

**MEDIA BRIEF****Amnesty International Nepal's 27th AGM taking place in Ratnanagar, Chitwan**

Chitwan, 21 September -

Amnesty International Nepal (Amnesty Nepal) is organizing the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Taandi, Ratnanagar of Chitwan district from 22 - 24 September 2018. The AGM will elect a new executive Board which will include three female and two youth members. Mr. Bipin Budhathoki and Ms. Samikshya Koirala have been elected as the two youth members to the Board on 15 September through a gathering of Amnesty Nepal's Youth Network delegates in Gaidakot, Nawalpur.

Amnesty Nepal's gathering in Chitwan this year shares a vision of clean and healthy ecology sustained by conscious and humane efforts towards environmental protection and a broader commitment to social and environmental justice echoing former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's statement - "If we fail our environment, we fail to protect our human rights".

Chitwan's rich ecological features coupled with the struggle and challenge faced by the local/indigenous community in accessing the natural resources often with human rights concerns makes Chitwan a strategic choice for Amnesty Nepal to hold the 27<sup>th</sup> AGM here.

One of the key issues of discussion in the AGM is the global phenomenon of "shrinking civil and political spaces" leading to the curtailment of civil liberties and fundamental rights. The plenary will also make an assessment of the burgeoning culture of impunity including in the cases of conflict related human rights violations, state's failure to take effective action towards combatting violence against women, and ensuring the rights of Nepal's marginalized population including the migrant workers.

Former Chief Justice Kalyan Shrestha will be the chief guest of the opening ceremony of the AGM to be held on 22 September at Hotel Star Banquet. Other guests in the event will include representatives and chiefs from the local governments in Chitwan, civil society members, political party representatives, media persons, among others. Following the opening event, an indoor public action will be held demanding release of the imprisoned journalists - Shahidul Alam of Bangladesh, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo of Myanmar - and justice to Gauri Lankesh, an Indian journalist murdered last year.

Likewise, members of Amnesty Nepal affiliated Rampur Youth Network will showcase a public action on 23 September evening at Saurahchowk demanding an end to the violence against women and the impunity thereto.

A total of 180 Amnesty members including 140 delegates from 70 groups, observers from Groups-in-formation and Youth Networks, board officials, advisors, former officials and directors, and the staff will be participating the plenary of the closed session of the AGM.