

Annex 3: Email to Management from Accountability Counsel dated April 12, 2016

[Note: Email addresses, information that was later updated, and a link that has expired have been redacted below to respect confidentiality and for accuracy purposes. Documents attached in original email are not included below.]

From: **Komala Ramachandra** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Tue, Apr 12, 2016 at 12:39 AM
Subject: Re: Status of conflict resolution plans in Khimti-Dhalkebar transmission line
To: Julia Bucknall <[REDACTED]>, Jie Tang <[REDACTED]>, Rabin Shrestha <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Gonzalo Castro De La Mata <[REDACTED]>, Zeinab Bashir Elbakri <[REDACTED]>, Dilek Barlas <[REDACTED]>, Mishka Zaman <[REDACTED]>, "[shankar](#)" <[REDACTED]>, Kindra Mohr <[REDACTED]>, Anirudha Nagar <[REDACTED]>

Dear Julia, Jie Tang, and Rabin,

Many thanks for your email and my apologies for the delayed response. We were waiting to learn more about a potential dispute resolution process anchored by the NHRC, which has unfortunately ended in violence against the communities. Over the weekend, the situation in Sindhuli reached a crisis point. I wanted to reach out to see if you were aware of the situation and ask that you take action to address the use of excessive force against communities.

Over the last month or so, the NHRC has been in conversation with the communities and government agencies about finding a resolution to the conflict, a process in which the communities were eager to participate. After internal consultations with the affected families, the community representatives were supposed to attend a meeting at the NHRC about two weeks ago to present their requests, but a family emergency prevented that meeting from taking place as scheduled. While the communities waited for that meeting to be rescheduled, the NHRC put out a statement about a week ago saying that the government should proceed with the project. That led to protests at the CDO's office in Sindhuli. On Sunday, April 10, the CDO invited some of the community leaders into his office for a meeting. As the leaders were leaving that meeting, six of them were arrested by the police. They were held in custody but released on Monday, April 11. However, as a condition of their release, we understand they were required to sign a document stating that they gave their consent for the project.


Over the weekend armed police forces were also called into to disburse the protesters outside the CDO's office. [REDACTED]

We have heard reports that construction has resumed. We hope to receive more details about that tomorrow.

We are extremely concerned about the response of the NHRC, CDO, MoE, NEA, and police forces in this conflict. Police violence and intimidation, detentions, coerced consent forms should be contrary to the mandate of the World Bank. We ask that the Bank, not only as a

funder of the Khimti-Dhalkebar transmission line project but also a supporter of other NEA energy projects, condemn the use of violence in Sindhuli. We request that the Bank do everything in its power to ensure that the government of Nepal and NEA do not complete this project with force and stop committing human rights abuses in the name of development.

A facilitated dialogue between communities and the NEA is absolutely necessary to overcome this conflict and allow for the peaceful completion of this project. The communities continue to request that they be active and informed participants in the design and implementation of a project that affects their lives, livelihoods, and property.

I am attaching the NHRC's statement from last week and the community's response. Please also find photos of Sunday's protest and police response here: 

We look forward to your response and hope that you will take action to prevent further violence against the affected communities.

Best,
Komala

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