

NEPAL

Christians

Chinimaya BLOWN

Place of residence: Kathmandu

Date and place of arrest: On 24th June 2016 in Kathmandu

Charges: Human trafficking and conversion of minors. Police accused her of collecting Hindu children from remote areas of the Himalayan nation to put in her children's home and then forcing them to take part in Christian prayer services.

Statement of the defendant: She denied the charges.

Place of detention: Kathmandu

Other information: Chinimaya Blown is a social worker working for a Christian children's home accommodating 14 Hindu children aged between 5-13. Blown previously ran a children's home in Dhankuta, eastern Nepal, but was unable to renew that home's permit so she brought the orphans to a new home in the country's capital.

Bimkali BUDHA

Place of residence: Western Nepal

Date and place of arrest: On 6th June 2016

Charges: Violence and witchcraft against a severely mentally ill woman whom they sought to heal.

Statement of the defendant: They were arrested because of their missionary activities and there is an intention on the side of the authorities to weaken the community.

Last court decision: Sentenced to 5 years in prison in December 2016 by the District Court of Salyan

Other information: The alleged victim, Seti Pariyar, and her husband testified at the district court to say the five did not act forcefully or inhumanely towards her. She later testified at the church that she was completely healed because of the prayer in the church.

For more information, see <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/12/4789977/>

Banita DANGOL

Place of residence: Dolakha district

Date and place of arrest: On 9th June 2016

Charges: Distributing Christian literature to children at two schools with the intention to convert them.

Article of criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Nepal, Article 26(3) (No person shall [...] convert a person of one religion to another religion, or

disturb the religion of other people. Such an act shall be punishable by law.). The law provides for 5 years imprisonment as well as Nrs 50000/ fine.

Date of release: 17th June 2016

Last court decision: Acquitted on 6th December 2016

Other information: Collective arrest along with Pastor Pakhrin.

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Eight-Christians-in-Nepal-released-from-prison-but-conversion-charges-remain>, <http://www.touchnepal.org/8-christians-released-from-prison/>, <http://christiantimes.com/article/nepal-authorities-arrest-seven-christians-over-allegations-of-converting-people-to-christianity/57081.htm>

Kiran DAHAL

Place of residence: Dolakha district

Date and place of arrest: On 9th June 2016

Charges: Distributing Christian literature to children at two schools with the intention to convert them.

Article of criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Nepal, Article 26(3) (No person shall [...] convert a person of one religion to another religion, or disturb the religion of other people. Such an act shall be punishable by law.). The law provides for 5 years imprisonment as well as Nrs 50000/ fine.

Date of release: 17th June 2016

Last court decision: Acquitted on 6th December 2016

Other information: Collective arrest along with Pastor Pakhrin.

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Eight-Christians-in-Nepal-released-from-prison-but-conversion-charges-remain>, <http://www.touchnepal.org/8-christians-released-from-prison/>, <http://christiantimes.com/article/nepal-authorities-arrest-seven-christians-over-allegations-of-converting-people-to-christianity/57081.htm>

Pastor Shakti PAKHRIN

Place of residence: Dolakha district

Date and place of arrest: On 9th June 2016

Charges: Distributing Christian literature to children at two schools with the intention to convert them.

Article of criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Nepal, Article 26(3) (No person shall [...] convert a person of one religion to another religion, or disturb the religion of other people. Such an act shall be punishable by law.) The law provides for 5 years imprisonment as well as Nrs 50000/ fine.

Date of release: 17th June 2016

Last court decision: Acquitted on 6th December 2016

Other information: Pastor Pakhrin, was charged with seven other Christians who were arrested on the 9th June 2016. All eight left custody on 17th June 2016 but three were released on bail

pending further investigation and charges. Legal justification does not exist in the Nepal's penal code, but at the time of these arrests such a law was being discussed.

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Eight-Christians-in-Nepal-released-from-prison-but-conversion-charges-remain>, <http://www.touchnepal.org/8-christians-released-from-prison/>

Prakash PRADHAN

Place of residence: Dolakha district

Date and place of arrest: On 9th June 2016

Charges: Distributing Christian literature to children at two schools with the intention to convert them.

Statement of the defendant: Pradhan says that they only distributed Bibles to Christian students who asked for them.

Article of criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Nepal, Article 26(3) (No person shall [...] convert a person of one religion to another religion, or disturb the religion of other people. Such an act shall be punishable by law.). The law provides for 5 years imprisonment as well as Nrs 50000/ fine.

First court decision: Currently awaiting trial

Last court decision: Acquitted on 6th December 2016

Other information: Collective arrest along with Pastor Shakti Pakhrin. As well as 5 other Christians involved.

