



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



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**OHCHR-Nepal calls on CPN-Maoist to stop “law enforcement” activities**

OHCHR-Nepal calls on CPN-Maoist to stop its “law enforcement” activities which have intensified recently especially in the Kathmandu Valley, and which have resulted in serious abuses of human rights. OHCHR-Nepal considers these parallel “law enforcement” activities to be illegal, as well as in violation of international human rights standards to which CPN-Maoist has made repeated commitments. These commitments include the directives issued as a result of the CPN-Maoist Central Committee meeting on 2 September. The directives explicitly state that party cadres shall not conduct abductions, torture and ill-treatment, and that those responsible for such actions will be held accountable.

In a letter dated 31 October to CPN-Maoist leadership, OHCHR-Nepal noted that it had confirmed abductions of 39 individuals in the districts of Bhaktapur, Lalitpur and Kathmandu in October alone. The CPN-Maoist itself publicly declared on 21 October that more than 80 individuals had been taken into captivity, whom they accused of being linked to criminal activities.

CPN-Maoist cadres have held individuals incommunicado in hidden locations – thus increasing their vulnerability to human rights abuses. In September and October, OHCHR-Nepal made visits to eight places where the CPN-Maoist held individuals in captivity in the Kathmandu Valley. These places included several factory buildings occupied by the CPN-Maoist, and the offices of CPN-Maoist sister organisations, including the All Nepal Trade Union Federation (ANTUF) and the All Nepal Transport Workers Union (ANTWU). OHCHR-Nepal has received reports of at least seven other locations in Kathmandu Valley used by CPN-Maoist for the interrogation of individuals.

OHCHR-Nepal has investigated a number of reports of ill-treatment and torture, including severe beatings. OHCHR-Nepal staff have witnessed serious injuries among those held captive by CPN-Maoist, consistent with claims of ill-treatment and torture.

OHCHR-Nepal has also at times been obstructed by CPN-Maoist cadres from gaining immediate access to those in captivity. On several occasions in October, OHCHR-Nepal had to request the intervention of the CPN-Maoist leadership in order to get access to those being held, contrary to the party’s 16 April statement of commitment to human rights and humanitarian principles that “OHCHR shall have the freedom to visit any location without obstruction”. In its letter of 31 October, OHCHR-Nepal welcomed recent assurances from the CPN-Maoist central and regional leadership regarding the party’s policy to give OHCHR-Nepal full access to persons in CPN-Maoist captivity. However it is imperative that such access be given immediately in order for OHCHR-Nepal to be able to fulfill its mandate.

“OHCHR-Nepal calls again on the CPN-Maoist leadership to stop all parallel ‘law enforcement’ activities, and especially incidents of torture and ill-treatment. State authorities have sole responsibility to arrest and detain criminal suspects, and it is essential for the re-establishment of the rule of law that all parties respect this.” said Sandra Beidas, Officer-in-Charge of OHCHR-Nepal.

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