

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 31/04/93

Distr: UA/SC

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

EXTRA 63/93

29 June 1993

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

NEPAL:

**Prem Parajuli
Rita Silpakar (female), 24
Raja Ram Shakya, 30
Krishna Manandhar, 35
Mahesh Manandhar
Rajesh Bajracharya
Ram Prasad Sapkota**

**Ashim Rai
Sudama Sapkota
Sagar Tuladhar
Bharat Tuladhar
Mohit Krishna Bainjn
Manoj Gautam Sapkota**

Amnesty International is concerned at reports that at least 12 people have been killed by police and at least 50 injured, during demonstrations, following a strike, which took place in Kathmandu and neighbouring towns between 25 and 28 June 1993. Amnesty International is further concerned at reports of large numbers of arrests, including that of Prem Parajuli, a human rights activist. Reportedly, those arrested have been both ill-treated and tortured during interrogation. The government has stated that seven people were shot dead in Kathmandu Valley when police opened fire on demonstrations which had turned violent, and 300 people were arrested. Unofficial sources say that nine people were shot dead in Kathmandu and three in the neighbouring town of Patan and that many more than 300 people were arrested. One of those killed in Patan was Rita Silpakar, a 24-year-old housewife, who had not been participating in the demonstration but had been watching from the window of her house nearby. With the exception of Prem Parajuli, all those named above are also known to have been killed.

Prem Parajuli, a member of staff of the human rights organization, Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), went to observe what was happening at the demonstration on 25 June when the police intervened and was arrested. It has been unofficially reported that he is being held at a detention centre at the Mahendra Police Club. It has been reported that many of the 300 people who were arrested have now been released after questioning. However, unofficial sources say that 134 remain in detention and that they have been ill-treated and tortured by police during interrogation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A strike had been organized by the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist and Leninist) (CPN-UML), the country's main opposition party, to urge the government of Nepal to form a Commission of Investigation headed by the sitting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Nepal, to investigate a jeep accident on 16 May 1993 which resulted in the deaths of Madan Bhandari, General Secretary of the CPN-UML and Jeev Raj Ashrit, a member of the party's

Standing Committee. Although the government had formed a one-man commission to investigate the accident and had produced a report, the CPN was not satisfied with the findings and requested the government to institute a further commission of investigation, because it believes Madan Bhandari may have been the victim of a political killing.

The left-wing opposition parties have combined in calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and pledged to continue their campaign of mass protests.

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

- expressing grave concern that at least 12 people have reportedly been killed in demonstrations in the Kathmandu Valley, asking for the government to institute an independent commission of inquiry to investigate the killings, and urging the authorities to exercise utmost restraint in the face of any further demonstrations;
- expressing concern that at least 300 people are believed to have been arrested and urging that those detained be either released immediately and unconditionally or charged and tried promptly under ordinary criminal law;
- requesting the government immediately to release Prem Parajuli, a human rights activist who was arrested when he went to the scene of the demonstration on 25 June at 6pm to collect information;
- urging that those detained be treated humanely and given access immediately to a lawyer, doctor and their relatives;
- urging that any reports of ill-treatment or torture of detainees be investigated and those responsible brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1) Prime Minister:

Girija Prasad Koirala
Prime Minister
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. Please write, "Please forward to Minister of Home Affairs".)

Telexes: 2224 (Care of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Please write, "Please forward to Ministry of Home 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. Please write, "Please forward to Minister of Law and Justice".)

Telexes: 2224 (Care of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Please write, "Please forward to Minister of Law and Justice".)

Salutations: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

The Co-ordinator

INSEC

GPO Box 2726

Kathmandu, Nepal

and 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 16 July 1993.