

Annex 1: Letter from the Community to World Bank Management

BY EMAIL

August 10, 2016

Management
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
International Development Association

Dear Mesdames and Sirs:

Re: First Progress Report on the Implementation of the Management Action Plan in Response to the Inspection Panel Investigation Report on the Nepal Power Development Project

As the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Struggle Committee of people affected by the Khimti-Dhalkebar 220 kV Transmission Line in Sindhuli, we are writing to clarify representations you have made in your First Progress Report on the Implementation of the Management Action Plan.

Your Progress Report states that “[i]n April 2016, the affected community in Sindhuli agreed with the Chief District Officer (CDO) that the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) could resume the construction work for the disputed section of the Khimti-Dhalkebar Transmission Line (KDTL)” and that “despite the agreement with the CDO, some local community members protested at the construction site against the project construction, for reasons that are unclear.”

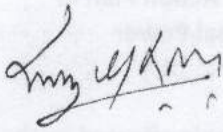
We would like to state that the affected community and the CDO did not reach an agreement in April 2016 for the NEA to resume construction of the project in the disputed section of the KDTL. As we have stated publicly, in April 2016, community members – including Surendraswor Moktan (one of the undersigned) – were arrested and detained overnight, and asked to sign a document while in custody giving their assurance not to obstruct project construction. Some of the detained community members were not allowed to read the document, and were threatened with criminal charges and further imprisonment if they did not sign. Community members ultimately signed the document under duress to avoid further imprisonment and criminal sanction. These signatures were obtained through coercion and are invalid.

Subsequently, affected community members continue to oppose construction of the project in the disputed section of the KDTL through peaceful protests, and communications to the World Bank and local authorities. A week after the April 2016 incident, community members held a protest at the CDO’s office to voice their concern about continued project construction. In July 2016, community members held peaceful protests to oppose construction of the project. Once again, they were arrested, detained and coerced into signing a document committing to cease their opposition to the project under the threat of criminal sanction. The reason for the protests in July 2016 – like community protests in preceding years – is clear: the communities

are opposed to the implementation of the KDTL project, which is being forced ahead without adequate consultation.

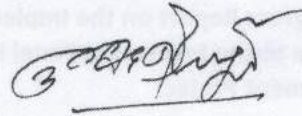
We request you to rectify your public statements accordingly. Additionally, we request you to ensure there is adequate and meaningful consultation with the community in Sindhuli on their concerns regarding the project's impacts.

Sincerely,



Surendraswor Moktan

**Chairperson of Struggle Committee of
Sindhuli High Tension Affected People**



Ukta Bahadur Thapa

**Vice Chairperson of Struggle Committee of
Sindhuli High Tension Affected People**