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Eight-Christians-in-Nepal-released-from-prison-but-conversion-charges-remain>, <http://www.touchnepal.org/8-christians-released-from-prison/>, <http://christiantimes.com/article/nepal-authorities-arrest-seven-christians-over-allegations-of-converting-people-to-christianity/57081.htm>
<http://www.bosnewslife.com/37060-nepal-to-prosecute-evangelical-christians-for-spreading-bibles>

Lali PUN

Place of residence: Western Nepal

Date and place of arrest: On 6th June 2016

Charges: Violence and witchcraft against a severely mentally ill woman whom they sought to heal.

Statement of the defendant: They were arrested because of their missionary activities and there is an intention on the side of the authorities to weaken the community.

Last court decision: Sentenced to 5 years in prison in December 2016 by the District Court of Salyan

Other information: The alleged victim, Seti Pariyar, and her husband testified at the district court to say the five did not act forcefully or inhumanely towards her. She later testified at the church that she was completely healed because of the prayer in the church.

For more information, see <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/12/4789977/>

Balkrishna RAI

Place of residence: Dolakha district

Date and place of arrest: On 9th June 2016

Charges: Distributing Christian literature to children at two schools with the intention to convert them.

Article of criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Nepal, Article 26(3) (No person shall [...] convert a person of one religion to another religion, or disturb the religion of other people. Such an act shall be punishable by law.). The law provides for 5 years imprisonment as well as Nrs 50000/ fine.

Date of release: 17th June 2016

Last court decision: Acquitted on 6th December 2016

Other information: Collective arrest along with Pastor Pakhrin.

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Eight-Christians-in-Nepal-released-from-prison-but-conversion-charges-remain>, <http://www.touchnepal.org/8-christians-released-from-prison/>, <http://christiantimes.com/article/nepal-authorities-arrest-seven-christians-over-allegations-of-converting-people-to-christianity/57081.htm>

Bimal SHAHI

Place of residence: Dolakha district

Date and place of arrest: On 9th June 2016

Charges: Distributing Christian literature to children at two schools with the intention to convert them.

Article of criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Nepal, Article 26(3) (No person shall [...] convert a person of one religion to another religion, or disturb the religion of other people. Such an act shall be punishable by law.). The law provides for 5 years imprisonment as well as Nrs 50000/ fine.

Date of release: 17th June 2016

Last court decision: Acquitted on 6th December 2016

Other information: Collective arrest along with Pastor Pakhrin.

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Eight-Christians-in-Nepal-released-from-prison-but-conversion-charges-remain>, <http://www.touchnepal.org/8-christians-released-from-prison/>, <http://christiantimes.com/article/nepal-authorities-arrest-seven-christians-over-allegations-of-converting-people-to-christianity/57081.htm>

Pratik SUNAR

Place of residence: Bharatpur

Date and place of arrest: On 19th July, 2016 in Sunar's home

Charges: For running a child home without proper registration, distributing bibles to children, and forcing children to convert to Christianity.

First court decision: Unknown

Place of detention: Unknown

Other information: A public offence case has been filed against Sunar after his arrest.

Sources:

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/nepalese-christian-jailed-over-religious-conversion/76652>

Bhim Bahadur TAMANG

Place of residence: Dolakha district

Date and place of arrest: On 9th June 2016

Charges: Distributing Christian literature to children at two schools with the intention to convert them.

Article of criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Nepal, Article 26(3) (No person shall [...] convert a person of one religion to another religion, or disturb the religion of other people. Such an act shall be punishable by law.). The law provides for 5 years imprisonment as well as Nrs 50000/ fine.

Date of release: 17th June 2016

Other information: Collective arrest along with Pastor Pakhrin.

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Eight-Christians-in-Nepal-released-from-prison-but-conversion-charges-remain>, <http://www.touchnepal.org/8-christians-released-from-prison/>, <http://christiantimes.com/article/nepal-authorities-arrest-seven-christians-over-allegations-of-converting-people-to-christianity/57081.htm>

Pastor Hari TAMANG (Jerusalem Antioch Church)

Place of residence: Kathmandu

Date and place of arrest: On 24th June 2016 in Kathmandu

Charges: Human trafficking and conversion of minors.

Statement of the defendant: He denied the charges.

Place of detention: Kathmandu

Date of release: Released on bail after spending 25 days in police custody

Philip TAMANG

Place of residence: Dolakha district

Date and place of arrest: On 9th June 2016

Charges: Distributing Christian literature to children at two schools with the intention to convert them.

Article of criminal/ civil/ administrative code: Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Nepal, Article 26(3) (No person shall [...] convert a person of one religion to another religion, or disturb the religion of other people. Such an act shall be punishable by law.). The law provides for 5 years imprisonment as well as Nrs 50000/ fine.

Date of release: 17th June 2016

Last court decision: Acquitted on 6th December 2016

Other information: Collective arrest along with Pastor Pakhrin.

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