



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



**Press Release – 21 March 2008**

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**Mass arrests in Kathmandu violate right to freedom from arbitrary detention –  
OHCHR-Nepal**

OHCHR-Nepal is deeply concerned at the arrests and arbitrary detentions of individuals in Kathmandu [in recent days] by the Nepal Police (NP). The individuals were arrested on the grounds that they planned to participate in protests related to incidents in Lhasa, according to conversations with NP personnel.

This action by police violates individuals' rights to freedom from arbitrary detention and freedom of movement. It is also a form of discrimination as the arrests were made on the basis of individuals' appearance. In addition, as outlined in a press release distributed by OHCHR-Nepal on Monday 17 March, the police's actions violate the rights to peaceful assembly and to freedom of expression. All of these rights are guaranteed under international law to which Nepal is a party.

OHCHR is seeking clarification from the Government about the instructions that have been given to police. The Office's human rights officers will continue to monitor events.