



Local Level Election, Silence Period and Election Day: Second Phase

Factsheet - 2

Period: June 26 – 28, 2017/ Published: June 30

On June 28, 2017, **more than 6.4 million voters** were called upon to participate in the second phase of Nepal's local polls, electing more than 15,000 local representatives in 334 local units across Provinces 1, 5, and 7. According to the Election Commission of Nepal voter turnout was 73.69 percent, similar to the May 14 first phase elections. Polling was postponed until September 18 in Province 2 after the government could not reach an agreement with agitating Rastriya Janata Party Nepal (RJPN).

Despite calls for boycott and bandhas declared in Province 1, 5, and 7 by dissatisfied parties and groups, large-scale violence was averted. However, between June 26 (when the campaign silence period began) and June 28 (election day), a total of 93 incidents were recorded, 85 of them violent. Many improvised explosive devices (IED) were planted and several exploded – often near polling stations or houses of candidates – in 19 districts, and clashes or assaults involving major political parties were reported in 10 districts. Notably, of the violent incidents recorded, Madhes-based parties were reported as causing only one minor incident of vandalism during the bandha.

This factsheet overviews election-related incidents during the campaign silence period and election day of the second phase of local elections (June 26-28, 2017) and is based on preliminary data recorded by NepalMonitor.org until 12:00 PM on June 29. It complements the **the previous factsheet** released after the first phase of local elections, **as well as regular analysis updates** produced about election-related violence in Nepal. Through its Nepal Peace Monitoring Project, COCAP | NepalMonitor.org gathers data on violence and non-violent contestation in Nepal. Together with the Democracy Resource Center Nepal (DRCN), COCAP has been releasing periodic analysis updates on incidents related to the local elections.

Incidents during the campaign silence period and election day, June 26-28, 2017

By noon on June 29, a total of 93 incidents had been recorded, 85 of them violent. One person was killed in Kailali when an IED he was carrying exploded. Approximately 20 others were injured in different election-related incidents. During the first phase of elections three citizens were killed and 43 injured during the equivalent silence and election day period. It is important to note that not covered in this fact sheet is that 43 people were reported as injured during clashes between the political parties on June 25, the last day of the campaign period before second phase elections. From June 26 to 28, clashes or violent attacks related to the election

occurred in various localities across the country, including in Achham, Arghakhanchi, Bajhang, Dang, Darchula, Gulmi, Kanchanpur, Rautahat, Rukum, Sunsari.

On February 20, the [Government of Nepal announced](#) that the first local elections in nearly 20 years would be held on May 14, 2017. The announcement was met with great enthusiasm, but also some skepticism given the short period of time to conduct preparations before the election date, as well as lack of agreement between political parties and other stakeholders about holding the polls.

The United Democratic Madheshi Front (UDMF) and other dissatisfied parties opposed the decision immediately, protested that their demands of a constitutional amendment on federal demarcation and proportional representation had not been met, and threatened to boycott and disrupt the election. Protests in the Terai led to violence that peaked with five people being killed in police shootings in Maleth, Saptari on March 6. On April 23, the national government negotiated with the Madhes based parties to ensure their participation in the elections, including agreeing to pass the long debated constitutional amendment bill, with some revisions. In anticipation that this would bring dissenting parties to participate, the government announced that it would hold elections in two phases, the second phase June 14, 2017.

The first phase of elections in Provinces 3, 4 and 6 was held on May 14, 2017. On June 11, Madhes-based parties led by RJP-N announced that they would boycott the elections and protest against and disrupt them across the Tarai as their demands had still not been met. In order to ensure the participation of RJP-N, the election was further postponed to be held on June 23. The second phase election date was again rescheduled to be held on June 28, considering the Ramadan festival celebrated by the Muslim community in the region. As the government failed to bring the RJP-N on board, voting for Province 2, covering central and eastern parts of the Tarai, was postponed to be held during a third phase on September 18, 2017.

