

THE BHUTAN

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HIGHLIGHTS

Counseling to begin

Yadhav Neupane
Beldangi-III

Transcultural Psycho-Social Origination has said it would start counseling programs inside exiled Bhutanese camps.

According to the organisation, the program includes counseling to children and aged group people. The program will be aimed at healing the psychological trauma caused by resettlement process and family division.

The program is also targeted at making it as treatment for psychological problems to various refugees caused by the long-term stay inside unimproved camps.

Gurung received third Dan

Bhim Bahadur Gurung, 26, from Pathri Sanischare camp, sector C-3, hut number 40, was awarded the Third Dan Grading on July 11. Gurung passed the grading examinations conducted by Nepal Taekwondo Association (NTA) under National Sports Council Nepal.

According to Deep Raj Gurung, the mater instructor of the association, Gurung is the only Bhutanese awarded with this grading.

YOB advocacy for repatriation

Rajen Giri, the president of Youth Organization of Bhutan (YOB) and Aakash Budathoki, focal person for European region for YOB, currently residing in Sweden, attended the International Union of Socialist Youth World Festival 2009 in Budapest, Hungary in the third week of July.

According to YOB Giri and Budathoki organized the information session on the Bhutanese issue with the delegates to garner international solidarity in having a permanent solution.

"We have urged through the young delegates to pressurize Bhutan for repatriation."

General Appeal

The Bhutan Reporter has resumed its hard copy print after a gap of three months due to poor financial condition. There, to sustain the publication, we request our esteemed readers to pay for their copies.

Bhutanese became 19th immigrant slain in Florida

Thakur P. Mishra / NYC

July 31, 2009

Hari Lal Adhikari, 21, a resettled Bhutanese in Jacksonville, Florida killed on the spot by a gunshot from an unknown group at 12:00 am local time. The armed attacker who was later known to as Trumaine Branch, 21 opened fire at the boy just outside his apartment 2930 Stonemont.

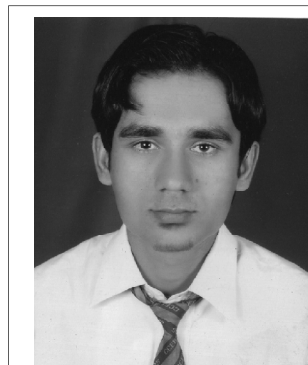
Adhikari was shot in the parking lot of the complex and received a gun at his chest before he shouted for help. Adhikari was working at a nearby Wal-Mart for about two weeks and was attending Florida Community College at Jacksonville to learn English.

He along with his parents and other two members reached Jacksonville, Florida in March 2009 under the third country resettlement process. World Relief refugee resettlement agency has been assisting the resettled Bhutanese in Jacksonville.

He was robbed of his wallet and a cell phone by Trumaine Branch who shot him at point blank range and then walked off. According to the State's crime record, Adhikari is at least the 19th immigrant slain in Jacksonville in the past five years where most of the killings have occurred during robberies.

The brutal slaying caught the attention of both electronic and print media worldwide. Even the U.S Embassy in Kathmandu, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and International Organization for Migration were serious regarding the widespread of news from Nepali media. The exiled news agency, Bhutan News Service has been updating the ruthless killing regularly starting from the breaking news through its web portal.

The Population Refugees and Migration Coordinator in Nepal raised important concern regarding the killing of the Bhutanese citizen in America. The circular subjected as 'UNHCR/IOM response to murder of Bhutanese refugee in the U.S.' wrote - life in the camps is not without risks, but the risks in the resettlement countries will be different from what the refugees are accustomed to.



Late Hari Lal Adhikari, 21

"It is getting a lot of attention in the camps and in the local media", it said. According to this letter, the UNHCR is planning focus group meetings in the camps over the next two weeks to place the crime in context, to counter some of the misinformation that is being

circulated, and explain in broad terms how criminal justice systems in the resettlement countries work.

Elaine Carson, whose agency resettled the victim and his parents, said there were plans to help the family move to another apartment complex. For those who would remain, the manager of Stonemont Village was planning to increase lighting, security cameras and would offer an apartment to a police officer.

Meanwhile, the exiled Bhutanese from Pathri camp, Human Rights Organisation of Bhutan and National Front for Democracy in Bhutan among others have condemned the ruthless killing of resettled Bhutanese.

Suspected slayer in net?

Jacksonville police on July 29 arrested Trumaine Branch, 21 for shooting Hari Adhikari and learned the victim was targeted because he was an immigrant, according to a state prosecutor. Adhikari was robbed of his mobile set and wallet before he was killed.

