



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



Press Release

---

**UN concerned about reports of threats and intimidation of journalists**

*26 Aug, Biratnagar,*

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal (OHCHR Nepal) is concerned over continued reports of threats and intimidation faced by journalists in some eastern *terai* districts of Nepal.

Since the beginning of May OHCHR has received at least nine reports of incidents in which journalists in Sunsari were allegedly threatened and intimidated. Over recent months, journalists there and elsewhere have told OHCHR that they increasingly feel insecure.

This situation jeopardizes the right to freedom of expression and the right to liberty and security of journalists, who are at the forefront in defending rights of other peoples. Freedom of expression, is fundamental in a society that respects human rights and is a core element of a democratic society.

OHCHR stresses the importance of the ability of the media to carry out professional journalism in an environment free of threat or intimidation, and of full respect for human rights as guaranteed by national and international human rights law. It is the responsibility of the state authorities to build such an environment, and to protect, as appropriate, journalist's rights and the rights of all Nepalis, and to hold perpetrators of human rights violations accountable.