FACTSHEET

Electoral Violence and Contestation

Local Election Nepal-Second Phase - Campaign Silence Period & Election Day,
June 26 to 28, 2017

TOTAL INCIDENTS

93

VIOLENT
85

NON
VIOLENT
8



CLASH / ATTACK 14



ARSON 3



VANDALISM 3



EXPLOSIVE DEVICE 65



DEMONSTRATION 3



STRIKE / BANDHA 3



OTHER FORMS
OF NON VIOLENT
INCIDENTS 2



DEATH
1



INJURIES
20



BUILDING DAMAGED
1



VEHICLES DAMAGED
4



29 INCIDENTS



27 INCIDENTS

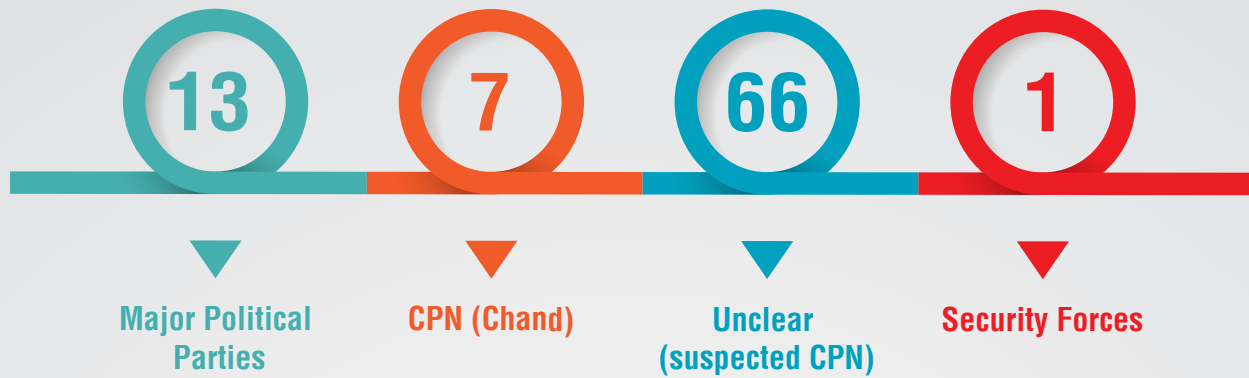


30 INCIDENTS

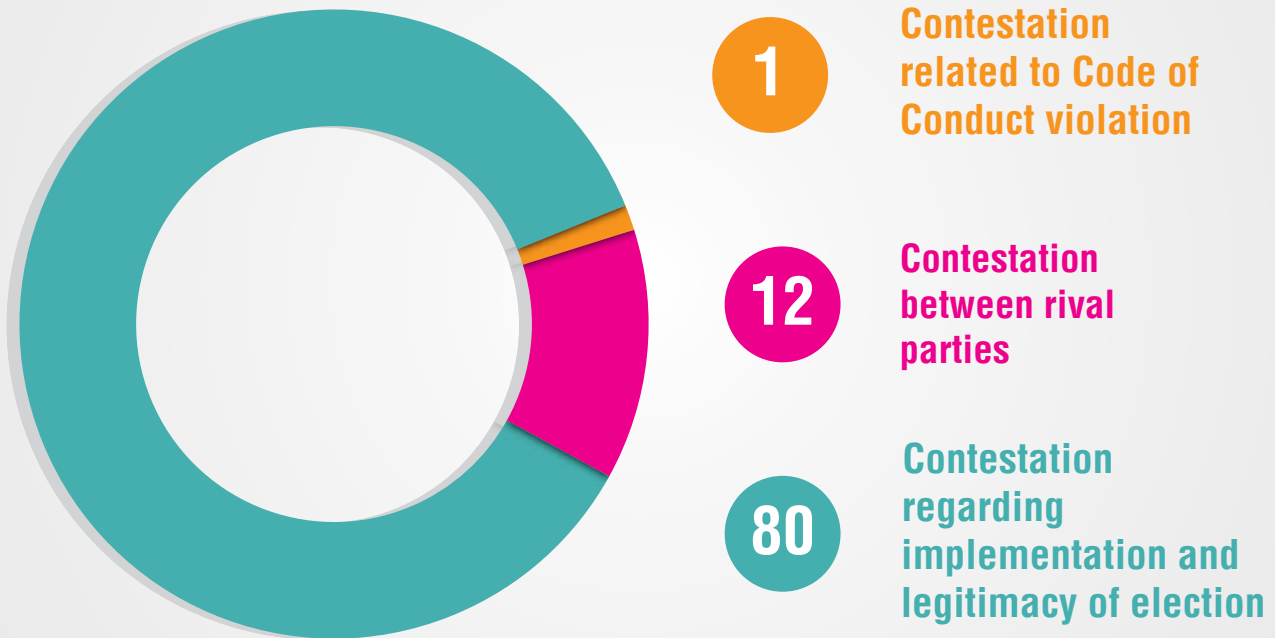
7 INCIDENTS OCCURED IN THE REMAINING 4 PROVINCES

*Based on NepalMonitor.org's preliminary data by June 29 noon

Actors involved in violent incidents



Which election related issues led to most incidents?



