



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



Press Release – 4 December 2009

OHCHR concerned about promotion of suspected killer of journalist Birendra Sah

4 December, Kathmandu

OHCHR-Nepal Representative Richard Bennett expressed his concerns on the reported promotions, condemned by FNJ, of suspects in the killing of journalist Birendra Sah at a meeting with the Chief of Department of International Relations of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (UCPN-M), Mr Krishna Bahadur Mahara today.

Despite repeated calls and concerns expressed by the Office, UCPN-M has reportedly appointed Lal Bahadur Chaudhary and Kundan Phaoujdar, two among four suspects accused of the killing and named in an FIR, to the post of secretariat members of the party's Bara district committee.

"When I have previously raised my concerns about the case of Birendra Sah with UCPN-M leadership, I have been assured that the accused are no longer with the Party. I am shocked to learn that two accused cadres, against whom there are outstanding arrest warrants, have been promoted within the Party. Mr Mahara has informed me that the leadership is enquiring into the matter and I look forward to clarification consistent with the Party's commitment to respect human rights." said Richard Bennett.



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