The editor of Bhutan News Service from New York City has confirmed that Branch, who was arrested by the police and accused of killing Hari Lal, was denied bond. The suspect made his first appearance in court on July 31. He was officially charged with ownership of a firearm, murder and armed robbery. The convict can be sentenced to death and life when found guilty.

The arrest report said that the homicide team, lead by detective Don Alexander, retrieved cell phone records for Adhikari's phone and found that one call was made from the phone about an hour after the murder. Police traced the call to Branch's girlfriend at his home. Police contacted the girlfriend, who cooperated with investigators. Her information and clues provided by others who knew Branch led to the arrest, said Lt. Larry Schmitt, who is the head of Jacksonville Sheriff's



Suspect, Trumaine Branch

Office homicide unit.

Court records show that Branch was convicted of auto theft in 2007 and was sentenced to a year in prison. He was released in August 2008. Branch also pleaded no contest to a trespassing charge earlier this year, for which he received a fine and to a burglary charge in 2007, for which he got probation. A charge of unarmed carjacking in April was dropped against Branch, but new information developed since his arrest has caused that case to be reopened.

Authorities learned Adhikari was killed because immigrants like him were seen as hard workers who were known to carry cash and made good targets to rob.

Caliel, who promised a vigorous prosecution in Adhikari's killing, also mentioned that two Jacksonville men were sentenced to death and life.

Misconception of democracy in Bhutan

This is how the democracy in this newest democracy is functioning – if you read the recent statement by Prime Minister Jigmi Y. Thinley at the National Council gathering in Thimphu.

According to him, no laws have mentioned that ministers have to attend question-answer hour at the upper house. This is ridiculous, I think. In a democracy, parliament has the highest authority and has the right to interrogate ministers or any other government officials.

It is not surprising that Bhutan has no laws making it mandatory that ministers attend the upper house debates or present at its call. As a new entrant to an accountable-government system of politics, Bhutan not only lacks this kind of law but laws on many fronts which people expect to get formulated through the parliament they elected.

In a democracy, both the Houses have equal weight in decision making and legislation formulation. The statement by the PM is grave ignorance of the spirit of democracy and disrespect of its values.

Despite several calls, as planned well before the parliament session begun and furnished to ministers to arrange their schedule, the ministers failed to turn up to the National Council for question hour. This has disrupted few meetings of the House.

PM but mentioned that government wish to harmonise relation between the government and the parliament that has turned quite bitter – in fact seriously bitter. This bitterness between the executive and the legislator wings is a reflection of rivalry seen within the parliament. Since the first session of the first election parliament, the two Houses failed to see each other eye to eye on important national issues. Thus was the result of the political parties ignoring upper house where they have no influences. National Assembly avoiding debates at the upper house on some of the important issues like budget has further widened the gap within the legislature.

The symptom is injurious for new born democracy. The ministers and the prime minister have obligation, by the principle of natural law, to attend the legislative session and answer questions. But, the drama shown by them has made everyone to think how democratic is the Bhutanese democracy system!

Security After Resettlement



BY VIDHYAPATIMISHRA

NOT all refugees can be safe after third country resettlement. It has been almost a year that Bhutanese refugees have been resettled in third countries, including the highest number in the USA. At a time when hundreds of refugees' process for resettlement is completed and are awaiting their departure date, there have increased cases of physical attacks on resettled people in various States of USA as if to mean authorities involved in it should give a second thought.

One Hari Lal Adhikari, 21, who had moved to the Florida in the USA with his parents and two other family members under Third Country Resettlement Program from the UN-administered refugee camp in Jhapa was shot to death.

Many youths like Hari have opted for resettlement citing the unfeasibility of immediate return-home process and mainly to build up their good future prospect. Unfortunately, for Hari, all those dreams shattered traumatizing his family in Jacksonville, Florida, when he was declared the nineteenth immigrant slain in Jacksonville. According to a blog post in Jacksonville.com, there have been at least 18 immigrant homicides in the area in the past five years, besides this.

This incident has raised some serious concerns. Refugees whose process is underway for resettlement in USA have started flashing signals of scariness. Such a brutal killing of an innocent resettled Bhutanese in America, which is regarded to be safe heaven for refugees and immigrants, has definitely raised questions on their safety and security. Not only the Adhikari family but all resettled refugees and immigrants in America are expressing their outrages at the slaying of a young mind who

immigrated there to anticipate a decent and dignified living, which indeed was not a choice but a compulsion for him.

