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Misun Woo
Executive Director

8 December 2025**TO:**

Hon. Om Prakash Aryal
Minister of Home Affairs
Government of Nepal

Hon. Kul Man Ghising
Minister of Urban Development
Government of Nepal

Hon. Basanta Adhikari
Chief District Officer of Makwanpur
District Administration Office

**Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding Forced
Evictions, Human Rights Violations, and
Non-Compliance with Supreme Court Orders
in Hetauda**

Honourable Ministers,

I am writing on behalf of the International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net), a global network of over 300 social movements, Indigenous peoples' organizations, grassroots groups, NGOs, and academics across more than 80 countries, committed to advancing justice, equality, and the realization of human rights. ESCR-Net has long supported communities facing development-induced displacement and has closely monitored patterns of forced evictions, dispossession, and criminalization of human rights defenders worldwide. It is with this experience and solidarity that we express our grave concern regarding recent actions associated with road-expansion and infrastructure projects in Nepal, particularly in Hetauda.



According to first-hand testimony and documentation shared by community members and human rights monitors, households in Hetauda and other areas are facing or have already suffered demolition of their homes without meaningful consultation, adequate notice, compensation, or resettlement, affecting thousands of residents. Community estimates indicate that nearly 1,700 houses (home to approximately 10,000 people) may be impacted, although government accounts cite 531 structures. Disturbing reports describe bulldozers arriving at dawn, women pleading for demolition teams to stop, and men being forced away by security personnel. Residents attempting to peacefully assemble or protest were reportedly dispersed or prohibited from gathering, and several individuals monitoring the situation faced intimidation or arrest.

The situation is especially alarming given that the Supreme Court of Nepal issued a stay order on Friday 5th November 2025 afternoon instructing authorities to halt all demolition activities. Despite this clear direction, houses were demolished early on Saturday morning, 6th December 2025. This constitutes a direct violation of the Supreme Court's authority and Nepal's constitutional framework.

These actions violate core guarantees of the Constitution of Nepal (2015), including the rights to live with dignity (Art. 16), equality (Art. 18), justice and due process (Art. 20), property (Art. 25), and housing (Art. 37). Nepal's Supreme Court has repeatedly held that evictions cannot be carried out without due process, fair procedure, meaningful participation, and adequate rehabilitation, as established in decisions such as *Prakash Mani Sharma v. Office of the Prime Minister* (N.K.P. 2062) and subsequent jurisprudence on housing and land rights.

Nepal is also bound by its obligations under international human rights instruments. As a State Party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Nepal must ensure security of tenure, protect residents against forced eviction, and guarantee procedural safeguards, including consultation and provision of alternative housing. These standards are articulated in General Comment No. 4 (1991) on the right to adequate housing and General Comment No. 7 (1997) on forced evictions by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Additionally, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) requires the State to protect children from homelessness and conditions harmful to their development (Arts. 3, 27). The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) obligates Nepal to ensure that women are not disproportionately harmed by displacement, loss of livelihood, or insecurity. Reports of women crying and begging during demolitions highlight the urgent need for accountability, women's participation in their communities' development as well as gender-responsive safeguards. The UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-Based Evictions and Displacement (2007) further establish that development projects must not result in homelessness, and that evictions may only occur in exceptional circumstances after all feasible alternatives have been explored.

Reports of residents being prevented from assembling peacefully also raise concerns under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which protects freedom of assembly (Art. 21), the right to an effective remedy (Art. 2), and protection against arbitrary interference with one's home (Art. 17). Recent public appeals from Amnesty International and national civil society similarly underscore the need for urgent corrective action.



If demolitions continue in the absence of meaningful consultation, compensation, and resettlement, thousands will be left without homes, security, livelihoods and threat to their right to life —raising the profoundly serious question of who will bear responsibility for the long-term harm inflicted upon these communities. Development, including projects associated with the Asian Highway and other infrastructure investments, cannot proceed by undermining human rights and fundamental freedoms of the peoples of Nepal.

In light of these alarming developments, ESCR-Net respectfully urges the Government of Nepal to:

- Immediately and fully implement the Supreme Court's stay order, halting all demolitions and eviction-related actions in Hetauda and other sites.
- Ensure the protection and safety of all affected residents, including women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities and other marginalised communities.
- End intimidation, harassment, or arrest of residents and human rights defenders who seek to peacefully assert their human rights or monitor the situation and immediate release of those detained.
- Engage in transparent, meaningful consultation with affected communities, including the provision of full information regarding project plans and financing. The communities' right to free, prior and informed consent must be protected.
- Guarantee just and fair compensation, adequate resettlement, and protection of livelihoods for all those displaced or at risk of displacement.
- Conduct an independent investigation into the breach of the Supreme Court's order and the human rights violations reported during the demolition process.

We urge the Government of Nepal to uphold its constitutional commitments and international legal obligations by adopting a rights-based approach to development – one that protects communities rather than displaces them.

Sincerely,

Misun Woo

Executive Director, On behalf of the International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net)