

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 31/003/2002

4 January 2002

Further information on UA 304/01 (ASA 31/012/2001, 29 November 2001) - Fear for safety/fear of "disappearance"

NEPAL Om Sharma (m), Editor, *Janadisha Daily*
 Deepak Mainali (m), Computer Operator, *Janadisha Daily*
 Govinda Acharya (m), Editor, *Janadesh Weekly*
 Khil Bahadur Bhandari (m), Executive Editor, *Janadesh Weekly*
 Deepak Sapkota (m), Reporter, *Janadesh Weekly*
 Ram Bhakta Maharjan (m), Computer operator, *Janadesh Weekly*
 Ishwor Chandra Gyawali (m), Executive Editor, *Dishabodh Monthly*
 Manarishi Dhital (m), *Dishabodh Monthly*
 Nim Bahadur Budhathoki (m), Computer Operator, *Dishabodh Monthly*

Amnesty International has been informed that the above named editors, journalists and computer operators, who were arrested from their offices in the capital on 26 November 2001 and whose whereabouts were unknown for at least one month, have been transferred to Bhadracol Jail in Kathmandu. Their relatives are reported to have been given access to them on a regular basis.

The nine were reportedly arrested under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention and Control) Ordinance 2001 (TADO), on suspicion of being members or sympathizers of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) (Maoist). It is reported that they have not so far been brought before a court and no *habeas corpus* petition (order requiring a detainee to be brought before a judge or into court) has been filed on their behalf.

No further action is required from the network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.