So far, The United States, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Norway, The Netherlands and New Zealand have expressed their interest in resettling the Bhutanese refugees, who have been languishing in various seven camps in Jhapa and Morang districts of Nepal since 18 years. Beginning from 2008, these countries have already resettled over 20 thousand refugees, the majority being stationed in America. Similarly, the International Organization for Migration – the official processing entity for resettlement in America, has completed the arrangements of several thousand refugees, who will be distributed to various States of America within this year to meet the quota of above 60 thousand individuals as proposed by the United States.

It is not that all those who have reached America with high hopes of acquiring better life are able to meet their expectations. Though the exact statistics are not available, according to various sources more than 50 percent refugees, who are resettled in America, are still jobless. Even those who are working are also struggling at entry-level-jobs, just a few hours in a week or with low wages to such an extent that they are unable to cover up their monthly expenses, house rent and travel loan among others.

There are even cases of some resettled Bhutanese being given the apartment evacuation order by the house owner when they are unable to pay the rent due to lack of jobs, and even after receiving financial support from the resettling agency for several months. Such an agency makes direct support for at least a few months, after which it is expected that refugees become able to find jobs and start paying house rent and the government loan used while processing resettlement starting from the camp. The supports given to these people are also not uniform; in some States the agency can

There are even cases of apartment evacuation order by the house owner when they are unable to pay the rent due to lack of jobs.

support for longer time with even more logistic and material supports including insurance and pre-paid food cards called food-stamps. The language barrier is another hurdle for majority of elderly refugees, as well as for young immigrants who have lost their schooling ages in exile. In some families, there is just a single member, who can speak English and is a sole earning person to support all the remaining members. Even, the Adhikari family is not an exception to this. It was just before two weeks that Adhikari got a job at a nearby Wal-Mart store. Rests of the members in his family are uneducated and just learning English language.

From the very start of resettlement in America, there were reports of refugees being attacked by others. Syracuse.com, a local online news portal in New York reported in the first week of July that refugees in Syracuse were scared to walk alone along the streets due to increasing physical threat. Many youths in the city have already become prey for physical attack by black-Americans.

Some of them were threatened even in the streets or while visiting groceries. Those hazards did scare their friends and relatives in Nepal to join them in America. Now, with an irreparable loss of a polite and hardworking fellow-countryman at such a young age, the Bhutanese community is forced to consider resettlement in America a challenging one. Thus, it is time for every resettling Bhutanese to ask: will the new place be safer than ramshackle hut in Nepal?

Response to Murder of Bhutanese Refugee

Dear colleagues;

The recent shooting of a Bhutanese refugee in Jacksonville, FL has captured the attention of refugees and the media in Nepal. Following is an update from PRM's Refugee Coordinator in Nepal. Please feel free to share this information with your affiliates.

PRM's Refugee Coordinator in Nepal talked to IOM and UNHCR yesterday about the response to the refugee shooting in Florida. It is getting a lot of attention in the camps and in the local media. UNHCR is planning focus group meetings in the camps over the next two weeks to place the crime in context, to counter some of the misinformation that is being circulated, and explain in

broad terms how criminal justice systems in the resettlement countries work. They will bring in IOM cultural orientation trainers to give the same kind of information to the refugees who are interested in the camps as is given to the refugees just prior to departure. UNHCR has taken the point that while the murder is tragic, murder is not unknown in the camps. Life in the camps is not without risks, but the risks in the resettlement countries will be different from what the refugees are accustomed to.

The Refugee Coordinator also asked UNHCR/IOM to focus on the response by the resettlement countries. The

refugees will find it hard to believe that crimes against refugees will be pursued and prosecuted.

Lastly, UNHCR and IOM will talk about strategies to avoid being a victim in the resettlement countries.

Many resettled refugees have suffered tragedies in recent months. Please remind your affiliates to include crime prevention strategies in their personal safety orientation if the topic is not already addressed.

**Thank you,
Barbara Day
PRM/A**

Five Months in Denmark



BY RAMESH GAUTAM, NORWAY

www.bhutaneseliterature.com

It was not very easy for the Timsina family to make their trip towards Denmark leaving behind their octagenarian mother with family of the youngest brother in Nepal. When there was no choice, they got separated even from the eldest brother's family moving to another country. It was indeed a hard deal for two segments of Timsina Family in the International Organisation for Migration transit camp in Maharajgunj, Katmandu.

