



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



Press release, Monday, 6 July 09

On 6 July OHCHR-Nepal, Representative, Richard Bennett, met with Defence Minister, Bidhya Bhandari, and expressed concern about the recommended promotion of Major General Toran Jung Bahadur Singh to Lieutenant General.

The OHCHR acknowledges and appreciates the important contribution made by the Nepal Army on various UN peace keeping missions which obligate peace keepers to maintain highest standard of human rights compliance.

On 26 May 2006, OHCHR released a report of its investigation into arbitrary detention, torture and disappearance at Maharajgunj Barracks which was under the control of the Bhairabnath Battalion. Singh was reportedly the commander of the 10th Brigade in 2003-2004 during which period, these human rights violations occurred.

In its the conclusion the report stated that “the commander also knew or ought to have known about these actions by the battalions under the command of the 10th Brigade”. The report recommended that “those potentially implicated directly or through command responsibility for units involved should be suspended from any official duties pending the investigation, and should not be proposed for participation in United Nations peacekeeping missions.”

“Given these serious and credible allegations, the Government should investigate General Singh’s involvement before taking a decision on his promotion,” said Richard Bennett.