, NEFIN Sindhuli**
 - Government mobilized army first but army backtracked after hearing the concerns of local community; following their retreat, armed police were mobilized
 - Local peoples peacefully resisting mobilization and armed police also retreated but then project demarcation was undertaken at around 3 in the morning when people were not around
 - Curfew had been implemented – loudspeakers announced that people have to stay home
 - In process 10 indigenous women were injured and are currently undergoing treatment
 - Jie Tang asked: hurt by the police or the crowd?

- Response: Police, opened fired on the protest
 - Newspaper article passed around as evidence (translation??)
- NEFIN as umbrella organization refused to stay quiet and protested against curfew
- “Project being undertaken in the name of development but its not; threatens the lives and culture of indigenous peoples”
- Local people as well as NEFIN are not against development, recognize that’s what Nepal needs, but also know there are alternatives and they should be considered
 - Petitioned Energy Ministry to look for alternatives; and Committee was formed to look into the alternatives but findings of the Committee not yet published or made known
 - Project should not kill local people or affect social and cultural life
- Won’t allow lines to be built on current course – will prohibit further construction
 - At global level with treaties etc. that guarantee indigenous peoples’ rights (ILO 169 and UNDRIP) – when there are such guarantees why World Bank is funding project that violates these rights?
- **Jie Tang** reiterates that he wants to hear all stories and all concerns from everyone present
 - Why don’t the people want the lines above houses? What exactly are they worried about?
 - Are there other concerns? Worried about compensation?
- **Rabin Shrestha** asks individuals to talk about experience with Project
- **Milan Budhathoki** house directly under Line; will have to be moved
 - Every now and then somebody comes by but doesn’t provide any concrete information
- **Manoj Pradhan** land and house affected; no information provided
 - No consultation, no information, no one from Project came
- **Jie Tang** if people came from Project to talk about impacts would you welcome them?
 - Community says “yes”
- **Surendra Mokhtan** have been informed that they are not allowed to go close to the line (15 meters on both sides)
 - Question is if line goes directly above the house what will happen?
 - What about mitigation?
- **Shankar** (translating)
 - Line passes directly over populated area and has affect on lives of the people
 - Other project sites were surveyed where no human settlement is – seem to be better for the environment, and for the people
 - **Shows map with proposed line passing over villages; and the alternative route as well—states that whole area shown is in Sindhuli
 - Barren land on other side of the river; could be possible alternative route for the transmission line
 - Compliance with domestic law and policies
 - Nepal law says no high tension lines can go above houses

- Electricity Regulations are very clear
 - Potential threat to children at schools, aged 5 to 18
 - Want to know if studies have been done recognizing IPs in the area
 - Existing Nepali law recognizes indigenous peoples; specifically NFDIN Act and Interim Constitution
 - Recognize that IPs are distinct peoples with distinct rights
 - ILO 169 and UNDRIP signed on to in Nepal and also give IPs rights to land and resources
 - All of these rights violated by the Project's operation
 - LAHURNIP has tried to get relevant information from Government offices/studies undertaken in the area but could not obtain
 - PM memorandum orders report (in response to letter) but never made public
 - Question about 4.10 safeguard policy
 - How to implement? In Project opinion has it been implemented or not?
 - Consultation was clearly required by international and national law BEFORE project was implemented but this didn't happen
 - Important for sustainability of any project
 - Repeat that community is clearly not against Project but want to know expected impacts
 - Asking for dialogue with the Government and suggesting that World Bank serves as facilitator and believe that it won't make sense for the Project to continue while the dialogue is ongoing
 - As it is now, need curfew even to carry out Project activities
 - Furthermore, bank has denied to take community members lands as collaterals
 - Financial impacts
 - Agricultural area so high economic impact expected from the Project
- **Jie Tang** asks to know specifically whose house actually falls within the 15 meter line
 - **Ganesh Man Shrestha, Subha Bal Shambha, Milan Budhathoki, Ujwal Bhujel** all within the 15 meters
 - **Rabin Shrestha** asks if compensation has been offered/provided to any?
 - **Ganesh Man Shrestha** yes someone came but not lately
 - After they came once nothing has happened
 - Was paid some money to relocate and accepted then moved and built new house but then 2nd phase of the Project was started and new house also falls incredibly close to 30 meter corridor
 - Wasn't informed of where to rebuild
 - **Man Bahadur Thapa** transmission line touches land
 - No one has come to talk about compensation yet
 - And concerned—60 meter tower and only 30 meter corridor; what if the tower falls? Will fall outside of 30 meter corridor and might hit house even if built outside or if a tree falls on the wire will also hit house
- **Ghosh** asks if community members are aware of Grievance Mechanism for project? Ask if someone has actively made them aware

