



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



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CPN (Maoist) Bomb Attacks in Pokhara

OHCHR-Nepal condemns the bomb attacks, reportedly carried out by CPN (Maoist), in Pokhara on 25 and 27 February which injured at least 12 civilians, and calls on the leadership of the party to desist from further attacks in areas where they are likely to cause the killing or injury of civilians.

OHCHR-Nepal has investigated the two bomb attacks in Pokhara, at Chorepatan on 25 February, and in Pokhara city on 27 February. In each case, OHCHR-Nepal has found that the bombs were left in urban areas known to be frequented by civilians. On 27 February the bomb exploded in a busy shopping area in the city centre in the middle of the day.

International humanitarian law forbids the targeting of civilians and requires that combatants distinguish between military targets and civilians. On either side of the conflict, both the direct perpetrators and those in command of forces who commit violations must be held accountable and may be subject to individual criminal responsibility before a court of law.

The CPN (Maoist) leadership has made commitments to abide by international human rights and humanitarian law. These bombings in Pokhara signal an increase of CPN (Maoist) bombing in urban areas at busy times of the day, without any warning or other measures to avoid civilian casualties.

“OHCHR-Nepal calls on the leadership of CPN (Maoist) to take all necessary measures to protect civilians and to ensure that its cadres respect their obligations under international humanitarian law. Actions such as these bomb attacks are against such laws,” said a spokesperson for OHCHR-Nepal.

OHCHR-Nepal personnel from each of its regional offices, in Pokhara, Nepalgunj, Biratnagar and the Kathmandu Valley, continue to investigate reports of infringements of international humanitarian law by both sides to the conflict since full-scale fighting resumed in January.