



Campaign Period Incidents Prior to Second Phase Parliamentary and Provincial Elections

Analysis Update – 16

Period: November 27 – December 4, 2017 | Published: December 4, 2017

There were 64 election-related incidents recorded between November 27 and December 4, 2017. Of all the incidents recorded during this period: 50 incidents were related to unidentified groups and improvised explosive devices (IEDs); eight incidents involved Communist Party of Nepal (CPN); two incidents entailed inter-party disputes; one incident involved a clash between political party cadres and police; two incidents concerned persons being arrested with explosive devices; one incident entailed a polling officer being arrested with 50 illegally cast votes.

The number of incidents involving CPN significantly decreased compared to the previous reporting period of October 22 to November 23.¹ Of eight CPN related incidents, their cadres were involved in two incidents aiming to disrupt elections, while in six incidents their cadres were arrested by police reportedly on charge of carrying out anti-election activities. However, continuing the trend from the previous reporting period, number of IED related incidents involving unidentified groups remained significantly high with one temporary police killed in Dang. Similar to the last reporting period, many of the IEDs targeted political party leaders and candidates. Among the leaders attacked, Nepali Congress parliamentary candidate of Udaypur Constituency 2 Narayan Karki and another Nepali Congress parliamentary candidate from Kathmandu constituency 4 Gagan Thapa were injured in explosions. These incidents, however, did not affect election campaigns in general.

Overview of Incidents²

Inter-Party Disputes

- On November 28, cadres of Nepali Congress and Left Alliance clashed in Nawalpur Madhyabindu Municipality of Nawalparasi leaving six people injured. Security personnel were deployed at the incident site after the clash. One Nepali Congress cadre and one Communist Party of Nepal – Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) cadre sustained serious injuries in the incident. Both parties have blamed each other for the clash.
- On November 28, Communist Party of Nepal - Maoist Center (CPN-MC) cadres physically assaulted a Nepali Congress representative in Rolpa while Nepali Congress representative was apparently resisting the alleged ‘booth capture’ by CPN-MC. The

¹ There were 51 incidents involving Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) recorded between October 22 and November 23. See [Analysis Update 15](#).

² For a complete list of incidents, see [Nepal Monitor’s records](#)

injured Nepali Congress cadre was taken to Nepalgunj Medical College after sustaining serious injuries. Nepal Student Union (NSU), the student chapter of Nepali Congress, condemned the assault and demanded the authorities to arrest the CPN cadres as soon as possible.

Arrests of CPN Cadres

- On November 27, police detained three CPN cadres in Ilam for being involved in ‘anti-election activities’.
- On November 28, police arrested 10 CPN cadres from different parts of Arghakhanchi for being involved in ‘anti-election activities’. The arrestees included the district in-charge of the party.
- On November 28, police arrested three CPN cadres from Sarlahi with possession of explosive materials including detonator and wires.

Activities by CPN Targeting against Elections

- On November 28, Nepal Army disposed an IED placed close to APF office premise in Saptari at Rajbiraj-Kunauli road stretch. Police searched for the IED after receiving information from two CPN detained cadres who were held from Nahar Chowk.
- On November 27, police arrested a CPN cadre after he attempted to torch a vehicle used by Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) parliamentary candidate Pitambar Acharya in Chitwan. Acharya was eventually able to put off the fire.

Incidents Involving Unidentified Groups

- On November 27, an unidentified group detonated an IED, targeting a vehicle used by Nepali Congress leaders Khildhwoj Panthi and Bhagat Khadka in Musikot Municipality of Gulmi. The leaders were going to Ward 2 of Malika Rural Municipality to address an election mass meeting. Nobody was injured in the incident. Police was immediately deployed at the incident.
- On November 27, an unidentified group exploded an IED near a polling center at Kanya Secondary School in Bungla Municipality of Bajhang district. Local residents informed police after they saw a suspicious object wrapped in a red cloth. But the IED exploded before security personnel reached the site. There was no loss of life or property in the incident.
- On November 28, an IED exploded at a Nepali Congress election mass meeting, addressed by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba at Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City in Dang. A temporary police staff died after sustaining injury in the explosion. Eight more injured persons by the explosion received treatment in Nepalgunj.
- On November 28, an unidentified group detonated an IED at Nepali Congress provincial election candidate Himat Karki’s house at Bhandabari in Triyuga

Municipality of Udayapur. The bomb brought down walls of Karki's kitchen and seriously injured his domestic cow and buffalo.

