



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



**PRESS RELEASE – 23 December 2005**

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**OHCHR questions “action” against candidates and officials**

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal has written to the leadership of the CPN(M) asking for clarification of their Press Statement issued yesterday which announced that “people’s actions” to be taken from January 26 will include “special action” against candidates and officials engaged in the municipal elections. The Representative of the High Commissioner in Nepal, Mr. Ian Martin, has asked to be informed what forms of action this refers to. Mr. Martin stated that

“If it includes threats to the life or physical integrity of individuals taking no active part in hostilities, or the taking of hostages, such action would be a grave violation of the principles of international humanitarian law and of international human rights standards, and I must ask for a clear undertaking that no such action will be ordered or encouraged.”