- **Manoj Pradhan** says no not aware; no one came to say if land was affected, this is what you deserve
- **Ghosh** continues...beyond law Bank provides assistance besides compensation (required as per safeguards)
 - Asks if community is aware of this and they say they are not
- **Ghosh** continues...there is a Village and Community Development Plan and supposed to be made available in translated versions at local government office
- Beyond compensation, there are livelihood assistance options
- **Shankar**: but information is supposed to be prior? Now too late?
 - Community was fooled from the beginning and told there would be a water supply/telephone line when survey was conducted
- **Ghosh** asks when Community was actually made aware of the project?
 - Answer: 2 years ago, learned that HV line by asking construction workers what towers were for—not from an official source
- **Ghosh** asks when the foundation was built for the towers, whether anyone's land was occupied? When land was acquired what was told to the people?
 - Response: mostly youth were away and things were told to the elders who did not fully understand
 - Elders agreed to give land for the erection of the towers
- **Manoj Pradhan** says full information was never given
- **Shankar** no one from Sindhuli participated in public hearings
 - Explains that the problem is with notice; under Nepali Law if don't meet people at house then its ok to publish notice for land acquisition publicly in national newspaper (constitutes notice)
 - Can imagine, village people do not have regular access to these papers
- **Ukate Thapa** outside of 15 meters but at 16th meter
 - Went to bank to mortgage property (put land as collateral for a loan) with maps of demarcation given by Government but bank said wouldn't accept any land as collateral which comes within 300 meters of the project
- **Chetu Muktan** transmission line passes directly above land; within 15 meters
- **Surendra** does line pass directly above burial/cremation site? What are people concerned about? Radiation from wire?
 - **Shankar** research showed that radiation extends 8 meters in radius around a 35 voltage line so only wondering how far it extends for a line of this much voltage? Why can't the line be built underground?
 - Where first EIA was carried out there was no human settlement—why ignored? Shankar says probably because of corruption
 - Knows that there are health risks like cancer and miscarriages and community is concerned about how to mitigate
 - WHO and Canadian government affirm that there are adverse health impacts
 - Communities are united – have minutes from all meetings showing that all communities agreed on need for alternative
 - LAHURNIP took the case to push for alternatives

- **Jie Tang** asks about Supreme Court case
 - **Shankar** writ petition filed month ago; show cause order issued and case placed on priority list
 - Originally asked for Interim Order which technically should have been issued before the Project was started; since already started Court denied order (technical question, not on the merits) but put case on the priority list
 - However, because of recent depletion of the Supreme Court could take 5-6 years
 - Court said all land acquisition had been completed (proof that Interim Order could not be issued) but community was unaware and didn't see documents
 - 1 week ago notice was issued for land acquisition not in the name of the Project but in the name of a road expansion
 - If road expanded in the way suggested by the advertisement then the road be wider than a highway
 - **Jie Tang** says understanding was that land acquisition was issued in name of road because this was the only way to get 100% compensation for land acquisition
 - Needed road expansion order as a tool to achieve that; “creation of an asset” under eminent domain (“for broader public benefit”)
- **Jie Tang** states that 8 towers are suspended for over 1 year
 - Asks if anyone present is from the area where construction on the 8 towers has been suspended
 - All come from this area
- **Shankar** repeats requests:
 - Copy of MOU
 - Verified EIA and SIA
 - Status of project (updated) – how much released?
 - DIVERT ROUTE – one and only demand is to use the alternative (if not plan to go to international court)
- **Jie Tang** asks if community is aware of livelihood enhancements/mitigation options/impact
 - Is the community open to having more discussion of what options are available before making final decision?
 - **Community** answer “Dhilo bhayo” (it is already late)
 - Information should have come first
 - Have been living on lands for centuries and do not want to make a new home
 - Attachment to land
 - **Jie Tang** Project is an opportunity for development not only compensation but if push for alternative and insist then might lose opportunities
 - **Manoj Pradhan:** “We are happy. Were happy before Project came and would be happy if went away. Don't mind losing the opportunity”
 - **Ukate Thapa** request diversion through Komalaya Municipality
 - Would only require building 2 extra pillars; community offers free labor for this effort
 - Why won't the World Bank consider other routes?
 - Asks World Bank to take the initiative to ensure Project avoids human settlement; Government will not help so World Bank has to be willing to do the talking

