

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



Press Release – 12 January 2009

OHCHR-Nepal condemns killing of woman journalist Uma Singh

OHCHR-Nepal deplores the murder on 11 January of Janakpur-based journalist Uma Singh, who died after she was attacked at her home by men armed with *khukhuris*. No one has yet claimed responsibility. The Office calls on Nepal Police to conduct a prompt and thorough investigation into her death, to identify those responsible and bring them to justice.

Singh was a reporter at Radio Today FM and a member of the Women's Human Rights Defenders Network, Dhanusha.

OHCHR-Nepal also urges Government authorities to swiftly investigate and prosecute death threats and an apparent attempt to attack another woman journalist in Janakpur the same night. Doing so will send a strong message that there will be no impunity for attacks against the media, nor for any serious crimes. OHCHR-Nepal calls on all sectors of Nepali society to respect freedom of opinion and the rights of journalists.

"Occurring amid a growing number of reports of incidents targeting journalists throughout Nepal, this tragedy should galvanise those responsible for protection of media freedom to take the necessary action to ensure the security of journalists," said OHCHR-Nepal Representative Richard Bennett.

