



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



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UN Expert Releases Report on Nepal's Indigenous Peoples

10 August 2009, Geneva/Kathmandu

“The Special Rapporteur is encouraged by the Government’s stated commitment to advance the rights of indigenous peoples of Nepal, comprehensively referred to as Adivasi Janajati, but much remains to be done to transform into reality the Government’s agreement to advancing their rights,” said James Anaya.

Mr. Anaya, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples, visited Nepal 24 November to 2 December 2008 and, in his report, reviews the human rights situation of the Adivasi Janajati, analysing the ongoing process of constitution-making and political transition as it relates to them. The report assesses the implementation of Nepal’s expressed initiatives to secure the rights of the Adivasi Janajati, as reflected in Nepal’s ratification of the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) and its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as in a number of policy and law reforms at the domestic level.

While noting developments by the Government of Nepal, Mr. Anaya highlights a number of ongoing human rights concerns related to a history of discrimination against the Adivasi Janajati. Conscious of the challenges involved in Nepal’s period of transition to democracy, the Special Rapporteur offers several recommendations that may serve to enhance the recognition and protection of the rights of the indigenous peoples in line with the Government’s commitments, and expresses his resolve to support these efforts.

The report (A/HRC/12/34/Add.3) is available on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and will be presented to the 12th session of the Human Rights Council in September.

The Commission on Human Rights decided to appoint in 2001 a Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, as part of the system of thematic special procedures. The Special Rapporteur’s mandate was renewed by the Commission on Human Rights in 2004 and by the Human Rights Council, which replaced the Commission, in 2007.

On 26 March 2008, the Human Rights Council appointed Professor S. James Anaya (United States of America), for an initial period of three years. Professor Anaya is the James J. Lenoir Professor of Human Rights Law and Policy at the University of Arizona (United States).

For additional information on the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, see the website:
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/rapporteur/>