



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



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UN expresses concern about effects of extended strike

02 May, Kathmandu,

OHCHR deployed sixteen teams around the country to monitor the first day of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)'s indefinite bandh. Although generally calm, there were a number of minor incidents and situations which could have escalated but for interventions by the Nepal Police and UCPN-M cadres. Both protestors and security forces have acted with restraint and avoided actions that might lead to confrontation or violence.

However, OHCHR remains seriously concerned about the impact of an extended strike on communities throughout Nepal. Particularly concerning are reports that UCPN-M-affiliated cadres entered schools in several parts of the country and prevented exams from taking place. OHCHR monitors raised concerns with protest organizers about the large number of children present in demonstrations, some of them actively participating in enforcing the bandh. Local residents also continue to complain about the impact of the bandh and the practice of coercing business owners to make donations in support of the demonstrations.

“For the most part, both the security forces and demonstrators remained cool during today’s rallies and demonstrations. But it is increasingly clear that the current situation cannot hold,” said OHCHR-Representative Richard Bennett. “Nepal’s political leadership on all sides needs to come together to find a peaceful solution to the current stalemate, and avoid an extended strike that will have a negative impact on the ability of all citizens to exercise their rights.”