



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



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**OHCHR-Nepal calls on political actors to ensure respect for human rights in
CA elections**

OHCHR-Nepal is urging all political actors to respect the political rights of all others participating in the Constituent Assembly election process. Attacks on political cadres this week in Ramechhap district, in which at least four persons were seriously hurt, a killing in Arghakhanchi District and reported abductions of cadres in Chitwan and Dhankuta are serious impediments to creating an environment conducive to free and fair elections in which the will of the people is expressed.

This environment cannot be created through security measures alone and will require the cooperation of all political actors during the election campaign. The Office calls on political actors to pledge now to avoid all violence and intimidation and to respect all political and civil rights, particularly:

- Right to life;
- Right to participation;
- Freedom of opinion, expression and access to information;
- Right to peaceful assembly and freedom of association;
- Freedom of movement;
- Freedom from intimidation;
- Freedom from discrimination.

A team from OHCHR is currently investigating Wednesday's incident in Ramechhap, while other OHCHR teams across the country continue investigating reports of specific human rights violations and are monitoring observance of the above rights and will continue to do so throughout the election period.

"I have been in contact with the CPN-M leadership, which assured me that they are investigating the incident in Ramechhap. Other incidents, such as that in Arghakhanchi district on 25 February, are being probed. Respect for the unobstructed right to participation free of intimidation or violence will be essential for the success of the CA elections," said Richard Bennett, Representative in Nepal of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.