



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN NEPAL



Press Release – 19 September 2007

OHCHR-Nepal Representative visits sites of violence in Kapilvastu

Richard Bennett, Representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal, on Wednesday morning visited Shivpur and Chandrauta, villages in Kapilvastu hit by the rioting that followed the killing in the district Sunday of a local leader.

“I have come to meet with the victims and see for myself the extent of the damage that has occurred over the past three days, to show support for the victims of the violence and to inquire about their immediate humanitarian needs,” said Mr. Bennett.

OHCHR, along with the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) is in its third day of monitoring the situation in the area. Mr. Bennett appealed to the local population to co-operate with monitors on the ground so that OHCHR can conduct a thorough investigation and report on the events that occurred in the area this week.

“The people I have spoken with today were frustrated at the lack of immediate relief. They also expressed a strong desire to be able to live with security and in freedom. The government must exert its authority to create a secure environment in which there is access to justice. Similarly, local community leadership can play a critical role in fostering a climate of tolerance and reinforcing stability, as has been demonstrated in Butwal by the rallies in favour of harmony,” said Mr. Bennett.

The Representative repeated OHCHR-Nepal’s appeal to the population to abide by curfews, to refrain from violence and, in particular, to respect places of worship. “Further violence will only jeopardize the peace process,” Mr. Bennett said.