Owing to the ill health of Tika Devi Timsina, the mother of two sons and a daughter, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees forwarded their case to Denmark, where a small number of Bhutanese citizens are expected to start a new living.

It was late evening of February 5 this year when this family reached Silkeborg, a town to the west at a distance of about four hours by train from the capital city, Copenhagen. They were exhausted with the first time long journey by air which they never experienced in the past. Though they feel that they are lucky to be in one of the most developed countries of the world, but were initially much worried about how would the life be hereafter. Now, they feel safe in their apartment in a small town but are lonely; they have not even a single ethnic Nepali to gossip with.

There are many people coming to this country from around the globe as refugees and asylum seekers. They need to learn the language of this country. In fact, language is the only door opener wherever one goes. In all three European countries where the Bhutanese are being resettled, the authorities want to prevent the cultural and linguistic homogeneity which has an adverse effect in learning a new language, as well as getting transformed into a new but unknown culture. This is why they are kept apart from other families. The Timsina family is not an exception to this. They need to drive at least a distance of half an hour to meet the nearest Bhutanese family. However, they have a Bhutanese youth from Beldangi camp near by

them, who reached before starting the resettlement process.

"We are very happy that we are socially safe and very hopeful towards our future even though we miss our friends, family members and relatives very much", said Maheshwar Timsina, who arrived from Pathri, Sanischare camp.. When asked about the younger son, the youngest in the family, it was known that he was in summer tour, a normal phenomenon in the west to meet some friends and relatives in the other part of the country. It was a great feeling of satisfaction to see Mrs. Timsina sitting amusingly in front of the web camera, who was in bed for several months when she was in Nepal. Danish government bears all the expenses of the treatment for us, Mrs. Timsina said. "We are yet to know many things but we haven't paid anything for the treatment yet; everything is done by the Kommune, similar to municipality in Nepal, said Maheshwar, a literate in just Nepali from a middle class ethnic Nepali family from Dagana district in the South. They seem much satisfied for this and feel secure. From suffocating situation to a much sophisticated technology driven world, these Timsinas have a short but amazing experience with how everything could be done by the machines. All family members consisting of parents and two sons are attending the language school three days a week. It is quite amusing that they meet several others who have similar untold stories of pains and miseries, division of identity and the alike of worth-sharing.

Poverty, civil war, ethnic cleansing, racial discriminations and many more have been the common fate of people around the world today and these Bhutanese citizens are also aware of these causes. This has also helped them and many others to forget about the horrors of the past, grab the present circumstance and think constructively about the future.

All the expenses for language classes are borne by the kommune and three of them get 5000 Danish Kroner, equivalent to 955 US dollars each while the youngest gets 2500 Kroner as cash assistance on monthly for their living. According to them, the amount granted to them is sufficient for everything.

The family is waiting for their daughter's family to come soon. The family will assume a major difference when their daughter arrives to join them.

Considering pain of departure from camps, struggle to begin a new life in a strange land, cultural transformation and language barrier among others, resettlement is a big and challenging starting, not easy for every resettling Bhutanese to opt. But, with the passage of time, it is definite that the situations improve and become able to materialize their dreams and hopes. Many those who have already spent more than a year in a foreign land have seen that their resettlement turned out to be instrumental in flashing new hopes out of adversities.

(The write-up is based on the conversation with the Timsina family in Denmark)

Post

Resettlement



Life in New York

Which state in USA is best suited for the Bhutanese refugees for their new settlement? The bigger, smaller, densely populated, having less population or similar issue?

Though it would be too early to answer this question in an accurate way, at least with my nearly two-week experience I can say the bigger places like the New York City (NYC) would turn to be extremely difficult for a vast majority of our people, who come mostly from rural backgrounds.

Most of the Bhutanese refugees who are here for the last one year are yet unemployed; some of them are part timer, some of them still are searching better job, some of them already have full time job (all of them are in entry level stage). The living cost here is extremely high. I had many telephonic exchanges with friends and relatives in various States and cities here in the USA. When I compare the living costs, it comes to be extremely high here. The job competition here in the city is very high.

Let me figure out the rough living costs in NYC. 900 US dollar per month is the lowest scale of apartment rental charge here. You may also be thinking when living costs is high, certainly the earning should be high too. You are already 'wrong' if you were assuming that way.

A junior Bhutanese refugee friend of mine (let me hold his/her name) who has been a full timer, showed me the bank draft of his earning per week. It comes out not more than 269 US dollar per week. Can you calculate how much he/she earns in a month? How much he will have to throw in his expenses and how much is his saving?