- On November 28, a bomb exploded at a square near Zero Mile Bazar in Siraha. According to eye witnesses, a person in a jeep threw the bomb and ran away from the incident site. Police has launched an investigation on the incident.
- On November 29, a bomb exploded near the residence of Deputy Prime Minister and RPP chairperson Kamal Thapa at Gauritar of Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City in Makawanpur. Police said that the explosion did not result in loss of life or property. Kamal Thapa is also the parliamentary candidate for Constituency 1 of the district.
- On November 29, an unidentified group torched a vehicle used by Ratan Thapa, a Left Alliance provincial candidate in Kailali. The jeep was set on fire when it was parked behind Thapa's house in Lamki Chuha Municipality. The front part of the vehicle was completely damaged.
- On November 30, a bomb exploded in an election mass meeting of Nepali Congress at Bhaladmi Chowk of Ward 9 in Itahari Sub-Metropolitan City in Sunsari. The incident resulted in three persons being injured including a one-year old child who sustained serious injuries. He was undergoing treatment in BP Koirala Institute of Health Science.
- On November 30, a pressure cooker bomb (IED) was found at the residence of Hasta Bahadur Malla, Nepali Congress parliamentary candidate in Ward 1 of Chhayanath Rara Municipality, Mugu.
- On December 2, an IED was discovered at Mahesh Basnet's house in Suryabinayak Municipality of Bhaktapur. Basnet is the CPN-UML parliamentary candidate for Constituency 2 of Bhaktapur. The bomb was tied to the main gate of Basnet's house and was disposed by security forces before it went off.
- On December 3, an unidentified group threw an IED at the vehicle of Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Gopalan Shrestha in Dhapuk of Bhirkot Municipality, Syangja. Shrestha is the Nepali Congress parliamentary candidate for Constituency 2 of Syangja. No loss of life or property was reported.
- On December 3, an unidentified group planted an IED in front of Defence Minister Bhimsen Das Pradhan's hohouse at Jyatha in Kathmandu. Nepal Army disposed the pressure cooker bomb.
- On December 4, an unidentified group exploded an IED at an election door-to-door campaign attended by Gagan Thapa, a Nepali Congress parliamentary candidate for Constituency 4 of Kathmandu. At least nine Nepali Congress cadres including Thapa were injured in the incident which took place in Chapali Height of Budhanilkantha Municipality. According to the police, the injured were taken to Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital for treatment immediately.
- On December 4, an IED exploded near the vehicle of Narendra Sah, an independent parliamentary candidate for Constituency 3 of Sarlahi. The incident occurred when Sah and his supporters were travelling from Hajariya to Karmaiya in Sarlahi. No loss of life or property was reported.

- On December 4, an IED was planted 400 metres away from Hotel Devotee in Dhangadhi of Kailali, where Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba was staying for his election campaign. Nepal Army disposed the bomb after it was discovered by a sniffer dog. Security presence was heightened in Dhangadhi after the incident.
- On December 4, an unidentified group set fire to a vehicle used in election campaign of Shashank Koirala, the Nepali Congress parliamentary candidate for Constituency 1 of Nawalparasi. The vehicle was torched when it was parked at its owner's house in Nawalpur. Police arrested a man in connection with the incident.

Note: Please look below to see the table and map of incidents enlisted in the report.

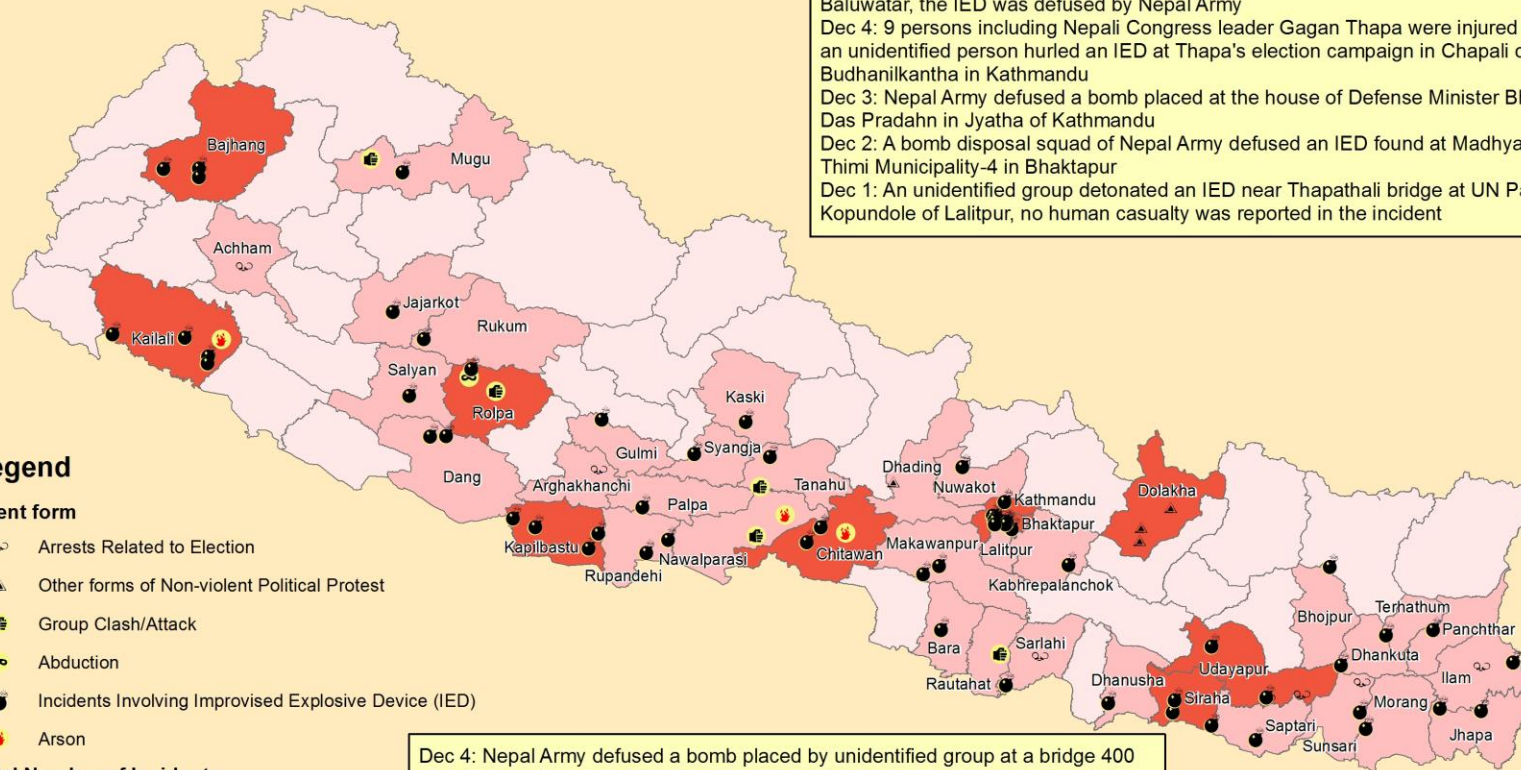
This is the sixteenth in a series of periodic analysis updates that Democracy Resource Center Nepal (DRCN) and the Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP) / NepalMonitor.org will be releasing during the upcoming elections period. This project receives financial and technical support from The Asia Foundation and The Carter Center.

