



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



Press Release – 5 February 2009

OHCHR-Nepal calls for swift implementation of Supreme Court ruling on Dhanusha disappearance

OHCHR-Nepal welcomes the Supreme Court's decision in the case of the enforced disappearances of five students in Dhanusha District in October 2003. At a 2 February hearing on writ petitions filed in August 2007, the Supreme Court ordered the Nepal Police to register First Information Reports, and proceed with investigations into the disappearances.

The Nepal Police has previously refused to register FIRs in the cases, which name senior civil, police and military officials, and include details of a possible grave site identified more than two years ago. The Nepal Police has yet to request forensic assistance to conduct exhumations at the site. Both OHCHR and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) have been following the cases closely. In January 2008, the NHRC recommended a full investigation and compensation to the families.

The Supreme Court in Nepal has issued several important decisions relating to human rights investigations, including a ground-breaking June 2007 decision calling on the Government to investigate and prosecute individuals responsible for disappearances, and a September 2007 ruling in the case of the killing of 15-year-old Maina Sunuwar. However, most of the Court's decisions have yet to be implemented and no perpetrators have been brought to justice.

“Recent decisions by the Supreme Court have highlighted the urgent need to address the lack of accountability and to end the culture of impunity in Nepal.”, said Jyoti Sanghera, Deputy Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal. “

“OHCHR encourages the Government to act on its commitment to end impunity by taking immediate steps to implement this and other Supreme Court decisions, so as to ensure that the perpetrators of the Dhanusha disappearances, as well as other serious conflict-related human rights violations, are brought to justice.”.

For further information contact Marty Logan, Tel.: 428 0164 (Ext.321);
98510.16922 (m) or mlogan@ohchr.org, or Chun Gurung, tel: 4280164, ext 320;
9851016937 (m) or cgurung@ohchr.org

