



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



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OHCHR-Nepal seriously concerned at killing of VDC Secretary

OHCHR is seriously concerned at the killing of Village Development Committee (VDC) Secretary Ram Hari Pokharel on 18 July in Govindapur, Siraha District, allegedly by *Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha* (JTMM) – Jwala Singh. He had reportedly been abducted on 15 July along with two others who were subsequently released. Local authorities have been among a number of individuals targeted for abduction in the Central and Eastern Region by armed groups this year. These criminal acts of violence are continuing to have a serious impact on the security and human rights situation in the Terai and must be fully investigated, in accordance with the law, so that those responsible are held accountable for their actions.

In a statement on 16 July, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary - General, Ian Martin made a public plea to all people and groups in Nepal for non-violence, stressing the importance of resolving all issues through dialogue and a democratic process. Tolerance of others, trust and dialogue are essential for the peace process to succeed and result in a society which respects the diversity of Nepalese people and the human rights of all.