

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 31/07/93

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This is a limited action. Please send up to 10 appeals per section.

Further information on EXTRA 63/93 (ASA 31/04/93, 29 June 1993) - and follow-ups: ASA 31/05/93 of 30 June 1993 and ASA 31/06/93 of 6 July 1993

- Possible extra-judicial killings/Mass arrests/Fear of torture

NEPAL:Rita Silpakar (female), 24
Raja Ram Shakya, 30
Krishna Narayan Manandhar, 28
Mahesh Manandhar, 25
Rajesh Bajracharya
Ram Prasad Sapkota, 31
Ashim Rai, 19
Sudama Thapa, 21
Sagar Ratna
Bharat Tuladhar
Mohit Krishna Baiju, 13
Manoj Gautam, 17
Suresh Basakoti, 18
Ashok Ratna Karmacharya
Ram Maharjan
Rabindra Shrestha

and new names:

Moti Neupane
Kaushalya Rana (female), 25
Nara Bahadur Nepali
Purna Pariyar, 34

Amnesty International is concerned that four more people have been killed by police and at least 50 injured, including 14 policemen, during clashes between police and demonstrators. The incidents took place during a nationwide transport strike called by the main opposition party, the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist and Leninist CPN-UML), on 19 July 1993.

According to reports, when crowds of protestors in Jhapa, Chitwan, Rupendehi, Pala and Nawalparasi districts tried to obstruct roads to prevent vehicles passing, the police resorted to baton charges and firing blanks into the air to disperse the crowd. When the situation could not be brought under control the police opened fire, resulting in the deaths of the four people named above. The government has also stated that one person was killed in Damak, Jhapa district when police opened fire and that 400 people were arrested.

Amnesty International is also concerned at reports of mass arrests, including 16 members of Parliament who were released later in the day. Police reports have stated that 400 people

were arrested during the strike, but unofficial sources put the number of arrests nationwide at 4,500. Amnesty International is also extremely concerned at reports that two members of parliament, Mr Jagrit Bhetwal and Mr Amik Shrechan, as well as Mr D P Kandel, Chairman of the Rupendehi District Committee of the Forum for the Protection of Human Rights (FOPHUR) were severely beaten by police on arrest. Mr Amik Shrechan was later admitted to hospital for treatment. The organization fears that many of those arrested may have been ill-treated or tortured in police custody.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A strike called by the CPN-UML on 25 June, calling for a further inquiry into the death of party leader Madan Bhandari in May, led to demonstrations and clashes with police, resulting in the deaths of 16 people and mass arrests. Although the government of Prime Minister G P Koirala agreed to institute a further investigation, the CPN-UML and other left wing parties, angered by the police killings, have shifted their protests to demands for the Prime Minister's resignation.

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During initial demonstrations between 25 and 28 June at least 1200 people were arrested, some of whom, it was reported, were severely beaten by police during interrogation. Although most of those arrested were later released, it is believed that at least 150 people remain in detention charged under the Public Security Act.

The government has ignored a proposal by four members of the Foreign and Human Rights Committee of the House of Representatives to send a team to inquire into the condition of those still detained.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or your own language:

- expressing grave concern at reports that four more people have been killed by police during a nationwide transport strike on 19 July and asking the government to establish an independent and impartial inquiry into these killings and the killings of 16 other people in demonstrations in Kathmandu and neighbouring towns between 25 and 28 June;
- urging the government to ensure that police are clearly instructed not to use lethal force other than in strictly limited circumstances, as set out in the UN's Basis Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials;
- expressing concern at reports of the arbitrary arrests of thousands of people were arrested throughout the country on 19 July and requesting the government to release those detained immediately and unconditionally if they are not to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence;
- urging that all reports of ill-treatment or torture of detainees be investigated and those found responsible brought to justice;
- requesting that those detained be treated humanely and given access immediately to a lawyer, doctor and their relatives.

APPEALS TO:

1) Prime Minister:

Girija Prasad Koirala

Cabinet Secretariat

Singha Durbar

Kathmandu, Nepal

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Koirala, Kathmandu, Nepal

Faxes: + 977 1 228555

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

2) Minister of Home Affairs:

Sher Bahadur Deupa

Minister of Home Affairs

Singha Durbar

Kathmandu, Nepal

Telegrams: Minister Home Affairs, Deupa, Kathmandu, Nepal

Faxes: + 977 1 416016 (Care of Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Telexes: 2224 (Care of Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Dear Minister

3) Minister of Law and Justice:

Maheshwor Prasad Singh

Minister of Law & Justice

Ministry of General Administration

Singha Durbar

Kathmandu, Nepal

Telegrams: Minister Law and Justice Singh, Kathmandu, Nepal

Faxes: + 977 1 416016 (Care of Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Telexes: 2224 (Care of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.)

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

to diplomatic representatives of Nepal accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 17 August 1993.