

An update from inside Nepal

Saturday 22 April 2006, by [BOSE Tapan Kumar](#) (Date first published: 22 April 2006).

Dear Friends,

Yesterday I joined a protest rally at about 5.00 p.m . near Sadtobato on the Ring Road. There were more than 10,000 people in the rally. As we moved along the road towards Balkhu more and more people joined the rally. Men and women, young and old were carrying green branches in their hands. I asked them the significance of the green branch. I was told that in Nepal, when people join a funeral rally they carry a green branch. This they said was the funeral of the Shah dynasty. At different places on the road some of the protesters set fire to wooden logs and old car and truck tyres. These were the symbolic funeral pyres of the Shah dynasty. They were chanting "Gynendra Chor Desh chor" (Thief Gyanendra leave the country.), Hamro Paras kasto Chaa- kukur jasto chaa (Our Paras is like a mad dog.) In one voice they said the movement will not stop till the king was driven out and a "complete democracy" was established by a Constituent assembly elected by the people of Nepal. I let the rally at about 6.45 p.m. to listen to the proclamation of the king.

The king as you all know has offered too little too late. Harking back to the great tradition of the Shah dynasty in protecting the sovereignty of the nation and the safety of the subjects, he said the sovereignty of Nepal d taken into his safe custody, was being re3turned to the people. And, this he was going to do by transferring the executive powers of the state to a council of ministers under Article 35 of the 1990 constitution. He invited the Seven Part Alliance to recommend the name of person who he will appoint as the Prime Minister. It was a sick joke. There were at least a quarter million people on the streets of Kathmandu asking for his immediate departure when he made this so-called offer.

The massive rally of more than a hundred thousand protesters at Kalanki, the newly named "Republic Square", in one voice rejected the king's offer. They said that an interim government must be set up by the Seven Party Alliance without going to the king. This government must immediately call for elections to the

Constituent Assembly, invite the Maoists to dialogue and ensure their participation in the election to the Constituent Assembly. Through out the night the people continued to voice their rejection of king's offer. According to reports more than a million people had gathered in different parts of Nepal, urban and rural and through the night, they too continued to express their rejection of the king's offer. Almost all the leaders of the Seven Party Alliance, the civil society activists inside and outside the jail and the Maoists have rejected the offer of the king.

The foreign governments and international agencies have supported the king. India is sending another envoy, Mr. Jaswant Singh, a former foreign minister of India in the Hindu fundamentalist government and a former ruler of a princely state under the British in Rajasthan. He has said that India continues to support multi-party democracy and constitutional monarchy in Nepal. Obviously, New Delhi has not heard the voices of the people of Nepal. Like New Delhi, the USA, the European Union, Mr. Kofi Anan have also deaf.

The king has re-imposed curfew from 12 noon till 8.00 p.m. today (April 22, 2006). Yesterday the army and the police did to shoot at the protesters except in New Baneshwor in Kathmandu. The representatives of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights were allowed five curfew passes. The national Human Rights Commission was given four such passes. The protest rallies have not been called off. As I was walking to my office from my house in Dhobighat, I saw men and women leaving their homes to go join the protest rallies in Baneshwor, Chabahil and Kalanki. An old woman told me "we will not stop till we drive out this king".

I am not a Nepali. I am India. I have been here for about ten years. I believe it is my duty to be a part of the movement. I also must protest against the position of the government of India which is a clear violation of the inalienable right of the people of Nepal to seek any change in their polity. It will be a sad day for India, world's largest democracy if it ends up helping a rouge king in suppressing the democratic struggles of the people.

I appeal to all democratic Indians and all fellow South Asian to stand up for the Nepalese people. Oppose the pro-Nepal king policies of our governments. Organise rallies, pickets and meeting condemning this betrayal of the people of Nepal. Send protest letters

to heads of states and the Secretary General of the UN asking them to change their current position.

The Seven Part Alliance which is spear heading the popular peaceful movement and has already worked out a road map to peace with the Maoists has already received a massive mandate of the people of Nepal. The people have spilled their blood on the streets and given their lives to express their support for a Constituent Assembly. It this Seven party Alliance, which must form the interim government immediately. They do not and must not seek the approval of this rouge king. He has no legitimacy in the eyes of the people of Nepal. The foreign governments and the international agencies must recognise this interim government, if they do not want to participate in more bloodshed and mayhem in the country.

Tapan Kumar Bose
Secretary General,
South Asia Forum for HUMAN Rights
Kathmandu
Tel: (+)977-1-5541026
Fax: (+) 977-1-5527852
Email: Buboo_1946 yahoo.com
E-mail: bose.tapan gmail.com
Mobile (Indian)(+) 91-9818001206