

# GOVERNANCE

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## Timeline of Government Response to the crisis

WEEKLY

Photo by Nayapatikadaily

In recent years, Israel has emerged as a sought-after destination for care-giving and agriculture jobs, drawing thousands of Nepali workers and students. According to the latest data, approximately 4,500 Nepali individuals are employed as caregivers in Israel. Moreover, 265 Nepali students are currently pursuing their education in Israel through the 'Learn and Earn' program, a collaboration between the Israeli government, the Small Farmer Development Bank, and the Embassy of Israel. This initiative, which began in 2013, focuses on providing advanced agricultural training to small-scale farmers. Over 3000 Nepali students have participated in the program so far.

However, the tranquil environment was disrupted in early October 2023 when the Palestinian Islamist Group, Hamas, entered Israeli territory near the Gaza Strip and launched attacks on civilians. This sudden escalation of conflict has had a profound impact on Nepali citizens, especially the students studying in the region. The ongoing conflict, marked by retaliatory actions from both the Israeli government and Hamas, has left many concerned about the safety of those residing in the area.

The Nepali government's response to this crisis has been closely monitored, and a timeline of their actions up to this point is outlined below:

### Timeline

**7<sup>TH</sup> October**

Hamas launched attacks on multiple Israel borders. The 17 students from the "Learn & Earn Program" in Kibbutz Alumim, an area near the Gaza Strip, came under direct attack by the militants.

Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a [press statement](#) stating 9 of the Nepalis have been reportedly injured while two of them are in serious condition.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, [released](#) a list of focal persons to contact for Nepali citizens who are in need of rescue. The press release also confirmed the death of 10 Nepali students, 4 injured, 1 missing and the ongoing search operation for the missing student.

**8<sup>TH</sup> October**

Embassy of Nepal in Israel created a [google form](#) to collect the list of Nepali citizens who wish to return home. This was circulated among the Nepali community by both the embassy of Nepal in Israel and the Embassy of Israel in Nepal.

**9<sup>TH</sup> October**

324 Nepali citizens registered their details through google form, out of which 288 wished to return and 36 requested relocation.

**10<sup>TH</sup> October**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs decided the Nepal flag carrier to be sent to Israel to bring back Nepalis who wished to return. Nepal Airlines which had scheduled a flight to Dubai dropped the passengers and re-routed to TelAviv for rescue.

**11<sup>TH</sup> October**

557 forms were filled, out of which 503 wished to return. The government on the first phase brought back 254 students safely to Kathmandu and said remaining would also be brought soon.

**12<sup>TH</sup> October**

19 Nepalis who wished to return Nepal were brought back in [collaboration](#) with the Indian Rescue Operation in TelAviv.

As the situation in Israel remains tense, with continued confrontations between the Israeli government and Hamas, Nepal's government and its citizens in the affected areas anxiously await a resolution that will ensure their safety and well-being. The MoFA has stated that the bodies of all the deceased will be brought to Nepal as soon as possible.

**17<sup>TH</sup> October**

### Governance Issues of the Week

1. The Millennium Challenge Account (MCA -Nepal) canceled all the bids received for the construction of a 315-km 400kV transmission line after all the bidders quoted higher prices than the estimated cost of the project. The project, whose implementation period is only 5 years, now has to restart the bidding process.

Read more: [The Himalayan Times](#)

2. The government has begun to provide citizenship to the Non-Resident Nepalis (NRN) which was approved by the Nepal Citizenship Rules, 2063. The NRNs will be eligible to enjoy all social, economic and cultural benefits, except for exercising political rights with it. The NRNs can issue citizenship from all 77 districts.

Read more: [Kantipur](#)

3. The Election Commission has drafted a procedure for creating a voter list of eligible Nepali citizens living overseas. This draft is open to public feedback until November 16. It allows non-registered Nepali individuals to join the voter registry from abroad using an online system, and with the assistance of diplomatic missions for biometric data collection.

Read more: [Election Commission](#)

4. The monsoon induced disasters have caused 92 deaths and 30 disappearances in the last four months. As per the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, the disasters caused a total financial loss of NRs. 11 billion worth in physical infrastructures, with highest loss in hydropower projects which is about NRs. 9 billion.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

5. Nepal's electricity exports to India which resumed in June have surged with earning reaching nearly Rs 12billion by mid-October during this year's wet season. In the current fiscal year, electricity exports have contributed significantly to reducing the trade deficit with India and boosting Nepal's foreign exchange reserves.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

6. The local residents of Kathikhola Rural Municipality in Baglung have taken up the job of repairing the damaged road as the festival season approaches. The road that was left unfinished for more than a year due to the negligence of the construction company is now being maintained through voluntary labor of the public.

Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)

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