



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



**Press Release - 2 May, 2010,**  
*(on the occasion of world press freedom day)*

---

**UN Human Rights urges arrest of accused in killing of journalist Birendra Sah**

02 May, Kathmandu,

United Nations Human Rights Office in Nepal (OHCHR-Nepal), on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day (3 May), says it is high time to bring to justice the perpetrators of killings of journalists in Nepal. Its call echoes remarks made by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on 29 April, at an observance of World Press Freedom Day, where referring to the killings of journalists worldwide, he said “I condemn these murders and insist that the perpetrators are brought to justice.”

The Office notes that journalists in Nepal have been working in an environment of threats and insecurity that promotes self-censorship. In the past six months OHCHR-Nepal, has received reports of at least 28 incidents ranging from intimidation to murder affecting journalists, editors and media entrepreneurs. Most incidents have occurred in the Terai region, targeting journalists for reporting wrongdoing or corruption, or simply for not following a particular political line. Despite repeated calls by journalists, human rights organizations, and the international community, the government, although vowing to identify and punish the perpetrators, has yet to make a single arrest in relation to any of the incidents. .

“Bringing to book those responsible for attacking members of the media requires a genuine, determined effort by the authorities, while those sheltering alleged murderers must be prepared to surrender them. At least six media workers have been killed in Nepal since 2007 and justice is vital in all cases. I suggest as a first concrete action that the existing warrants for the arrest of those accused of murdering journalist Birendra Sah in November 2007 be enforced with the full cooperation of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)”, said OHCHR-Nepal Representative Richard Bennett.