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Nepal: New Government Should Strive to Prevent Human Rights Violations

Following Thursday's resignation of the government of Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, Amnesty International is calling on whoever comes to power in Nepal to take prompt and effective measures to prevent human rights violations continuing in the context of the Maoist "people's war".

Today, the human rights organization is publishing a report, *Nepal: Human rights violations in the context of a Maoist "people's war"*. The report resulted from a visit by an Amnesty International delegation to the country in late 1996.

"Since our visit, we have continued to receive reports of killings by police in disputed circumstances during so-called "encounters" between police and armed Maoist activists," Amnesty International said

"We are increasingly concerned by evidence that police may have used lethal force in situations where such force was clearly unjustified, or was used as an alternative to arrest."

Deliberate and arbitrary killings of civilians by Maoist armed activists have also continued to be reported. Amnesty International is repeating its call to the leadership of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) to give clear orders to their members prohibiting such killings.

Amnesty International is also calling on whoever comes to power to ensure those responsible for human rights violations are promptly brought to justice.

"This serious deterioration in the human rights situation in the country needs urgent attention. Nepal is a party to several international human rights treaties and it is imperative that its leadership lives up to the state's obligations to its people and the international community," Amnesty International said.

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