

23 August 2011

Protect rights by upholding rule of law: UN

KATHMANDU – Following allegations of attacks and threats against journalists, authorities should redouble their efforts to uphold the rule of law and ensure victims' access to justice, said the United Nations Human Rights Office in Nepal in a statement released today.

The head of UN Human Rights Office in Nepal, Jyoti Sanghera, will visit Biratnagar on 24 and 25 August, to recognize and support efforts by the authorities and civil society to protect and promote human rights.

"The brutal attacks and ongoing threats against journalists in the region and others raise serious questions on enjoyment of freedom of expression and interference with the due process of law," said Jyoti Sanghera. "Everyone should show their full support for the rule of law as criminal cases proceed in response to recent attacks – including to prevent new abuses."

The Office has conducted a number of fact-finding missions and capacity building activities in the region over the last few weeks, and welcomes recent remarks from political leaders of several parties voicing support for the justice system, and allowing it to run its course without outside influence.

Jyoti Sanghera will hold a press conference in Biratnagar on Thursday morning prior to her departure to Kathmandu. Details of the conference are soon to follow.

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