



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



Press Release - 22 May 2008

OHCHR-Nepal urges parties to re-commit to human rights during critical phase of peace process

OHCHR-Nepal is extremely concerned about recent killings and other serious human rights violations during this fragile period prior to the swearing-in of the Constituent Assembly. Respect for human rights and accountability for those who commit crimes is essential if impunity in Nepal is not to be perpetuated.

Law enforcement is the duty of the state. OHCHR encourages all concerned parties to cooperate fully with Police investigations into alleged crimes, including the abduction and killing earlier this month of Ram Hari Shrestha, reportedly in a cantonment of the Maoist Army in Chitwan.

OHCHR deplores the Shrestha killing and has received assurances from the leadership of the CPN-M that they will cooperate with all authorized investigations and human rights monitoring in this case.

The Office is monitoring the authorities' response to the killing as well as the CPN-M's human rights obligations under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). OHCHR also urges full cooperation with a commission of inquiry to be set up by the Government.

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