



Verkiezingen

De vraag tijdens de aanloop naar de 10 April verkiezingen is: hoe 'free and fair' zullen ze zijn? De taal die de maoïstenleider uitslaat doet weinig goeds vermoeden. Lezen wij in de Nepalese krant afgelopen zaterdag:

Maoist chairman Prachanda has said that he is totally certain of his party's victory in the Constituent Assembly (CA) election.

Talking to Nepal radio, Prachanda said, "I have seen from east to west (...) that there is a huge wave in favour of our party."

"Only conspiracies can defeat us now," he said, adding that the Maoists will not accept defeat in the election.

"And if people are defeated, they will automatically launch revolt," he said.

Met andere woorden: óf we winnen de verkiezingen, óf we verliezen ze niet want dan beginnen we weer een revolutie.

De Nepali Times schrijft daarop in een hoofdartikel:

The recent escalation of campaign violence was not totally unexpected, but what is worrying is that it seems to be part of a deliberate plan to derail elections two weeks before polling date.

The YCL (Red.: de Young Communist League is de 'jeugdafdeling' van de Maoïsten) attack on ex-Nepali Congress minister Bal Bahadur KC on Wednesday was only the latest in a series of violent attacks on the UML, RPP and RJP (drie politieke partijen in Nepal) rallies all over the country.

"The YCL's intimidation and attacks are much more widespread and serious than it is reported in the media," a UML leader told Nepali Times, "we see that people are beginning to resist."

At the Election Commission (EC), officials are visibly worried about the violence. But the Maoists seem so panicked about possible humiliation at the polls that they don't care what the EC or international observers think about their behaviour.

Naar een oplossing wordt gezocht. Uit de krant van vanmorgen:

In the wake of growing violence during the election rallies of the parties, the Election Commission (EC) officials Monday held consultation with top leaders of the three major parties - Prime Minister and Nepali Congress president Girija Prasad Koirala, CPN (UML) general secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal and Maoist chairman Prachanda.

Sussende woorden zijn het gevolg, door de drie leiders uitgesproken:

During the meeting held at the EC office in Kantipath, the three leaders assured that they would do their bit for creating a fearless environment for the April 10 election.

At the meeting, Prime Minister Koirala acknowledged that the situation was quite fragile and emphasized that all sides should exercise maximum restraint to conduct the polls peacefully. He also said the government was ready to provide all the assistance asked for by the Election Commission.

Similarly, Maoist chairman Prachanda claimed that his party had adopted a policy not to engage in retaliatory actions during the election time. He also complained of provocation by the cadres of rival parties in recent violent clashes, and asked other parties to "realise their mistakes".

De ex-strijders van de maoïsten zitten in kampen ('cantonments') opgesloten. De Verenigde Naties houdt daar toezicht op. Of dat effectief is wordt betwijfeld:

UML general secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal also expressed concern over the movement of the Maoist combatants outside their cantonments. "They should at least be prevented from coming out of the camps on the election day," he said.

Om een idee te geven van de pogingen om de verkiezingen vreedzaam te laten verlopen, worden alleen al in het 'Mid-westen' 18,933 veiligheidstroepen gestationeerd:

The Mid-Western region, which covers some Terai districts and remote districts of Karnali zone has a total of 33 constituencies and 2801 polling centers.

As per the information given by the security agencies, 8098 civil

police, 2976 armed police force and 7859 temporary police will be mobilised in 15 districts of mid western region.

Tibet

Intussen gaan de protesten tegen de Chinese onderdrukking in Tibet ook in Nepal gewoon door.

Over 100 Tibetan exiles were arrested from a demonstration in front of Chinese Embassy's visa office in Kathmandu Monday afternoon, protesting the recent crackdown on 'pro-independence' agitators in Lhasa.

Security had been stepped up in the area after some 200 Tibetans tried to storm the visa office on Sunday.

Berichten zoals hieronder helpen niet direct om de gemoederen tot kalmte te brengen:

Brit spies confirm Dalai Lama's report of staged violence.

By Gordon Thomas (Canada Free Press)

London, March 20 - Britain's GCHQ, the government communications agency that electronically monitors half the world from space, has confirmed the claim by the Dalai Lama that agents of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, the PLA, posing as monks, triggered the riots that have left hundreds of Tibetans dead or injured.

GCHQ analysts believe the decision was deliberately calculated by the Beijing leadership to provide an excuse to stamp out the simmering unrest in the region, which is already attracting unwelcome world attention in the run-up to the Olympic Games this summer.

In Nepal zijn alle klimroutes op de Everest onder druk van China afgesloten, behalve via de 'South Col', die open is boven Kamp 3 na 10 Mei.

Een legertje soldaten zal op de route worden geposteed om er voor te zorgen dat geen klimmers met anti-Chinese bedoelingen naar de top zullen klauteren, op het moment dat de Olympische vlam daar langs komt.

(Bronnen: Kathmandu Post, NepalNews en Nepali Times)

Aanmelden of afzeggen: nieuws@nepal.nl