- **Jie Tang** this is only the first conversation; need to move forward together to reach a resolution
 - Purpose of meeting was to understand community concerns, and would like to reiterate his understanding:
 - From Legal representative understands that World Bank safeguard policy, indigenous peoples' right to consultation and right to full disclosure: all violated
 - Force has been used and local people have been injured
 - Want to know if alternatives have been considered; why the current route is chosen instead of alternatives?
 - Want to know what kind of mitigation is available to preserve IP culture/identity
 - Mitigation available if don't want to move?
 - Full document sharing/information
 - Road Construction—implications of announcement?
 - Financial collateral problems? Even if land outside 15 m
 - Case is different for people directly under or within 15 m
 - Want more information
 - Impact and mitigation measures possible
 - Basically desire to fully understand support options
 - Then: Alternative route or nothing else
 - Too late; haven't been consulted before
 - Some land very valuable; concerned about proper compensation
 - **Shankar** explains this wasn't exactly the concern
 - Impact of high tension line on sacred places and on 8 schools (4 falling directly under the line and 4 on border of the corridor)
 - Initial Response from the Bank side:
 - Will comply with Government laws and with safeguard policy
 - World Bank responsibility to comply with disclosure policy (provide what info at what time)
 - From what heard during meeting, no compliance
 - On this end, will meet with National Energy Authority as implementing agency to generate a response
 - After will come back to community to discuss how to move forward
 - Understand that people are not against the Project “just need convincing”
 - Will check about documents personally and will be sure to disclose all information as required by the World Bank disclosure policy
 - Not all documents can be disclosed
 - As power engineer would like to personally assure community members that HV transmission lines have been built everywhere, including in densely populated areas
 - Based on experience HV lines all over the world and best practices will be applied here as well (i.e. meters required for protection)
 - Passes around photo of Istanbul, Turkey HV lines in city area
- **Chetu Moktan** asks whether it is the World Bank or the Government's responsibility to provide community with information and for correcting information like the EIA “fraud”
 - **Jie Tang** says it's the World Bank's responsibility to “oversee safeguard policy”

- Information should have been translated and disclosed
- Certain offices at which information must be made available (info should be made available locally in relevant language)
- Should be available BEFORE money disbursed
- **Chetu Muktan** but funding is 90% disbursed supposedly and still no monitoring...
- **Jie Tang** “Bank does have role to monitor, you are right”
 - Have been making regular visits to Project site but should have been better
 - Knew issues after visit but not extent and details
 - World Bank oversees Government’s legal commitments
 - Agreement with Government implementing agency—all safeguards should be observed
 - Regular supervision twice a year to identify issues and means for redress
 - Grievance Mechanism exists
 - Can express concerns at any time
- **Jie Tang concluding** only first meeting
 - **Community** welcomes World Bank representatives at any time
 - **Shankar LAHURNIP** happy to facilitate

Annex D: Memorandum to Prime Minister

Dated 2068/10/03 BS
January 17, 2012

To,
The Rt. Honorable Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office, Singh Durbar, Kathmandu

Subject: Memorandum

With reference to the above subject, we would like to inform of significant potential impacts of Khimti-Dhalkebar 220 KV Electricity Transmission Project in Sindhuli district.