In a sad mood, he opined that he has more or less 'no saving' in his bank account though he has been working full timer for the last six months. "I am checking for possibilities if I can swift the apartment to next State."

There are even instances of refugees losing their job in the middle way. Some are sacked from the job citing the economic recession. I cannot write now how much one makes money here in the city once one succeeds entry-level job.

Nevertheless, for at least few years those living and working in NYC will certainly have hard times to struggle for their initial existence. And, it is a challenge for those having just one earning member in a family to earn better living.

That means aren't there any solutions for this? Of course, the UNHCR office in Nepal and the office of International Organization for Migration should come out with a second thought. The influx of Bhutanese refugees for settlements in places like the NYC should be minimized, if not at all stopped.

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Notice

Bhutan Media Society, the publication Unit of Association of Press Freedom Activists Bhutan publishes The Bhutan Reporter monthly. Its soft copies are also downloadable from the widely read www.apfanews.com. Therefore, we request the interested readers to contribute their write-ups for spacing in The Bhutan Reporter.

We'll win their hearts in future: Bigyan

We need to clearly understand that the Bhutanese population is not only refugee population. We do appreciate their representation in Bhutan due to their population figure. However, citizens inside Bhutan are to be considered more responsible for radical changes in Bhutan. Still, it is praiseworthy if refugees get involved in some sorts of movement instead of running away from camps to various countries. The autocrat's feeling of giving less and taking more will always remain incomplete for the citizens, and it is definite that life with no identity goes meaningless. We will win the hearts of all the Bhutanese scattered in various countries with our future programs.

We have lost many things in our party; mainly due to Bikalpa's betrayal and other fatal weaknesses, many friends are still inside iron bars in Bhutan, whereabouts

of several cadres are still unknown and some have sacrificed their life. In this stage, our main duty is to acquiring, using and developing new materials. Our present task is to take the parties activities ahead with reformed changes in a new track with secured force to achieve the goals of people's movement. We are always carrying peaceful activities inside the camps, and our party always stands against those groups that terrorize people with various deals.

(The extract, a part of interview with a central committee member of Birat-led Communist Party of Bhutan (Marxist Leninist Maoists), was translated from a blog, newsofexile.blogspot.com. The translation was meant for meaning, not the terminology expressed in the original post)

Jr. Jigme's Address to Nation

July 30, 2009



On the occasion of the concluding ceremony of the 3rd session of Parliament, I congratulate the elected government of the Druk Phuensum Tshokpa on the completion of one year and four months in office. In these early days of a new political system while bearing great

responsibilities you have, despite the limited resources, successfully carried out the difficult duties of government in service of the Tsawasum.

The Opposition, though comprised of only two members, has through diligence and commitment, fulfilled the important duties of the Opposition party enshrined in the Constitution.

The members of the National Council, in the interest of the country's future, have shouldered their profound duties with accomplishment. I must express my deep gratitude and appreciation to the government and the members of parliament. It is with complete trust and faith that I look upon you to serve the People and Country. In doing so you have my wholehearted support.

We must also acknowledge that in preparation for democracy we had entrusted immense responsibilities on our civil servants and judiciary as well as on constitutional bodies such as the Royal Audit Authority, Anti-corruption Commission and Election Commission, which they have fulfilled in the service of the nation. Henceforth, for a vibrant and successful democracy, we must continue to support and strengthen these institutions.

Media - newspapers, television, radio and the Internet - must play a very important role. I appreciate that while some of the media agencies are young and lack adequate resources they have strived to perform their duties with complete commitment. Hereafter, media will be vital in keeping people well informed and in encouraging debate and participation - key to a vibrant democracy. Therefore, I have decided that through the exercise of my Royal Prerogative of Kidu, to strengthen media agencies so that they may carry out their duties, without fear or favour, in the interest of democracy.

Today, whenever there is time, I travel across the country to the villages. It is when I sit in the houses of my people, eat our meals together and discuss the lives and aspirations of each family, that I am most content. And while I am there I try, in small ways, to help them with their most pressing problems. Nothing is as rewarding as knowing that I have made their lives a little more comfortable, a little more secure and happier.

There is no substitute for being able to see the problems of the people personally. For when I carry out my duties, I shall remember the faces of the people whom I must serve and I will know the ways in which

I can serve them best.

