

4d 14/05 #74

**Third Session of Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**  
**New York, UN Building, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2004**  
**'Indigenous Media Access'**



Thank you Mr, Chair

My given name is Chandra Singh and I originally belong to Kulung indigenous community but compelled to be known as 'Rai' due to not recognized by the state as a separate identity despite it has a distinct language, culture, history and ancestral territory of land 'Mahakulung' in Solukhumbu district where the highest peak of mountain The Mountain Everest is situated. Now we are struggling to get our indigenous identity and we feel it is the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples.

I am here at the capacity of Chairman of Association of Nepalese Indigenous Nationalities Journalists (ANIJ) to deliver the statement on 'Indigenous Media Access' under the area of Human Rights. The statement has been consented by other organizations such as 'Indigenous Voice' National Weekly, Creation Weekly Child Newspaper, Sherpa Association of Nepal, Association of Nepal Kirat Kulung Language and Cultural Development, Kirat Chamling, Language and Cultural Development, Kirat Radu Nachhiring Sakhham, Lohorong Yakkhaba Samaj, Society for People in Needs (SPIN), Kirat Traditional Alliance-Nepal and Nepal Tamang Women Ghedung.

As I have learnt that this is not the place to discuss about problems rather making recommendations we the above stated organization jointly request to the Permanent Forum to include the following recommendations concerning the rights of indigenous peoples on media, information and communication in the recommendations to be made to ECOSOC.

1. Since the role of media is as similar as the blood circulation, respiration and communication between brain and cells within the human bodies it is an integral part of the world society and it must be put on 7<sup>th</sup> mandated areas of the Permanent Forum because indigenous peoples almost in all countries are far behind than the non-indigenous peoples. And UNESCO has already been practicing mass communication as a separate field.
2. We recommend to respect the declaration made <sup>on WSIS</sup> for the development of Indigenous giving the special rights of indigenous peoples.
3. We recommend to establish an Indigenous Media Watch Committee in every member state with the representatives of Indigenous Media Activists because in many instances indigenous peoples have been exposed negatively and misinterpreted their languages, cultures, their dedication towards earth and spirituality. A study reflect 16 % news in the mainstream of media are negative for indigenous peoples in Nepal. Overview of the study is attached.
4. We recommend to the member states to have a sufficient number of representations of indigenous peoples in the media agencies and to develop media policies with the representation of indigenous media activists.
5. Provide support to indigenous media activists to take part in the conferences related with media development such as World Conference on Freedom of Press, and WSIS etc.,
6. Familiarize about the indigenous rights to UN agencies at the field level and negotiate to other developing agencies to ensure right to information of indigenous peoples through the indigenous ownership projects on media related programmes even in rural and remote parts of the world.
7. Strengthen Indigenous Media Network (IMN) equipping with all kinds of resources to promote indigenous values to protect the existing earth and safely transfer it to the coming generation.

Thank you.

www.anij.org

email: anij@netcom.np / ckulung@yahoo.com

Signature

S 082

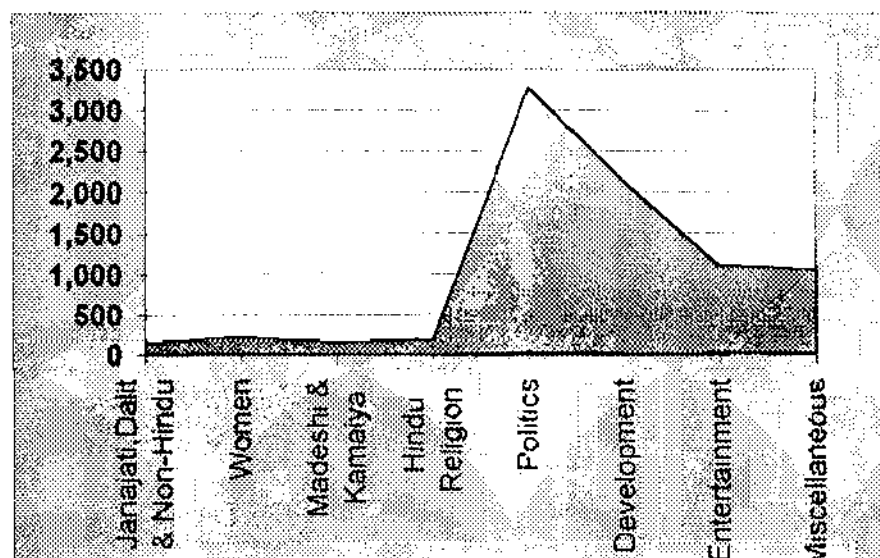
An overview of the issues raised by the press in Nepal

Table-1: News subject matter and published materials (Editorial, First and Inside Page News and Feature)

S. N.	Particular	Name of the Newspapers						Total
		Himal	Kantipur	Samakalin	Deshantar	Janades	Budhabar	
	Issue	12	60	16	16	8	16	
	Study period, month	6	2	4	4	2	4	
1	Indigenous Nationalities	8	37	50		14	7	71
	Terai Peoples (w/o bonded labour)	10	27	6	2	0		45
	Bonded Labours	11	78	4	2	3	10	108
2	Total Terai Peoples	21	105	10	4	3	10	153
3	Women	20	140	14	10	11	28	223
4	Untouchable	5	27	10		2	6	41
	Buddhist	5	15		4	1	1	26
	Muslim	1	4	2			3	10
	Christian	1	1	1				3
5	Non-Hindu	7	20	3	4	1	4	39
	<b>Sub-total(A): Minorities' News</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>527</b>
	Percentage	11.57%	62.43%	6.26%	3.42%	5.88%	10.44%	100.00%
	Average Percentage							17%
6	Hindu	12	168	15	6		1	202
7	Politics	179	1721	439	268	273	407	3,287
8	Development	134	1762	63	120	6	23	2,108
9	Entertainment	117	822	47	84	2	27	1,099
10	Miscellaneous	10	872	89	28	4	47	1,050
	<b>Sub-total(B): Other News</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>5345</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>7746</b>
	<b>Total (A) + (B)</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>5,674</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>8,273</b>

