

CONTROVERSIAL NEPALI GURU OF VIOLENCE HEADING TO AMERICA

Ram Bahadur Bomjon (previously known as **Palden Dorje**, currently known as **Maitriya Guru Maha Sambodhi Dharma Sangha**) is widely respected in Nepal and abroad as the **Buddha Boy**. He has a strong group of followers in Nepal and abroad, from many areas, including political personalities and influential businessmen. In contrary to his teachings about non-violence, world-peace and compassion, his own actions and the deeds of his followers are often reported by victims, witnesses and the media as violent and morally inconsistent. Due to the prolonged political crisis in Nepal the situation still does not allow a valid law enforcement (A), thus the extensively controversial behavior of Ram Bahadur Bomjon can go unnoticed and often unrecorded, and the perpetrators are enjoying impunity (B) (C). This situation had been described on The Himalayan Times, asking "Is Buddhaby above the law?"(1).

Due to a proactive "reputation-clearing-campaign" (see below article) announced by a prominent devotee of Maha Sambodhi, in September 2012, a significant amount of controversial articles had disappeared from the Nepali online media, or had been made practically unsearchable on the Internet, as for example the once regularly updated The Himalayan Times articles dealing with the "Buddha Boy".

The Irregular Times

A good source of the history of all controversies about Maha Sambodhi Dharma Sangha, with a relatively open discussion forum are articles on the Irregular Times:Ram Bomjon gone wild (2), The reign of terror continues. (3) Cases "dumped" by the Nepali media and police are still openly discussed here.

The first victim - Anil Khatri

A clear sign about this activity is a copied post (4) by Niranjana Kunwar, with a link to the original article about Bomjon's first known victim of violence, then 22-year old Anil Khatri, where the original text is no longer accessible. According to Ratanpuri locals the shepherd boy had wandered around the meditation site of his former shepherd-friend, Bomjon, whom he surprised when he was playing with his sword (the sword clearly shown on a French Television footage) (5), and Bomjon attacked Anil without warning, causing bleeding wounds on his shoulder area. Realizing the severity of his "play", he requested his brother Dil Bahadur to drive his victim to a medical clinic on his motorbike. The incident happened in 2007. An article (1) of the Himalayan Times is mentioning this

already forgotten sword incident (6). Bomjon's sword was clearly shown on a documentary of the French Television called [Soujet Romain Destans: La retour de la Little Bouddha](#). (6)

The Spanish woman

The second widely known victim of the uncontrolled violent tendencies of Ram Bomjon was a Spanish woman, witnessed by Ratanpuri and Piluwa locals, and whose story had been reported on Nepali television. The story of the Spanish woman, according to Ratanpuri residents and *Jas Bahadur Waiba* from Piluwa, Bomjon's right hand at the time, was that she had been kidnapped and tied in Bomjon's Halkhoriya jungle for a few weeks, held and tortured on "witchcraft charges", and then released in bad condition (skin disease), and let to return home. No news had been told about her afterwards. The devotees of Ram Bomjon considered the "punishment" of the woman an acceptable form of enforcing Dharma.

The 17 battered villagers

Another known controversy of the freshly enlightened Buddha Boy is [the case of 17 Madeshi men](#) (7) (32), who were allegedly attacked by Bomjon because they were mimicking him while he meditated. The men claimed they were picking rare herbs, which are known to be found only in the area of the Halkhoriya jungle. An article on the same topic published by [The Himalayan Times](#) (8), while Sanjib Subedi had retained it [here](#) (9).

The Western foreigner

The next known victim was a foreign boy (his name not published at his request, but his incident with Bomjon is well known for the Nijgadh Police and Bomjon's former local followers), who had been severely attacked by the Buddha Boy in the summer of 2011, his head repeatedly banged to the concrete in front of his "office houses" inside the Halkhoriya jungle (currently demolished by Nepali police). Bomjon stopped the beating only after one of the female witnesses broke in tears seeing this. Then the boy had been held one night locked up in an "office house" in the jungle. The next day he managed to climb out the window and escape. After contacting police, he returned to his country.

The Slovak woman'

The widely known case of Slovak woman had been reported on [Ekantipur](#) (10), on [The Himalayan Times](#) (11) and a [the recorded documentary of Avenue TV \(Tv 24\)](#) (12), in this [Himalayan Times article](#) (13) or on [Globalpost](#) (34).

Maata Ani of Sindhupalchowk

During the time of the Slovak woman a Nepali woman known as Maata Ani (a female recluse, meaning "Mother Nun") had been held captive, and allegedly locked up in a house, for two months. Her condition was similar to the other victims: apparent malnutrition, broken hand, shortly cut hair and a terrorized face. Her interview had been shown on the Nepali Avenue TV (TV 24) in March 2012, in the [first part of the documentary](#) (12)

The Himalayan Times reported the incident [here](#) (14).

Tortures of kidnapped women during the 2012 Maitri Puja

According to the above mentioned media, the torture of the chained Slovak woman and the locked-up Maata had taken place during the **2012 World-Peace Maitri Puja** of Maha Sambodhi Dharma Sangha, just a few minutes from the crowded religious ceremony's venue. While the two women had been tied and regularly beaten, Maha Sambodhi Dharma Sangha was preaching about non-violence, Maitri and compassion to a crowd of thousands of worshipers.