The Project will affect Kamalamai Municipality Ward No. 6 Andheri Jasedmar, Panityanki, Baira Bhawan Kamalamai Municipality-7 Bardeutar, Danda Tole, Tallo Bardeutar, Mitra Chowk, Majhitar, Thulitar, Bukka Danda, Belganchi Ward No. 4, Sano Karkare, Ranichuri VDC Ward No. 1, Fiting Bhutiya Danda, Maisthan Karkare under Falchuri Kamalamai Municipality – 10, Bhadrakali VDC Dhunge Bhanjyang, Pipal Bhanjyang as well as historical Sindhuli Gadhi base in Ward No. 1 of Jalkanya VDC and cable car ferrying people to Sidhababa Temple under Kamalamai Municipality-9 located in the Project area.

The Project will cause physical harms and displacement of increasingly urbanizing densely populated settlements in the areas, including on around five thousand students studying in dozens of educational institutions including Panityanki Higher Secondary School and Swiss Boarding School located in the Project area. The construction works of the Project have been taken ahead against democratic norms and values by undertaking survey without following due legal process of inquiry and discussion with local communities. That will have an effect on thousands of bigaha of land and result in displacement of scores of thousands of people in the area.

Thus, we request the Rt. Honorable Prime Minister to change the route of the transmission lines from the above-mentioned impact areas so as to protect lives and properties and an urbanizing area.

Further, on one hand, the Project Chief has informed that the transmission lines can bring about personal and property loss at any time in an area of up to 30 meters on both sides of the lines. On the other hand, in course of survey for the Transmission Lines undertaken without discussion and consultation of the people in the concerned area, some were informed the survey meant to measure the height of the geographical location from sea-level and other were told it was to conduct drinking water project. Hence, were have been provided delusional and fallacious information and made victims through denial of our fundamental right to information.

Additionally, we hereby inform that the Project Chief has submitted forged documents required at the concerned agencies and demand for action as per relevant laws against the involved parties working against the laws.

We have come to learn from related technical experts and media that the transmission lines would be upgraded to 1200 KV and the radiation generated could cause miscarriages and birth of children with disabilities and mental illness. We thus notify hereby that that has further terrorized the minds of the affected people.

Sindhuli District Administration Office has withheld the lands of people affected by the Project and banks have refused loan requests for various purposes with those lands as collateral. We thus strongly demand the Rt. Honorable Prime Minister to release immediately those withheld lands.

We oppose and gravely dissent condemn the conduct of any project without any coordination with local people about unfavorable impacts and harms of the project beforehand and proceed the project works in an arbitrary manner that is against democratic laws and values. That said, it is not our view that the Project should be terminated completely. We merely appeal to immediately study alternative routes considering the loss of lives and properties as well as displacement of whole settlements in the current route so as to deviate the lines through a safe area elsewhere. We trust that the Rt. Honorable Prime Minister will appropriately and immediately address the requests and demands of the affected people.

When the people affected by the Project expressed discontent at the local administration, they were detained, obstructed and terrorized through the use of force. We hereby notify that that has further victimized us, the affected people. Further, we would like to inform that an all-party meeting held on 18 Paush 2068 BS had decided to urge the concerned party to postpone the construction works for the time being and to deviate the lines other place after study and research of alternative routes. A copy of the decision of the meeting is enclosed along with this memorandum.

We strongly demand the Rt. Honorable Prime Minister to immediate take initiative to diverge the Electricity Transmission lines from a different and safe alternative route. We would like to remind that the people will not have any other alternative than to carry out struggle and protest programs if the State and the concerned agency do not address and manage our legitimate demands. Finally, we hereby notify that additional struggle programs will be undertaken on the issue as per the decision of Struggle Committee meeting held on 29 Paush 2068 BS. A copy of the decision is enclosed along with this memorandum.

Copied

The Honorable Minister
Ministry of Energy, Kathmandu

The Honorable Minister
Ministry of Home Affairs, Kathmandu

Nepal Electricity Authority
Central Office, Kathmandu

Chairperson: Surendraswar Moktan (Signed)

Secretary: Narayan Bahadur Thapa (Signed)

Khimti-Dhalkebar 220KV Electricity Transmission Line Struggle Committee, Sindhuli

Annex E: NEA Document Upload Dates

बिधुत चुहावट सम्बन्धि सूचनाको लागि टोल फ्री नम्बर १६६००१३०३०३

नतिजा प्रकाशित



Navigations

- Home
- Board of Directors
- About Us
- Acts and Regulations
- Corporate Office
- Business Group
- Annual Report

