



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



Press Release – 29 December 2006

High Commissioner Louise Arbour to visit Nepal

OHCHR-Nepal is pleased to announce that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, will visit Nepal from January 19 to 24, 2007. In her first visit to Nepal since the establishment of her Office here in May 2005, the High Commissioner will emphasise the importance of human rights to the success of the peace process, and highlight how her Office will fulfill its mandate in the important period leading up to the Constituent Assembly election.

OHCHR-Nepal is the largest country office of the High Commissioner, who will hold meetings with the Government, the CPN-Maoist leadership, political parties, human rights defenders and wider civil society during her six-day visit. Reflecting the significance of the monitoring role of OHCHR-Nepal in the districts of Nepal, the High Commissioner will also make at least one visit to a region outside Kathmandu to meet with local communities and to learn directly about their human rights issues.

“The High Commissioner’s visit will come at a very important moment in the peace process, with a likely Security Council resolution on Nepal in the first half of January. Protection and promotion of human rights are central to the success of the peace process. The High Commissioner’s visit will help to bring focus on the question of how all Nepalese actors can work effectively to guarantee respect for human rights, including how to address longstanding issues of discrimination and exclusion,” said Lena Sundh, the Representative of the High Commissioner in Nepal.

The High Commissioner last visited Nepal from January 23 to 26, 2005.