



## Press Release

December 5, 2024  
Kathmandu.

The Media Lawyers Association has drawn serious attention to the abuse of the Mayor of Dharan Metropolitan City, Hark Sampang, through threatening messages on social media to Himal Khabar Patrika affiliated journalist Gopal Dahal and the President of the Federation of Nepali Journalists, Sunsari, Janak Rishi Rai, regarding the investigative news published by the Center for Investigative Journalism titled "Hark Sampang's arbitrary rule, Dharan in the quagmire of unrest".

We believe that the public abuse and threats made by the Mayor of Dharan Sampang through social media regarding the news titled "Hark Sampang's arbitrary rule, Dharan in the quagmire of chaos" published by the Center for Investigative Journalism are a serious violation of press freedom, contrary to the freedom of thought and expression guaranteed by Article 17(2)(a) of the Constitution of Nepal and the right to information guaranteed by Article 19, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966, to which Nepal is a party.

Even though there is a provision to seek legal remedies for those who are dissatisfied with the published news, such a condemnable act of threats is against press freedom. The Mayor of Dharan's public abuse regarding the subject of the news is an act that goes against the minimum dignity and rule of law. We urge Mayor Sampang to rectify such an act immediately. We also demand that the Government of Nepal create an environment for journalists to report safely.

Note: The Media Lawyers Association is a non-profit organization of legal professionals who provide necessary legal assistance to journalists at legal risk and advocate for freedom of thought and expression. For further contact: Advocate Kishor Poudel, Secretary, Media Lawyers Association. Phone number: +977 9851088791, Email: [info@medialawyers.org](mailto:info@medialawyers.org)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Babu Ram Aryal", is written over a horizontal line.

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President

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