

**NEPAL**Bishnu Prasad Gyanwali (m)  
**And nine other people (names unknown)**

---

Bishnu Prasad Gyanwali was arrested from his shop at around 8.00am on 15 July 2002. The authorities have acknowledged his arrest but they have not disclosed where he is being detained. There is grave concern for his safety and that of nine other persons detained with him. There are reports that they have been severely tortured while in detention.

Bishnu Prasad Gyanwali runs a general store in Dipo Bazaar, Fulbari Village, Kailali District. On the morning of his arrest, an army unit on patrol entered the bazaar and rounded up a group of the residents. The army accused the residents of supplying the armed political group Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) (Maoist) with food and shelter, and allowing them to hang up anti-government banners in the bazaar.

After this meeting, the army patrol came to Bishnu Prasad Gyanwali's shop and claimed that he was supplying some of his stock to the CPN (Maoist). After some argument, Bishnu Prasad Gyanwali was arrested and taken away in an army vehicle. Reports say that nine detainees were in the vehicle when it left the bazaar at around 8.45am.

It is thought that all of the detainees were taken to the Goraknath Army Cantonment in Dhangadi, although this has not been confirmed by the authorities. Local sources have reported that Bishnu Prasad Gyanwali and the others detained with him have been severely tortured. Bishnu's wife went to enquire in Dhangadi about her husband's whereabouts where she met the Superintendent of Police in charge of CPN (Maoist) related arrests and detentions. He acknowledged that Bishnu Prasad Gyanwali had been detained but did not give any details of his location or of his condition.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amnesty International has been concerned about a deterioration in the human rights situation in Nepal since the CPN (Maoist) declared a "people's war" in early 1996. This concern has heightened after the army was called out and the state of emergency imposed in late November 2001. Since then, the number of reports of alleged unlawful killings, "disappearances", torture and arbitrary arrests and detention by the security forces have increased dramatically. The authorities have so far failed to provide strict instructions to the security forces to uphold human rights or to take appropriate actions against those responsible for reported abuses. Amnesty International has also documented many grave human rights abuses by the CPN (Maoist).

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:**

- expressing concern about the safety and health of Bishnu Prasad Gyanwali and nine other people who were arrested by an army patrol in Kailali District on 15 July 2002;
- expressing concern about reports that they have been tortured while in custody;
- expressing concern that no one has been given access to Bishnu Prasad Gyanwali since 15 July;
- urging the authorities to make public his whereabouts and that of the other nine people detained with him;

-urging the authorities to ensure that they are not tortured or ill-treated in custody;

- calling upon the authorities to allow them immediate, regular access to their relatives, lawyers and any medical attention they may need;

- urging that they be released immediately and unconditionally unless they are to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence.

**APPEALS TO:**

Rt Hon Sher Bahadur Deuba  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Singha Durbar  
Kathmandu, Nepal

**Telegram: Prime Minister, Kathmandu, Nepal**

**Fax: + 977 1 227 286 (It may be difficult to get through but please keep trying)**

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

Hon Khum Bahadur Khadka  
Home Affairs Minister  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Singha Durbar  
Kathmandu, Nepal

**Telegram: Home Affairs Minister, Kathmandu, Nepal**

**Fax: + 977 1 241 942**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

General Prajwal Shamsheer Rana JBR  
Chief of Army Staff (COAS)  
Kathmandu  
Nepal

**Telegram: Commander-in-Chief, Kathmandu, Nepal**

**Fax: + 977 1 242 168**

**Salutation: Dear Commander-in-Chief**

Madan Prasad Aryal  
Defence Secretary  
Ministry of Defence  
Singha Durbar  
Kathmandu, Nepal

**Telegram: Defence Secretary, Kathmandu, Nepal**

**Fax: + 977 1 228 204**

**Salutation: Dear Defence Secretary**

Mr Pradeep Shamsheer J B Rana  
Inspector General of Police  
Police Headquarters  
GPO Box 407  
Naxal  
Kathmandu, Nepal

**Telegram: Inspector General of Police, Kathmandu, Nepal**

**Fax: + 977 1 415 593/415 594**

**Salutation: Dear Inspector General**

**COPIES 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 18 September 2002.