

35 Nepalese Bonded labourers rescued from Jammu & Kashmir -India



Prepared by

**Sr. Anthonia Soosaiappan & Mr. Satya Narayan,
Opportunity Village Nepal**

"We are committed to protecting rescued laborers. Our municipality will ensure their socio-economic well-being and work to prevent the risk of trafficking,"
stated the Mayor of Bardibas Municipality.

SAVING LIVES MATTERS

Thirty-five Nepalese bonded labourers, including 5 minors, were rescued from Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, after being lured by promises of well-paying jobs. These labourers are mainly from the Dalit Mushahar community in Nepal's Madhesh province and are originally from the Sarlahi, Dhanusha, and Mahottari districts.

The labourers were trapped with promises of high salaries by traffickers from Bihar, India, who paid them an advance to gain their trust. Once in Kashmir, the workers were held captive, physically and mentally abused, and forced to live in deplorable conditions.

The case came to light when two individuals escaped and informed Nepalese authorities. A joint operation by KIN India,

RIGHT BEARER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The rescued labourers are receiving social and economic rehabilitation support, with calls for increased government vigilance to prevent future exploitation. Municipal leaders promised vocational training and emergency support for the rescued labourers.

GSIF AND OVN INTERVENTION

GSIF (Good Shepherd International Foundation) Nepal continues to work with KIN India, OVN (Opportunity Village Nepal), and other stakeholders to combat human trafficking. Since 2019, A Cross-border anti-human trafficking project has provided shelter and reintegration services to hundreds of survivors, fostering strong synergies

GSIF, and Opportunity Village Nepal, in coordination with the Nepalese Embassy in New Delhi and local law enforcement, rescued them on May 8, 2024. Upon their repatriation to Nepal, they were warmly welcomed by municipality officials and NGOs. An FIR has been lodged, and two perpetrators have been arrested.

between Nepal and India to effectively address trafficking incidents at the Indo-Nepal borders.



REUNION OF LABOURERS

Sr. Taskila Nicolas from GSIF, along with Bikash Dhungana, Satya Narayan, and Bikash Devkota, played a crucial role in coordinating the reintegration of the laborers with their families. The emotional reunions were marked by tears of joy, as the laborers expressed their heartfelt gratitude toward their rescuers. Special thanks were extended to the KIN India members and the social workers from a neighboring village, who took the lead in calling upon government organizations and NGOs to take action. Their efforts ensured the successful rescue and safe return of the laborers, highlighting the power of community and collaboration in humanitarian efforts.



नेपाली राजदूतावास
एन डी ई
EMBASSY OF NEPAL
New Delhi

Ref. No. 060/81/Cou.17.1/420

Date:-01 May, 2024

Letter of Appreciation

To
Opportunity Village Nepal
Kathmandu

On behalf of the Embassy of Nepal in New Delhi, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for your outstanding efforts in executing a total of 38 Nepal bonded workers from Shimoga, Karnataka, India.

Your dedication and support was vital in the successful execution of this rescue operation. As an anti-human trafficking non-governmental organization, the joint rescue operation in collaboration with ITO India has been instrumental in ensuring the safe return of those workers to their homeland.

Your actions have made a significant difference in the lives of those who were rescued, and we commend you for your exemplary service and humanitarian spirit.

Thank you once again for your invaluable contribution.

Sincerely,

(Deepak Raj Dixita)
Third Secretary

The Embassy of Nepal in New Delhi has recognized the outstanding humanitarian efforts of GSIF (Good Shepherd International Foundation Nepal) and OVN (Opportunity Village Nepal). Both organizations were awarded an appreciation letter in acknowledgment of their exceptional work in ensuring the safe return of laborers to Nepal. This recognition highlights their dedication to safeguarding the welfare and dignity of Nepalese workers, providing essential support, and facilitating their safe journey back home. Notably, all the expenses for the laborers' return were met by GSIF.



Token of Appreciation Awarded



नेपाली राजदूतावास
नयाँ दिल्ली
EMBASSY OF NEPAL
New Delhi

Ref. No. 080/81/Con.17.1/1420

Date:-31 May, 2024

Letter of Appreciation

To
Opportunity Village Nepal
Kathmandu

On behalf of the Embassy of Nepal in New Delhi, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for your outstanding efforts in rescuing a total of 35 Nepali bonded workers from Srinagar, Kashmir, India.

Your dedication and support was vital in the successful execution of this rescue operation. As an anti-human trafficking non-governmental organization, the joint rescue operation in collaboration with KIN India has been instrumental in ensuring the safe return of these workers to their homeland.

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Thank you once again for your invaluable contribution.

Sincerely,


(Deepak Raj Niraula)

Third Secretary

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Quotes

"A strong network of partnerships is essential to protect the vulnerable from various forms of exploitation. I deeply appreciate the spirit of collaboration in the service of humanity," stated Sr. Anthonia.