



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



**Friday, 25 September 2009**

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**OHCHR calls for accountability for Maoist abuses**

25 September, Kathmandu.

A letter released today from OHCHR-Nepal Representative Richard Bennett addressed to UCPN-M Chairperson Pushpa Kamal Dahal calls for immediate action to be taken by the Maoist's leadership to ensure the party's full cooperation with ongoing police investigations into human rights abuses alleged to have been committed by Maoist cadres. The letter, originally sent on 24 July, detailed OHCHR concerns about the lack of progress in investigations into the killings of Ram Hari Shrestha, Birendra Shah and Arjun Lama as well as the deadly June 2005 bus bombing in Madi, Chitwan. These cases are among those for which there is substantial evidence of Maoists responsibility and that OHCHR following closely.

In the letter, OHCHR-Nepal calls upon the UCPN-M to support ongoing police investigations into these cases, and to direct known suspects to surrender to the authorities, including former PLA Third Division Commander Kali Bahadur Kham for his alleged involvement in the killing of Ram Hari Shrestha. In the case of the Madi bus bombing, the letter notes, the UCPN-M has acknowledged responsibility and identified the perpetrators, yet no criminal action has been taken against them. The Nepal Police, for its part, has showed little willingness to pursue these cases citing a lack of cooperation by the UCPN-M as a major obstacle.

“The Chairperson and other senior Maoist leaders have made repeated commitments to OHCHR that they would fully support efforts to hold human rights abusers accountable for their actions. Unfortunately, they have yet to make good on those commitments,” said Richard Bennett. “The Government should direct the Nepal Police to aggressively pursue these cases and the Nepal Police must be given the full cooperation of the UCPN-M. In order to reverse the climate of impunity the practice of protecting and promoting alleged human rights violators, whether they be Nepal Army officers or members of UCPN-M, must end.”

The letter is attached to this press release as an annex.