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OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN NEPAL



Press Release – 2 March 2010

OHCHR-Nepal deplores the killing of media group chairperson Arun Singhania

2 March 2010, Kathmandu

OHCHR-Nepal is deeply concerned to learn of the killing of Arun Singhania, chairperson of the Janakpur Today Media Group, who was shot dead on 1 March 2010 in Janakpur. This comes a year after the killing of Uma Singh, a woman journalist who worked with the same media group, and only one month after the murder of Kathmandu-based media entrepreneur Jamim Shah.

Threats and violence directed at the media can jeopardise the right to freedom of expression. Journalists must be able to carry out professional journalism in a safe environment with full respect for their human rights. The perpetrators of these crimes must be held fully accountable and the state must provide the necessary security - and intervene as appropriate - for all journalists under threat.

“OHCHR deplores the killing of the publisher Arun Singhania”, said Andrew Palmer, Officer-in-Charge of OHCHR-Nepal. “The protection of journalists is of paramount importance in a democratic society and both state and non-state actors must show full respect for press freedom and support a free and independent media.”