Source: Nepali Chhapama Utpidit Alpasankhyak Samudayko Mudda  
(Issue of the Oppressed Minority Groups in Nepalese Press)  
Journal of Nationalities of Nepal, Year-2, Issue-3, Poush, 2057 BS

Particular	Nos	Percentage
Janajati, Dalit & Non-Hindu	151	2
Women	223	3
Madeshhi & Kamaiya	153	2
Hindu Religion	202	2
Politics	3,287	40
Development	2,108	25
Entertainment	1,099	13
Miscellaneous	1,050	13
	<b>8,273</b>	<b>100</b>

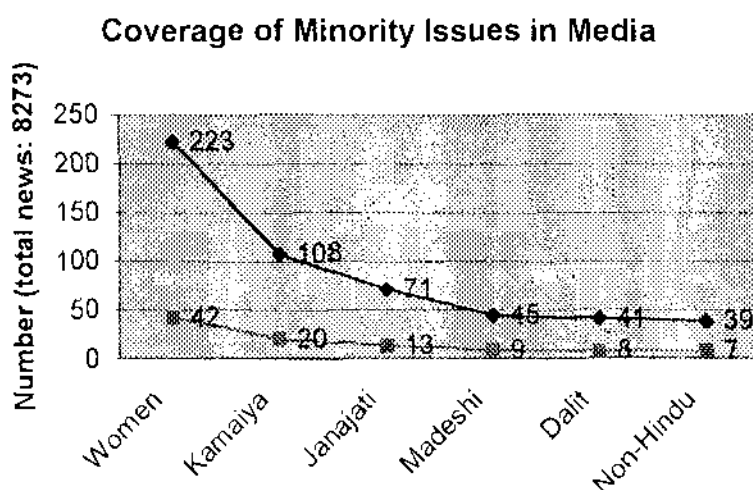


**Table-2: Positive and Negative News in Kantipur National Daily**

S.N.	Issue	Positive & Neutral News			Negative News		
		Number	Occupied space	Percentage (of number)	Number	Occupied space	Percentage (of number)
1	Indigenous Nationalities	31	1,109	83.78	6	117	16.22
	Terai Peoples (w/o bonded labour)	25	518	92.59	2	58	7.41
	Bonded Labours	71	2,459	91.03	7	144	8.97
2	Total Terai Peoples	96	2,977	91.43	9	202	8.57
3	Women	118	2,264	84.29	22	1,065	15.71
	Buddhist	15	325	100.00	0	0	0.00
	Muslim	4	150	100.00	0	0	0.00
	Christian	1	22	100.00	0	0	0.00
4	Non-Hindu Religions	20	497	100.00	0	0	0.00
5	Hindu	184	6758	98.92	2	30	1.08
6	Untouchable	27	609	100.00	0	0	0.00
		476	14,214	92.43	39	1,414	7.57

**Note:** Only the length of column is counted in the space. 1 column equals to 4.5 cm.

Particular	Nos.	Percentage
Women	223	42
Kamaiya	108	20
Janajati	71	13
Madeshi	45	9
Dalit	41	8
Non-Hindu	39	7
	527	100



**Source:** Nepali Chhapama Utpadit Alpasankhyak Samudayko Mudda  
(Issue of the Oppressed Minority Groups in Nepalese Press)  
Journal of Nationalities of Nepal, Year-2, Issue-3, Poush, 2057 BS

**Table-3: Comparative Prioritization of Indigenous Nationalities' News**

S. N.	Name of the Newspaper	Issue	Total News	Editorial	News on First Page	News on Inside page	Feature	Number of News	Occupied Space	Total %
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	$K=I/D*100$
1	Janadesh (Weekly)	8	316	1	3	3	7	14	745	4.43%
3	Himal (Fortnightly)	12	543	0	7	1	0	8	1381	1.47%
3	Budhabar (Weekly)	16	560	1	0	8	5	7	567	1.25%
4	Samakalin (Weekly)	16	686	0	1	3	1	5	210	0.73%
5	Kantipur (Daily)	60	5,692	2	4	23	8	37	1246	0.65%
6	Deshantar (Weekly)	16	524	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>8,321</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>4,149</b>	<b>0.85%</b>

**Note:**

- 1 The occupied space has been taken based on the 4.5 cm width for each column length.
- 2 The percentage is calculated on the base of total number of news . It is different from the average %
- 3 In the case of Himal, the news oriented feature has been placed in the first page news and opinion oriented feature has been placed in the place of feature column.

**Source:** Nepali Chhapama Utpidit Alpasankhyak Samudayko Mudda  
(Issue of the Oppressed Minority Groups in Nepalese Press)  
Journal of Nationalities of Nepal, Year-2, Issue-3, Poush, 2057 BS