Boycott of Election in Tingla of Solukhumbu District and Bhujhawa of Nawalparasi

In Tingla of Solukhumbu and Bhujhawa of Nawalparasi dissatisfaction over the local restructuring process led residents to boycott the elections. In Tingla of Necha Salyan rural municipality - 6, not one of the 2,476 registered voters cast a ballot. Villagers did not vote to protest the administrative center of the rural municipality being located in an inconvenient and distant place from them. They are further

demanding that their village be made a part of Solududhkunda municipality. It was reported that three candidates had registered in the locality but then withdrew their candidacies. In Bhujhawa village of Nawalparasi only two votes were cast from among 502 voters registered there. Reportedly, people are demanding that their village be included in Ward No.7 of Sarawal rural municipality.

Announced Protest of Polls

In the run-up to the second phase, the Communist Party of Nepal, led by Netra Bikram Chand 'Biplav,' announced a June 27 general strike in Lumbini, Rapti, Bheri, Seti and Mahakali zones in the western parts of Nepal, and Janakpur, Sagarmatha, Koshi and Mechi zones in the eastern parts. A general strike was announced for election day across Provinces 1, 5, and 7. The Federal Alliance led by Rashtriya Janta Party - Nepal also announced a bandha in

Madhes-Tharuhat-Limbuwan for election day, but said it would not resort to violence, despite earlier claims made that the party would obstruct the elections. The Nepal Police also preventatively arrested a number of CPN cadres for unspecified 'anti-election activities'. Following the postponement of election in Province 2, protests or calls for boycott (other than in the cases mentioned in the box above) appeared to have had negligible impact on voter turnout in general.

Increase in Incidents Involving IEDs

Improvised explosive devices (IED) and hoax bombs were planted and in some instances detonated in several places across Province 1, 5 and 7. 65 incidents involving IEDs were recorded between June 26-28, a clear increase over the 26 incidents recorded during the first phase of polls. On June 26, a CPN party cadre died while trying to set off a bomb in Dhangadi Sub Metropolis of Kailali district. The same day a bomb exploded at the house of the Communist Party of Nepal - Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML) mayoral candidate in Dharan of Sunsari. On June 27, a bomb exploded and partially damaged a house of a Nepali Congress candidate who was running for a ward chairperson

position in Bhojpur district. Another bomb was defused at the same location. On June 28, three IEDs exploded in Butwal bazar of Rupandehi. On the same day, a bomb planted near a polling center in Ilam district exploded while voters were casting their votes. There were no injuries.

IED's were also found in multiple other locations in Dang, Saptari, Baitadi, Kanchanpur, Arghakhanchi, Morang, Bardia, Banke, Bajura, Achham, Bajhang, Rupandehi, Bhojpur, Gulmi, Dhanusha, Kailali, Rolpa, Parsa, Baitadi, Morang, Ilam, Jhapa, Rukum, Sunsari, Parsa, Khotang, Rautahat and Pyuthan districts, some of them were defused and no injuries reported.

