

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 346/93 Unacknowledged detention/Fear of "disappearance" 30 September 1993

NEPAL: Pravakar Subedi, aged 20 - student

Amnesty International is deeply concerned for the safety of Pravakar Subedi who left his residence at the Engineering College Hostel in Kathmandu on 25 June 1993 and did not return. It is feared that he may have "disappeared" or be held in unacknowledged detention.

Relatives believe that the man depicted being carried away bleeding by policemen in the above photo is Pravakar. The photo was published in a national Nepali magazine, Surya. They lodged an appeal at the office of the Deputy Superintendent of Police at Hanuman Dhoka, Kathmandu, and contacted all police stations in Kathmandu Valley to try and establish the whereabouts of Pravakar Subedi, but were told by police officials that there was no record of his arrest and detention.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Between 25 June and 20 July at least 20 people were reportedly shot dead by police in possible extrajudicial executions and several hundred arrested during nationwide strikes and demonstrations called by the main opposition party, the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist-Leninist), (CPN-UML), in alliance with other opposition parties. The alliance had announced a variety of demands for the government to fulfil, including the setting up of a further commission of investigation to probe further into the jeep accident at Dasdhunga in which two senior members of the CPN-UML were killed. In August a settlement was reached when the government agreed to implement nine of the demands made by the opposition.

In September it was reported that the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs and Human Rights Committee had decided to constitute five teams to investigate the current human rights situation in Nepal. However, there has been no announcement to Amnesty International's knowledge of a full, independent investigation into the possible extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and torture in June and July, or any official action to bring those responsible to justice.

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

- urging the government to clarify whether Pravakar Subedi is in custody and if so, to make public his place of detention and the details of any charges against him;
- requesting the government to identify the person depicted in the photo if the person pictured is not Pravakar Subedi and to make public their findings;
- requesting that if Pravakar Subedi is found to be in detention, he be treated

humanely and given access immediately to a lawyer, doctor and his relatives;
- requesting that he be immediately and unconditionally released if he is not to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence.

APPEALS TO:

1) Prime Minister:

Girija Prasad Koirala

Cabinet Secretariat

Singha Durbar

Kathmandu, Nepal

Telegrams: Prime Minister Koirala, Kathmandu, Nepal

Faxes: + 977 1 227 286

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

2) Minister of Home Affairs

Sher Bahadur Deupa

Ministry of Home Affairs

Singha Durbar

Kathmandu, Nepal

Telegrams: Minister Home Affairs Deupa, Kathmandu, Nepal

Faxes: + 977 1 227 187

Telexes: 2224 (Care of Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Dear Minister

3) Minister of Law & Justice:

Maheshwor Prasad Singh

Minister of Law & Justice

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

4) Inspector General of Police

Motilal Bohara

Police Headquarters

Kathmandu

Nepal

Telegrams: Inspector General of Police Bohara, Kathmandu, Nepal

Faxes: + 977-1-415 594

Salutation: Dear Inspector General of Police

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO: diplomatic representatives of Nepal accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat of your section office, if sending appeals after 11 November 1993.