



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



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**Statement attributable to Kieran Dwyer
Spokesperson of OHCHR-Nepal
5 December 2006**

"OHCHR-Nepal is very concerned about violent demonstrations which have taken place these past few days in the Kathmandu Valley, in the context of student protests, and the excessive use of force by police in responding to the violence, as witnessed by its monitoring teams.

"Demonstrators have the right to protest peacefully. In recent days our monitoring teams have witnessed stone-throwing and other forms of violence by demonstrators in Kathmandu and Bhaktapur which have resulted in injuries to police and damage to property. We urge all demonstrators and demonstration leaders to ensure that protests are peaceful and do not turn violent.

"At the same time, OHCHR-Nepal calls on police authorities to issue clear directives that police should only use appropriate force. OHCHR-Nepal monitoring teams have witnessed police beating demonstrators repeatedly over the head with *lathis* in a similar manner to the excessive use of force our teams witnessed during the April *Jana Aandalon*. As OHCHR-Nepal stated on a number of occasions during the *Jana Aandalon*, and highlighted in its report on the April protests, such severe beatings on the head are an unacceptable use of force by police which are likely to cause serious injury. We urge police commanders to ensure restraint by all police, and issue instructions that excessive use of force by police will not be tolerated."