



Non-Resident Madheshis Association

गैर-आवासीय मधेशी संघ

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PRESS RELEASE

Madheshis Protest in Delhi; Handover Memorandum to PMO

New Delhi, 21 July 2014 - Madheshis have hold sit-ins and rallied on Monday at Jantar Mantar for their rights in India according to the 1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty. Organised by the Non-Resident Madheshis Association, and supported by many other organisations including the United Madheshis of Nepal and All India Madheshis Students' Association, the protest concluded after submitting a memorandum to the PMO.

Madheshis, the people living in the southern plain region of Nepal, have close historical, social, cultural and marital ties across the present Indo-Nepal border for millennia. Acknowledging this historic relation, India and Nepal signed the Peace and Friendship Treaty in 1950, which principally established the rights of the Madheshis in India at par with its citizens, except granting them voting rights. However, Madheshis have been often ignored by the Government of India, and their rights denied most of the time.

Despite having an open Indo-Nepal border, Madheshis are often harassed, tortured and victimized for crossing the border. On many occasions, the identity cards of the Madheshis living in India barely get recognised by Indian authorities, due to which they are denied services by landlords, police stations, insurance agencies and so on. They cannot get admission in many good government academic institutions, nor do they can get a job at good government offices. Madheshis are barred from entering into the Indian Army, despite the fact that there is a separate battalion for Nepalese. In addition to that, only a small fraction of Indian aids and assistance is provided to Madhesh/Terai, despite the fact that more than half of the population of Nepal live there.

Regarding this discriminatory attitude of the Government of India towards the Madheshis, the founding president of the Non-Resident Madheshis Association, Dr. C. K. Raut said, "It is very unfortunate as Madheshis do not only have the millennia old ties across the current border, but they have been always with the Indian people in every up and down of their lives. Madheshis have sacrificed a lot in the Indian freedom movement, and even today, in any calamity—during flood, fire or cold waves, it is the Madheshis who come first for the rescue of Indians in border areas." Sujit Kumar Thakur, the president of the Association's India Chapter added, "India should not be ungrateful to the contributions of the Madheshis, and it should seriously consider the issues of the Madheshis and seek solutions for the problems they are facing both inside and outside India."

The Non-Resident Madheshis Association (NRM-A) is a global umbrella organisation of the Madheshis living abroad, to promote the welfare of all Madheshis. The Non-Resident Madheshis Association has its representatives in America, Australia, Africa and the Middle East, East and Central Asia, Europe, India and Nepal. It has been representing Madheshis worldwide, including at the United Nations meetings at New York Headquarter.

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