



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



**Press Release - 29 August, 2010,**  
*(International Day of the Disappeared - 30 August )*

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***Seeking the truth about disappearance lies at the heart of the peace process***

29 August, Kathmandu,

On the International Day of the Disappeared (30 August), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal (OHCHR-Nepal) urges the Government of Nepal to swiftly implement the landmark Supreme Court's decision of 1 June 2007 which has remained pending for more than three years. In June 2007, the Supreme Court ordered the Government to enact a law which would criminalize enforced disappearance in line with the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance; establish a high level commission of inquiry on disappearances in compliance with the international criteria on such commissions of inquiry; require investigations and prosecutions of persons responsible for disappearances; and provide for adequate compensation and relief to the victims and their families.

"This Day reminds me those who, year after year, at home, wait to hear about the fate of their loved ones and continue to suffer until this relief comes" said Anthony Cardon, Officer-In-Charge of OHCHR-Nepal. "Their rights as well as those of the disappeared are fully guaranteed by international human rights law and the respect and protection of these rights should be a priority in any society."

Since 2005, the UN Human Rights Office in Nepal has closely witnessed the painful anguish and anger of conflict victims as well as the consequences for the society of the failure to set up transitional justice mechanisms. The Office continues to believe that clarifying the fate of the victims of enforced disappearances and other human rights and humanitarian law violations lie at the heart of the peace process.

"Today, I recall that in the historic peace deal of November 2006, both parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement agreed that making public the truth about the disappeared and informing their family was a priority. This will be soon four years, " said Anthony Cardon, adding, "Supporting the Government of Nepal in seeking the truth about those women and men who were and remain victims of enforced disappearances is among the priorities of OHCHR-Nepal."

OHCHR further calls on the Government to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance. As of today, eighty three States have signed and nineteen have ratified this Convention.

**For further information contact**

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