



UNITED NATIONS
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FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN NEPAL



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**Ian Martin visits PSA detainees - appeals to Government
to restore right to liberty**

The Representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ian Martin, visited on Saturday all ten persons detained in Kathmandu under the PSA for the past two months: Nara Hari Acharya, Madhav Kumar Nepal, Krishna Pahadi, Devendra Raj Panday, Ram Chandra Poudel, Gopal Man Shrestha, Dr Mathura Shrestha, Shyam Shrestha, Prem Suwal, Hridayesh Tripathi. An eleventh person, Mahadav Gurung, continues to be detained in Pokhara, where he has been visited by OHCHR officers. Prem Suwal was released on Sunday following a Supreme Court order that his detention was illegal.

Ian Martin said: "I am dismayed that these arbitrary detentions are going into a third month, and appeal again to His Majesty's Government to restore the right to liberty and the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly to these individuals. Following my visits to Brussels, Geneva and New York, I was able to inform the detainees of the deep and widespread concern of the international community regarding the renewed resort to arbitrary political imprisonment in Nepal. In my meetings in these places, I drew attention to the fact that whenever the legality of such detentions has been challenged in a Nepalese court, it has found them to be without justification and therefore unlawful. It is clearly contrary to the rule of law for the State to rely on the fact that individual detentions have not been challenged before a court to persist in arbitrary detention in violation of Nepal's own law and Constitution, as well as of Nepal's binding international human rights obligations, or to make any further use of arbitrary arrest to inhibit peaceful protest."