



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



**Press Release – 1 February 2008**

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**Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights visits Kapilvastu to assess responses to September 2007 violence**

UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Kyung-wha Kang and OHCHR-Nepal Representative Richard Bennett visited Kapilvastu on Friday to assess first hand what has been done to address the causes and impact of the violence in Kapilvastu in September 2007. OHCHR had been present in Kapilvastu at the time of the violence and called for urgent Government action to protect the civilian population from further violence, to assist the victims and to ensure that those responsible for the violence were brought to justice.

The murder of Mohit Khan on 16 September triggered five days of violence that affected Kapilvastu, Rupandehi and Dang Districts. The worst violence took place in Kapilvastu, where 14 people were killed, at least nine injured and several thousands displaced. Criminal damage, including to businesses, homes, vehicles and several mosques, was extensive.

OHCHR-Nepal immediately sent human rights officers and maintained a presence in the area through frequent visits. The Office worked closely with UNMIN, the NHRC, national human rights organizations and local administration and police officials, as well as international humanitarian organizations that provided assistance to the victims. OHCHR-Nepal has already met with the Home Minister to discuss its preliminary findings and will present a detailed report to the Home Ministry in the coming days.

OHCHR notes that some important steps have been taken, including investigations by a special commission of inquiry and the appointment of a CDO from the Terai region. There have also been encouraging local initiatives to bring together communities divided by the violence.

Nevertheless, there is a need for further Government action to address underlying causes of the violence, including tensions related to land and social exclusion, impunity for violence related to the decade-long conflict, as well as for more recent violence, and inadequate measures to provide security. Local initiatives to heal divisions between communities also need more support.

“All sectors should work together to find common solutions to grievances in a non-violent way and in the spirit of the peace process” said OHCHR-Nepal Representative Richard Bennett.

## **Biodata of Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Kyung-wha Kang**

Kyung-wha Kang was appointed Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights in September 2006 and took up the position on 15 January 2007. Her appointment is at the level of Assistant Secretary-General.

Before joining the United Nations, Ms. Kang, a national of the Republic of Korea, was Director-General of International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic. She also served as Minister at the Republic of Korea Mission to the United Nations in New York and chaired the Commission on the Status of Women for its forty-eighth session in 2004 and its forty-ninth session in 2005, which marked the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Prior to joining the Foreign Service in 1998, Ms. Kang worked for the National Parliament of the Republic of Korea, assisting the Speaker of the National Assembly on global issues in the fields of human rights, women's advancement and parliamentary diplomacy. During that time, she also served as the spokeswoman of the Korean Women's NGO Committee at the Beijing Conference in 1995. Earlier in her career, she worked for the Korean Broadcasting System, and lectured in universities both in Korea and the United States.