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OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN NEPAL  
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**OHCHR Urges Government to Show Commitment to Ending Impunity By  
Enforcing Arrest Warrants in Maina Sunuwar Case**

17 February, Kathmandu - The Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal (OHCHR-Nepal), Richard Bennett, on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the torture and killing of Maina Sunuwar by members of the armed forces called upon the Government to enforce the arrest warrants against the four suspects issued more than two years ago. He urged the Army to cooperate with ongoing judicial proceedings and police investigations, and to comply with requests to turn the remaining suspect in service over to the Nepal Police so that he can be produced before the Kavre District Court.

On 17 February 2004, 15-year-old Maina Sunuwar was tortured and killed on the grounds of the Birendra Peace Operations Training Centre in Panchkal. In September 2007 the Supreme Court ordered that the case must be investigated and brought before the Kavre District Court. In 2008, criminal charges were filed and arrest warrants for four suspects were issued but never executed.

In September 2009, the District Court ordered the Nepalese Army to produce the witness statements it gathered and to suspend Major Niranjan Basnet. The Army failed to comply with the Court order, instead deploying Major Basnet as part of an Army contingent serving with the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). In December 2009 Major Basnet was repatriated. Upon his return, the Army reportedly took him into custody despite Government requests that he be turned over immediately to the police. The other suspects remain at-large. The case has become a rallying point for victims of both parties to the conflict and for the national and international community, calling for accountability for human rights violations.

"For the past six years, OHCHR has been just one voice among many calling for justice in the case of Maina Sunuwar. The Supreme Court and the Kavre District Court have both issued rulings. The Office of the Attorney General has filed charges. Reportedly the Nepal Police, Home Ministry, National Human Rights Commission as well as senior human rights defenders have requested the suspects be brought before the court," said OHCHR-Nepal Representative Richard Bennett. "The Army's non-cooperation with a court order threatens to undermine the independence of the judiciary and sets a negative precedent for all human rights cases, including those involving other groups such as the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) where, in other much publicized cases, the orders of legal authorities are being defied".