Notice Board

- Photo Gallery
- Contents ▶
- Load Shedding Schedule
- Padpurti (पदपुर्ति)
- Tenders ▶
- Related Offices ▶
- Press Release
- General Forms/Information
- Publications/Reports
- Audio Notice Board

Publications/Reports

विद्युत अर्धवार्षिक रिपोर्ट वर्ष २३ अंक २ २०६९ पाल्गुन

Updated on : 2013-05-14

विद्युत अर्धवार्षिक रिपोर्ट वर्ष २३ अंक २ २०६९ पाल्गुन

"bidhut.pdf"[Download Now](#)**बुढीगण्डकी जलविद्युत आयोजना को कार्यान्वयन स्थिति**

Updated on : 2013-04-22

मिति २०६९।०८।१७ मा ने.वि.प्रा. र राममर्शदाता M/S Tractebel Engineering S.A., France बीच बुढीगण्डकी जलाशययुक्त जलविद्युत आयोजनालाई निर्माणको चरणमा लैजान सम्भाव्यता तथा विस्तृत अध्ययन कार्य, सामाजिक अध्ययन तथा पुर्नस्थापना, वातावरणीय प्रभाव मूल्याङ्कन लगायत टेण्डर डकुमेन्ट तयार पारी ३० महिना अघिभित्र कार्य सम्पन्न गर्नको लागि रकम यूरो ४,२०७,८०४।०० र नेपाली रुपैयाँ रु. ४७०,९०७,३९७।६९ गरी कूल परिवर्तित नेपाली रुपैयाँ रु. ९२,६८,३८,८३९।४९ मा राममर्श सेवा खरिद गर्ने कार्यको सम्झौता सम्पन्न भएको थियो ।

"ReportforpublishedonWebsite1.pdf"[Download Now](#)**ABBREVIATED RESETLEMENT ACTION PLAN of Khimti-Dhalkebar 220 kV Transmission Line Project**

Updated on : 2013-04-22

To evacuate the power generated from the various planed and proposed hydropower projects in the north eastern part of Nepal and to feed the eastern load centers in view of future system development plan; a 73 km long, double circuit, 220 kV Transmission Line Project has been proposed. The proposed transmission line will start from Khimti of Dolakha District and ends to Dhalkabar of Dhanusa District. The proposed transmission line alignment traverse through the Dolakha, Ramechhap, Sindhuli, Mahotari and Dhanusa districts of Eastern Development Region.

"ARAPKhimtiFinalwb[1].pdf"[Download Now](#)**Social Impact Assessment of Khimti- Dhalkebar 220 kV Transmission Line Project**

Updated on : 2013-03-29

The total installed capacity of the Integrated Nepal Power System (INPS) is approximately 585 MW. To meet present increasing demand of power generation the existing capacity of the transmission needs to be upgraded or new transmission line should be constructed. The Power Development Projects, of which Khimti-Dhalkebar 220 kV project is a component, financed by World Bank aims to meet the objectives of HMG/N in extending access to electricity supply to a larger percentage of the population by supporting the development of Nepal's power sector.

"SIAXhimtiFinal.pdf"[Download Now](#)**Vulnerable Community Development Plan For Khimti - Dhalkebar 220 kV Transmission Line Project**

Updated on : 2013-03-29

The proposed Khimti-Dhalkebar 220 kV Transmission Line Project (KDTL), the first 220 kV TL project in Nepal, is a component of Power Development Fund (PDF), which is financed by the World Bank. The Power Development Fund aims to meet the objectives of HMG/N in extending access to an electricity supply to a larger percentage of the population by supporting the development of Nepal's power sector.

"VCDPFinal.pdf"[Download Now](#)**Kaligandaki EIA/SIA/VCDP final draft**

Updated on : 2013-02-04

Final drafts of Environmental Impact Assessment, Social Impact Assessment and Vulnerable Community Development Plan of Kaligandaki A Hydropower Plant Rehabilitation Project

"kaligandaki-final-draft.zip"[Download Now](#)[Back to Top](#)

विद्युत अर्धवार्षिक पत्रिका वर्ष २३ अंक १ २०६९ भाद्र

Updated on : 2012-08-30

विद्युत अर्धवार्षिक पत्रिका वर्ष २३ अंक १ २०६९ भाद्र

"Vidyut.pdf"[Download Now](#)

