



## **Joint Statement to the Press**

**16 September 2008**



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### **NHRC and OHCHR urge Government to ensure that the rights of Kapilvastu victims are respected**

On 16 September 2007, four days of violence were sparked by the murder of Kapilvastu resident Moid Khan. The violence spread to nearby districts and led to the death of fourteen people. In addition, there was widespread destruction and looting of property and several thousands of people were displaced, some of whom remain displaced.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) carried out separate investigations into the violence and made their reports public. Both urged the Government to provide the victims with redress and to ensure law and order to restore peace and calm in the area.

The NHRC and OHCHR are concerned that one year after the violence, the findings and recommendations of the judicial commission established by the Government to investigate the violence which submitted its report in January 2008, have still not been made public. No attempt has been made to hold accountable those responsible for the violence, including the killings, and little has been done to repair relations between communities affected, or address the underlying causes in order to prevent a repetition of this violence in an area where there have been repeated, similar, outbreaks.

The new Government has a fresh opportunity to address the causes of the violence in Kapilvastu one year ago and prevent future violence and the suffering that it causes.

The NHRC and OHCHR urge the Government to ensure that the rights of the victims of the violence are respected, and that perpetrators are brought to justice. In order to reduce ongoing tensions between communities affected by the violence, authorities should take the initiatives to coordinate confidence building activities among political parties, civil society organizations and local communities and work together with the victims groups to build trust and confidence among the various communities.

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#### **For further information contact:**

**The National Human Rights Commission, Nepal.**  
Harihar Bhawan, Lalitpur, Nepal. P.O. Box 9182, Kathmandu, Tel: 5010015,  
Fax: 5547973, Email: [nhrc@nhrcnepal.org](mailto:nhrc@nhrcnepal.org), Website: [www.nhrcnepal.org](http://www.nhrcnepal.org),

**OHCHR-Nepal.**  
Media Officer, Tel: 4280164 (Ext.320), Mobile 98510-16937, Email: [cgurung@ohchr.org](mailto:cgurung@ohchr.org),  
Website: [nepal.ohchr.org](http://nepal.ohchr.org)

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**The National Human Rights Commission, Nepal.  
Harihar Bhawan, Lalitpur, Nepal. P.O. Box 9182, Kathmandu, Tel: 5010015,  
Fax: 5547973, Email: [nhrc@nhrcnepal.org](mailto:nhrc@nhrcnepal.org), Website: [www.nhrcnepal.org](http://www.nhrcnepal.org),**

**OHCHR-Nepal.  
Media Officer, Tel: 4280164 (Ext.320), Mobile 98510-16937, Email: [cgurung@ohchr.org](mailto:cgurung@ohchr.org),  
Website: [nepal.ohchr.org](http://nepal.ohchr.org)**