



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



Press Release - 11 September 2006

**OHCHR-Nepal calls on CPN-Maoist to fulfill commitments
to stop human rights abuses**

OHCHR-Nepal today delivered to the CPN-Maoist a document setting out its major concerns regarding human rights abuses by the CPN-Maoist since its ceasefire declaration of 26 April 2006. The concerns include issues relating to the rights to life (killings and deaths of persons abducted), to liberty and security (abductions), and to physical integrity (ill-treatment and torture), as well as the rights of the child and of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

OHCHR-Nepal discussed the concerns raised in this document in a meeting with CPN-Maoist leaders on 5 September. In this meeting, OHCHR-Nepal welcomed aspects of the directives recently issued by CPN-Maoist to its cadres to halt beatings, abductions and killings, as well as forced “donations”. OHCHR-Nepal stressed that national and regional level CPN-Maoist leaders must monitor and ensure that local CPN-Maoist cadres respect the right of all IDPs to safe, dignified and unconditional return.

“It is essential that the CPN-Maoist leadership ensures strict compliance by its cadres to its commitments throughout the districts. Ordinary Nepali people living in the cities and in the countryside have the right to be free of the threat of intimidation, extortion or physical violence in any form. Children must not be recruited into or involved in armed groups of any kind, including militias, and they must not be intimidated into joining political activities. The rights of people who have been displaced to return to their homes and land without hindrance must be respected,” said David Johnson, Officer-in-Charge of OHCHR-Nepal.

OHCHR-Nepal notes that after it raised a series of killings in the Central Region in June, the pattern of killings in that region ceased. However, despite this, and the general commitments expressed by the CPN-Maoist leadership in the past, serious abuses have continued, and the question of accountability has yet to be addressed in most cases. OHCHR-Nepal is currently investigating five killings attributed to CPN-Maoist cadres in other regions, including that of Mr Santa Bahadur BK of Ishaneshwori in Lamjung District, who died on 7 September reportedly following his abduction.

OHCHR-Nepal welcomes the CPN-Maoist directive which states that action will be taken against those found guilty of beatings, abductions and killings, providing such action is in accordance with international standards. OHCHR-Nepal once again urges the CPN-Maoist to set up an internal mechanism at the national level to oversee internal investigations into alleged abuses by its cadres to ensure that investigations are impartial and complete and that they do not result in further violations. While these would be positive steps towards accountability, such internal investigations cannot substitute for independent investigations and prosecutions in a civilian state court.

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OHCHR-Nepal is firmly of the view that a climate of respect for human rights is needed now, more than ever, in order to allow the peace process to move forward.

“By fulfilling the commitments of its leadership to respect human rights, cadres of the CPN-Maoist can both make an immediate improvement to the human rights situation in Nepal and make an important contribution to building the climate of trust required to go ahead with the peace process. Just as our Office continues to call on State authorities to ensure compliance with their human rights obligations, it is essential that the CPN-Maoist fulfil its human rights commitments,” said David Johnson.