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OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



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OHCHR-Nepal condemns attack at Himal Media

OHCHR-Nepal condemns the attack Sunday against staff at Himal Media publishing house in Kathmandu as an attack against freedom of expression.

Dozens of persons entered the Himal office at mid-day searching for the author of a recently-published article. They then physically assaulted a number of individuals, including Publisher Kunda Dixit and CEO Ashutosh Tiwari.

Human rights officers from OHCHR-Nepal followed up the incident in support of investigators from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

The attack is the latest in a series of assaults against the media in Nepal.

In Janakpur on 20 October, several persons reportedly raided the office of a local newspaper, assaulted staff, and damaged and stole equipment. The incident followed publication of a news article suggesting that the Young Communist League (YCL) was providing protection for prostitution. In another incident, a journalist from a daily newspaper in Nepalgunj informed OHCHR that he had been verbally abused and threatened on 21 October by a local government official of Banke district, following publication of an article that alleged financial irregularities linked to a local construction project.

OHCHR-Nepal encourages the Nepal Police, which investigated Sunday's incident, to complete its investigation as swiftly as possible so charges can be laid. It also urges State authorities to take all steps necessary to ensure that the media has a secure environment in which to do its work.

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