

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 31/029/2002

9 April 2002

**Further information on UA 78/02 (ASA 31/020/2002, 13 March 2002) - Torture/fear for safety**

**NEPAL** Saligram Sapkota (m), lawyer

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Saligram Sapkota is feared to have "disappeared" in army custody. He had been held at the Chisapani Military Camp since his arrest on 12 March. Relatives who tried to visit him there on 22 March were told that "Mr Sapkota is not in our custody".

Relatives did manage to see Saligram Sapkota on the day of his arrest, at the Chisapani Army Barracks in Nepalgunj, Banke district. They believed he had been tortured, since he had bruises on his face and body. Army personnel had reportedly accused him of "indirectly supporting the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) (Maoist).

Saligram Sapkota is President of the district Appeal Court Bar Association. The Nepal Bar Association has appealed to the Prime Minister for information, but received no response. Two representatives of the Bar Association tried to visit him at the Chisapani Military Camp, but were told by officers there that they would not be allowed to see him.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Saligram Sapkota, who was arrested by soldiers in Nepalgunj on 12 March, and whose whereabouts are now unknown;
- urging the authorities to make public where he is detained;
- expressing concern that Saligram Sapkota was reportedly tortured while in army custody at the Chisapani Army Barracks in Nepalgunj;
- asking the authorities to ensure that he is not subjected to further ill-treatment or torture;
- urging that those responsible for torturing him are brought to justice and that he receives compensation;
- urging that he be released immediately and unconditionally, unless he is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- calling on the authorities to allow him access to his relatives and lawyers, and any medical attention he may need.

**APPEALS TO:**

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

**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Kathmandu, Nepal**

**Fax: + 977 1 227 286**

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

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

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

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**Fax: + 977 1 242 168**

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

Padam Kumar Acharya  
Secretary  
Ministry of Defence  
Singha Durbar  
Kathmandu  
Nepal

**Telegrams:Defence Secretary, Kathmandu, Nepal**

**Fax: + 977 1 228 204**

**Salutation:Dear Secretary**

**(Please note that it may be very difficult to get through to these fax numbers, but please keep trying. If need be contact the international operator and ask for a fax line, before sending the fax)**

**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 21 May 2002.