

## **Victims' voices for truth and justice merit a response: UN Human Rights Office**

14 June, 2011

*Kathmandu* – The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal (OHCHR-Nepal) is currently facilitating an interaction between victim's representatives from throughout Nepal and senior public officials and political leaders on victims' concerns in the legislation that will establish two transitional justice mechanisms, a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a Commission of Inquiry on Disappearances. The event, entitled "Voices for Truth and Justice: a High Level Forum on Transitional Justice" is taking place on Wednesday 15 June at Hotel Everest in Kathmandu.

Over a 100 participants have been invited to attend the event, including victims from the five regions, the Attorney General, Constituent Assembly members, lawyers, senior political leaders, as well as representatives of civil society organisations, national human rights institutions, and the diplomatic and international communities. A number of senior political leaders have confirmed their participation, both the Prime Minister and the Chairperson of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoists) are expected to attend.

The event is the culmination of consultations held over the past two months by OHCHR-Nepal in Nepalgunj, Biratnagar and Dhulikhel in which representatives of victims' of gross violations and abuses of human rights shared their concerns on aspects of the two transitional justice bills currently pending before Legislature-Parliament.

"The suggested amendments to the bills come from those very conflict victims of human rights violations and abuses these legislations should be most designed to serve, through their full compliance with international norms and standards" states Jyoti Sanghera, Head of OHCHR-Nepal.