It is also while I am in the villages that I come across so many people serving the country in such important ways, but who are rarely recognized and acknowledged. There is the civil servant, teacher, health worker and local government staff working in remote places and serving their country well. Our development projects are supported by the hard work of the daily-wage worker and those in the national work force. There is the small entrepreneur or the farmer working hard to feed his or her family. Such people are the backbone of our nation.

I have said before that the future is what we make of it. What work we do with our two hands today, and the sacrifices we make will shape the future of our nation. To each and every loyal, hardworking and law-abiding citizen I offer my deepest gratitude.

Now, I always say that when we work together we must be frank and forthright. Today, everywhere people are concerned about the disagreements between important institutions of government. I want to tell my people that when such disagreements arise, there is no need to worry. It means that the members of these institutions have embraced their duties wholeheartedly. However, we must be careful not to defer problems but resolve them as soon as they arise.

It is not the disagreements that our people should be concerned about; it is the manner in which they are resolved. Frankly, these disagreements have given us a great opportunity to set the right precedent for future politicians, governments and people. If the institutions in question can sit together, keeping national interest above all else, and resolve their problems, it will be an auspicious sign that democracy has a great future in Bhutan.

As King I have the sacred duty to look beyond the next one or two, or even five or ten years. It is my duty to serve the People such that, for generation after generation, era upon era our nation becomes stronger, more prosperous and happier. Therefore, from where I stand, I do not see different players such as the National Assembly, National Council, Cabinet or Bureaucracy.

What do I see?

I see our small landlocked country. I see our small Bhutanese family. Then I see this immense world in which we have the challenge and responsibility to stand on our own feet and build a nation into which our future generations will always feel proud, secure and happy to be born.

This is what I see.

I truly believe that we have a special, unique and strong nation because of our People - the jewel of Bhutan. Throughout history our people have always worked as One Nation with One Vision. So, today, it is my hope that you will uphold this unity of spirit and purpose and resolve all disagreements in the interest of our People and Country, now and in the future.

Memoirs Reporter



By Ichha Poudyel, Australia

It has been over a month since I landed at Adelaide airport in South Australia. The first month remained impressive as expected. I had my ninety six year old grandfather on his wheel chair- the eldest man in Adelaide from Bhutanese Community whom I had accompanied along with. After some 12 hours of flight from Kathmandu to Singapore, and then to Australia, we got exhausted and sleepy. Outside Adelaide airport there were officials from immigration, friends and my elder brother, who arrived several months before, waiting to welcome us. We were taken to Migrant Resource Centre where we were served with some snacks. There, I was happy to see refugees including my fellow-countrymen and migrants from different parts of the world. Refugees are being resettled from Africa, the Middle East and Asia. They do have many stories similar to ours to share.

The same day we were registered at the Centrelink- a government body that provides income support to newly resettled refugees from different countries of the world. The first ever payment I was provided with was the Crisis Payment of Australian dollars 200 on the vary day of my arrival. Then, we were registered at Medicare which covers a most part of medical expanses of refugees. Next, were taken to our new home at Elizabeth. Now we at least have a place to call 'home' which we had been longing for.

New home

My new home in Australia is entirely different from the houses I lived in for decades back in Nepal. From a bamboo slum in refugee camp to a concrete building in Kathmandu where I was a tenant for years never belonged to me. My three bed room house at Elizabeth is more than that. Surrounded by brick walls I found heart inside it made up of my family and a sense of possessing it. There was all I needed, from snacks to vegetables and rice. There was a refrigerator, a washing machine and utensils. In a nutshell, there was everything my family required then, as well as, for future.

A dawn of freedom

Often in life we travel through many ups and downs. A moment of happiness makes us forget years of suffering. A pebble in a river gets its shape by continuous crushing and getting rubbed against hard surfaces. In the same way, I have stumbled over many potential obstacles and got sharpened by passing through harsh situation before I finally reached here. In Adelaide, the third week of June was celebrated as refugee week and the volunteers supporting refugees to resettle in South Australia were well applauded. It made me recall seven years of my volunteer service for my community in Nepal where I worked for news paper and radio. However, my selfless service was eventually rewarded by manhandling me in public at Beldangi I on May 5, 2008 and subsequently threatened to take my life by cadres of Birat-led faction of Communist Party of Bhutan, Marxist-Leninist-Maoist. As a journalist I had to speak up on behalf of fellow refugees who had no voices that made me target of this group and also those earning from forgery. Those days in which my brother had to shield the bamboo wall near his bed with an old wooden plank to avoid possible attracts from fellow refugees is just a memory left behind.