



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



**Press release, 1 September 2009**

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**OHCHR to begin human rights monitoring by bicycle**

1 September, Kathmandu

The United Nations Human Rights Office in Nepal has purchased six bicycles to facilitate monitoring of the human rights situation in and around Kathmandu. In addition to being eco-friendly, this will provide human rights officers with a high degree of mobility in all conditions, including times when roads are obstructed due to protests, traffic congestion or natural disasters.

The idea to use bicycles came as a result of UN inter-agency earthquake simulation exercise conducted earlier this year. The simulation brought to light for members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) protection cluster<sup>1</sup> the necessity for human rights monitors to be mobile in times of crisis accompanied by a general collapse of infrastructure.

By purchasing these bicycles which will be used by human rights monitors of the Central Field Office in Kathmandu, the Office also hopes to offer an alternative way of transport for staff members allowing closer and more direct contact with the peoples.

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<sup>1</sup> The Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is the key humanitarian coordination mechanism among UN and non-governmental actors and is subdivided in thematic clusters. The protection cluster, in Nepal chaired by OHCHR, aims at ensuring full respect for the rights of those affected by humanitarian crisis in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law.