Table of Incidents Involving IEDs

Political parties targeted	No. of Incidents (50)	Candidates/Leaders targeted	Actors
Nepali Congress	14	Khildhwoj Panthi	Unidentified
		Bhagat Khadka	
		Bharat Bahadur Neupane	
		Himal Karki	
		Krishna Sitaula	
		Narayan Karki	
		Chandra Bahadur Tamang	
		Hasta Bahadur Malla	
		Gagan Thapa	
		Pradeep Paudel	
		Manju Khand	
		Gopalman Shrestha	
		Bhimsen Das Pradhan	
		Sher Bhadur Deuba	
Left Alliance (CPN-UML and CPN-MC)	7	KP Sharma Oli	Unidentified
		Lalbabu Pandit	
		Rajendra Kumar Pokharel	
		Ratan Thapa	
		Suresh Chandra Yadav	
		Mahesh Basnet	
		Tularam Ghartimagar	
		Jhalnath Khanal	
RPP	2	Kamal Thapa	Unidentified

		Pitambar Acharya	CPN
Sanghiya Samajwadi Forum Nepal	1	Upendra Yadav	Unidentified
Independent	1	Narendra Sah	Unidentified
Non-targeted	26		Unidentified

Election Related Incidents, November 27 - December 4, 2017



Dec 4: An IED was found in front of the official residence of the speaker of parliament in Baluwatar, the IED was defused by Nepal Army
 Dec 4: 9 persons including Nepali Congress leader Gagan Thapa were injured when an unidentified person hurled an IED at Thapa's election campaign in Chapali of Budhanilkantha in Kathmandu
 Dec 3: Nepal Army defused a bomb placed at the house of Defense Minister Bhimsen Das Pradhan in Jyatha of Kathmandu
 Dec 2: A bomb disposal squad of Nepal Army defused an IED found at Madhyapur Thimi Municipality-4 in Bhaktapur
 Dec 1: An unidentified group detonated an IED near Thapathali bridge at UN Park in Kopundole of Lalitpur, no human casualty was reported in the incident

Legend

Event form

- Arrests Related to Election
- Other forms of Non-violent Political Protest
- Group Clash/Attack
- Abduction
- Incidents Involving Improvised Explosive Device (IED)
- Arson

Total Number of Incidents

- 0
- 1 - 2
- 3 - 5

Dec 4: Nepal Army defused a bomb placed by unidentified group at a bridge 400 meters away from a Hotel in Dhangadhi in which Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba was staying
 Dec 3: An unidentified group hurled an IED at the vehicle of Education Minister Gopalman Shrestha in Bhirkot Municipality-9 of Syangja
 Nov 30: 15 persons including 6 policemen were injured during a clash between police and cadres of Rastriya Janata party and Federal Socialist Forum party in Garuda Municipality-5 of Rautahat
 Nov 30: Four persons including a minor were injured when an IED went off at the rally of Nepali Congress in Itahari Sub-metropolitan City-9 of Sunsari

