



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



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OHCHR-Nepal welcomes release of PSA detainees

OHCHR-Nepal welcomes the release by the Supreme Court on Monday of three persons, including two Nepali citizens, held in detention since 19 June under the Public Security Act (PSA). The three were accused of carrying out “acts that affect security, peace and order by chanting anti-China slogans in different public places in the capital”, in connection with protests against alleged human rights violations in Tibet.

In a letter to the Government of Nepal in June, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights had expressed her deep concerns about the use of the PSA, which was extensively employed by the King's government prior to April 2006 to arbitrarily arrest and detain protestors and other activists.

OHCHR continues to voice its concerns about the breadth of the preventive detention regime in the PSA and again urges the Government to either significantly amend the Act or to repeal it. Consistent with Nepal's obligations under international law, preventive detention should only be used where necessary for public security reasons and then only when accompanied by appropriate procedural safeguards, including access to courts.

It is also vital that the powers under the PSA not be used to suppress legitimate exercise of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly or for political reasons.