Environmental Management Action Plan (EMAP)

Updated on : 2012-06-12

Environmental Management Action Plan of Bharatpur-Bardaghat 220kV Transmission Line Project

"EMAP-Bharatpur_Bardaghat.pdf"[Download Now](#)

Social Impact Assesment (SIA) Bharatpur

Updated on : 2012-05-07

Social Impact Assesment (SIA) of Bharatpur-Bardaghat 220 kV Transmission Line

"SIA-Bharatpur-Bardghat.pdf"[Download Now](#)

Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for Angle Towers

Updated on : 2012-03-20

Resettlement Action Plan (Towers and Structures falls in Row) of Bharatpur-Bardghat 220 kV Transmission Line Project

"RAP.zip"[Download Now](#)

Vulnerable Community Development Plan (VCDP)

Updated on : 2012-03-20

Vulnerable Community Development Plan of Bharatpur- Bardghat 220 kV T transmission Line Project

"VCDP.zip"[Download Now](#)

Environmental Management Action Plan (EMAP)

Updated on : 2012-03-20

Environmental Management Action Plan of Hetauda-Bharatpur 220kV Transmission Line Project

"EMAP.zip"[Download Now](#)

Supply, Delivery and Construction of 33 kV and 11 kV Lines

Updated on : 2012-03-20

Supply, Delivery and Construction of 33 kV and 11 kV Lines Tender No: ICB: DSAP-068/69-01 (Package B5)

"B5.pdf"[Download Now](#)

Resettlement Action Plan Report (RAP)

Updated on : 2012-03-04

Resettlement Action Plan Report, Grid Development, Hetauda Bharatpur 220 kV Transmission Line Project.

"RAP_Final.zip"[Download Now](#)

Social Impact Assessment (SIA)

Updated on : 2012-03-04

Social Impact Assessment Report, Grid Development, Hetauda Bharatpur 220 kV Transmission Line Project.

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Vulnerable Community Development Plan (VCDP)

Updated on : 2012-03-04

Vulnerable Community Development Plan Report, Grid Development, Hetauda Bharatpur 220 kV Transmission Line Project.

"VCDP_Final.zip"
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Budhigandaki HEP Report

Updated on : 2012-03-02

Budhi Gandaki hydroelectric Project Report

"budhigandaki-report.zip"
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PPA Status

Updated on : 2011-10-12

Nepal electricity Authority Planning, Monitoring and Power Trade Department, List of projects after announcement of new PPA Rates

"4523PPA Status List.xls"
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Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for Angle Towers

Updated on : 2011-08-29

Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for Angle Towers of the Kabeli Corridor 132 kV Transmission Line Project (KCTLTP)

"RAP FOR ANGLE TOWERS - Kabeli TL.pdf"
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Social Impact Assesment (SIA)

Updated on : 2011-08-29

Social Impact Assesment (SIA) of the Kabeli Corridor 132 kV Transmission Line Project (KCLTP)

"SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT - Kabeli TL.pdf"
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Social Management and Entitlement Framework (SMEF)

Updated on : 2011-08-29

Social Management and Entitlement Framework (SMEF) of the Kabeli Corridor 132 kV Transmission Line Project (KCTLTP)

"SOCIAL MANAGEMENT and ENTITLEMENT FRAMEWORK - Kabeli TL.pdf"
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Initial Environment Examination (IEE)

Updated on : 2011-08-29

Initial Environment Examination (IEE) Study of Kabeli Corridor 132 kV Transmission Line Project.

"Initial Environmental Examination _IEE_ Study Vol-I of Kabeli Corridor TL Project.pdf"
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NEA Whitepaper - 2063

Updated on : 2011-08-29

Whitepaper of Nepal Electricity Authority - 2063

"whitepaper.pdf"
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Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan

Updated on : 2011-08-29

Summary of Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan, 2066

"LARP-Summary.pdf"

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Operational Manual of EIA/SIA

Updated on : 2011-08-29

Operational Manual of Environmental Social Impact Assessment (EIA/SIA) for Sub-Projects Financed Under the Additional Financing of the Power Development Project

"EIA SIA Framework for Additional IDA Financing Draft.pdf"

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