Bomjon's own family members as his victims

When Ram Bahadur Bomjon's family had seen the Avenue TV news (TV 24) on the Nepali Television, showing the two women after the tortures, they became very worried about the safety of the small sister of Ram Bomjon, Ranjita, staying in his compound at the time. His mother Maya Devi and siblings, Ganga, Dil Bahadur, Manomaya, Shyam and Babula had come to request Bomjon that the teenage girl could go away from such an environment. The girl decided to stay, and [Bomjon let his own family members attacked](#) (15), (16) by his followers, a few of them himself thrashing, and locked them up for five days in a house in the jungle, keeping them in bad conditions. The police report filed by them had been reportedly stopped due to the intervention by a Piluwa based sponsor of Maitriya Guru Dharma Sangha.

Attack on journalists

The [Nepali Prime TV](#) (17) had reported the attack of Bomjon's followers against journalists during his Maitri Puja, who had come to film the scene when the Slovak

woman's disappearance in Bomjon's jungle had been reported to them. On the footage it is seen how *Darshan Subba Limbu*, *Tomek Tarnowski (Dorje)* and other people attack the group of journalists, leaving their equipment damaged. The article of [The Himalayan Times](#) (18) details the incident. The Nepali Himalaya TV made a documentary about the incident: [Prime Story - Shanti ki Aatanka](#) (19).

The birth certificate forgery

In 2012 Bomjon had requested his Sangha to arrange a passport for him. But for this he needed to get a Nepali citizenship ID card, in Nepal issued only after providing a valid birth certificate. But as he wanted to use the name *Dharma Sangha* on it, the Sangha had [bribed a VDC officer](#) (20) to issue a *fake* birth certificate in this name. When later they requested Bomjon's mother to provide documents of his real birth certificate, she refused on the basis that he already had one, forged by the VDC. The VDC officer had been questioned by police, yet no charges had been raised.

The 2012 violent clash between followers and police

As a result of the birth certificate controversy, the Sangha of Maitriya Guru had went out to the East-West Highway near his jungle compound, at the village Piluwa, and blocked the main transport-vein of South Nepal for three days, holding banners and shouting slogans, demanding that the Government provides their Guru with an ID card in the "Dharma Sangha" name, as well as a diplomatic (red) passport. After locals became impatient with the road block, an attack started against the pro-Bomjon crowd hitting parked cars with sticks, [ending in mutual violence](#) (21) which needed a final police intervention.

Justification

Practically all attacked victims till March 2012 had been Bomjon's devotees before the attacks on them. Bomjon's reasons for attacking all his victims, as explained in the media (The Himalayan Times, Hindustani Times, etc.), are always the same:

1. The victim had allegedly [disturbed](#) (22) his meditation
2. The victim is [mentally disturbed](#) (23)
3. The victim is a spy
4. The victim is a [witch](#) (24)
5. The victims themselves had [attacked](#) (25) him, and he acted in self-defense.

Bomjon's eviction from Halkhoriya

As a result of the controversial behavior to some individuals, Bomjon had been advised by [Nepali authorities](#) (26) to leave his Halkhoriya Jungle compound in 2012. Later on the [Nepali Police had demolished](#) (27) his concrete buildings, and only the three-floor

"Kajogpa" had remained there. Angry locals had consequently demolished his concrete meditation platform and Stupa, which had covered his underground meditation cellar, where hunters, who became devotees, had deposited their guns in the former years. This cellar had been recently emptied.

The Sarlahi violence

After being evicted, Bomjon had [settled](#) (23) in Nepal's Sindhuli District in 2012. From here he had moved to the Sarlahi District the same year. Here another [violent incident](#) (28) made the headlines, when his follower and relative Ankit Yonjan had used a sword given by Bomjon to solve farmer disputes against 13 local youths, by attacking, them causing injuries.

Reputation clearing campaign

After the amount of controversies had filled the Nepali media with numerous articles, the Official Sangha of Ram Bomjon announced a widespread clear-up of the reputation of their Guru, in Sindhuli, Nepal in 2012, by the decision of its prominent US member, Kishore Sherchand. As a result, a considerable amount of articles published in the Nepali media, as well as critical blogs and Youtube.com videos about the controversial issues about Ram Bahadur Bomjon, had been made deleted, or made unsearchable.

Replacing the formerly critical Himalayan Times, a blog site had been founded by pro-bomjonists, intriguingly using a similar name and color of their header as the formerly most critical The Himalayan Times: [The Himalayan Voice](#) (29).

The alarming consequences

As a recent consequence of the total impunity enjoyed by Ram Bomjon and his attendants, the violent attacks returned to Nepal's Bara District as soon as the Government permitted him to return there in July 2014: as early as on September 2 he already [beats 5 men to blood](#) (30).

The result of the bloodshed? On October 22 he [meets Prime Minister Sushil Koirala](#) (31), who offers him support in staying in Halkhorja as well as traveling the world (he gets passport). He is planning to visit Canada, the USA and Europe soon, and spread his very controversial interpretation of "World-Peace" and "Compassion".

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQ2YyvHf2h0> (Sep 2, 2014 violent attacks by Bomjon)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvurtkr1XgB8NV7NOyjmTBw> (videos showing Bomjon's and his cult members' various controversial actions)

Collection of some controversial videos: www.maitriyaguru.estranky.cz