



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



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OHCHR concerned about rising tension in Gaur

OHCHR is concerned once again over rising tension in Gaur, Rautahat District. As both the Madheshi People's Rights Forum (MPRF) and the CPN-Maoists (CPN-M) prepare for protests and programmes in Gaur on Saturday and Sunday respectively, OHCHR wishes to draw the attention of all parties to the need to take all necessary steps to avoid a repetition of the tragic events that led to the killing of 27 CPN-M cadres in Gaur in March 2007.

OHCHR calls on the leadership of both the MPRF and the CPN-M to ensure that their cadres are not armed, that they will carry out their programmes peacefully and that they will not engage in any activity that could provoke violence. Given the risks of violence, protective measures should be taken to ensure that young people under 18 do not participate in the rallies.

OHCHR furthermore calls on the District Administration to ensure that adequate preventive measures have been taken to be able to respond to the security challenges that could arise. A pro-active approach from the District Administration is necessary in order to ensure an environment in which participants can enjoy their right to freedom of assembly without fear.

"Political goals must be achieved through peaceful means and must not be pursued at the expense of the rights of others" said OHCHR-Nepal Representative Richard Bennett. "The leadership of the CPN-M and the MPRF should give public assurances now that their cadres are committed to peaceful assembly. At the same time, it is essential that police carry out full investigations into the March killings so that those responsible are held accountable."