



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



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**OHCHR-Nepal Representative discusses human rights with
Chairman Prachanda**

OHCHR-Nepal Representative Richard Bennett on Tuesday met Chairman Prachanda of the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M) to discuss human rights issues following the Constituent Assembly (CA) elections.

The CPN-M leader stressed the Party's commitment to inclusion and working to end longstanding discrimination of women and marginalized communities. Within the framework of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and related agreements, Chairman Prachanda reaffirmed the CPN-M's commitment to the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and a Commission of Inquiry into disappearances. He also welcomed OHCHR's continued assistance vis-à-vis the human rights elements of the peace process.

The CPN-M leader acknowledged the Representative's concerns about violence and intimidation committed by some CPN-M cadres during the elections process and was informed about OHCHR's investigations into the killings of CPN-M cadres in Dang. The Representative also emphasized the issue of judicial accountability for past and ongoing human rights violations.

The Representative noted that the First-Past-the-Post election has resulted in significant improvements in the political representation of marginalized groups and women. "I encourage the CPN-M, and other political parties, to reinforce that trend when they allot seats from their closed lists," said Richard Bennett. "Including members of these communities in the Constituent Assembly that will draft Nepal's constitution is an essential step in combating discrimination."