Clash Between Political Parties

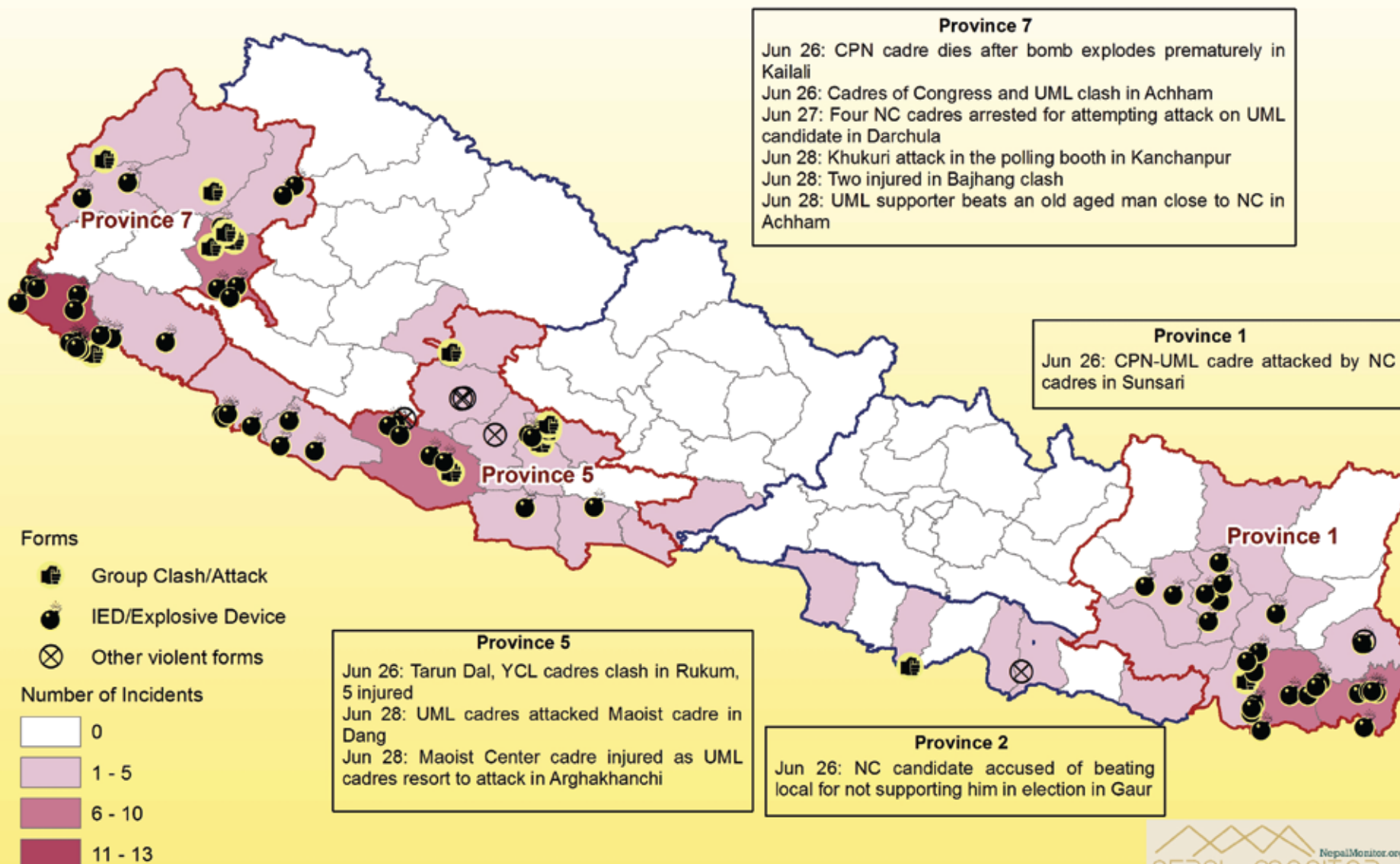
Between June 26 and 28, clashes involving cadres and supporters of major political parties were reported in Arghakhanchi, Achham, Bajhang, Bhojpur, Darchula, and Rukum. In addition assaults were reported in Dang, Gulmi, Kanchanpur, Rautahat, Sunsari. In total 14 clashes and assaults were reported. On June 28, five people were injured in a clash between Tarun Dal affiliated to Nepali Congress and the Young Communist League (YCL) affiliated to the Maoist Center in Sisne ward No.5 of Rukum. Five more individuals were injured in a clash between CPN-UML and Maoist Center in Jaya Prithvi municipality in Bajhang. Voting was temporarily suspended in Mellekh rural municipality ward No.6 in Achham when a clash broke out between

the cadres of CPN-UML and CPN (Maoist Center). In Rolpa municipality ward No.10 of Rolpa district, voting was halted for a few minutes after a voter poured acid into a ballot box. Notably, of the violent incidents recorded, Madhes-based parties were only recorded as causing one minor incident of vandalism during the bandha.



For an updated list of election related incidents in June, please [click here](#)

Incidents During Local Election, Second Phase June 26-28, 2017



*Only incidents with deaths and injuries reported are recorded