



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



**5 August 2010**

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**Richard Bennett bids farewell and  
discusses human rights with the Prime Minister**

05 August 2010, Kathmandu

Richard Bennett, the Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal met with Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal today to bid farewell before departing at the end of his assignment. He was accompanied by his Deputy Jyoti Sanghera.

Richard Bennett noted the linkage between the peace process and the human rights situation. He appreciated the initiative of the Prime Minister and his Office to combat gender violence and his receptiveness towards the Durban Review Conference Follow-up Committee representing marginalized communities including women, Dalits, Madhesis, people with disabilities, and sexual and religious minorities and he expressed the view that “the way in which the most marginalized groups in a given society are treated is a measure of that society”.

At the same time Bennett also voiced his deep concerns over the lack of progress on issues of accountability and the continuing impunity in Nepal. He encouraged determined efforts to move forward on emblematic cases involving both the UCPN-Maoist party and the State as well as to set up the transitional justice mechanisms in accordance with international standards. The Prime Minister recognized these concerns and acknowledged and appreciated OHCHR’s role in Nepal.

During the meeting, Bennett briefed the Prime Minister on the timeline for the closure of OHCHR’s field offices, and on plans to continue OHCHR’s programmes from Kathmandu.

The outgoing Representative also informed the Prime Minister that Jyoti Sanghera will take up the position of the Acting Head of OHCHR-Nepal after his departure until the arrival of a new Representative.