

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 31/046/2003

13 October 2003

Further Information on UA 279/03 (ASA 31/038/2003, 26 September 2003) Fear for safety/possible "disappearance"

NEPAL  
Campus Unit

Lokendra Dhvaj Khand (m), President of student union at Nepal Law

Nirmala Bhandari (f), aged 20, student

Released:

Ujjwal Sukla (m), aged 27, lawyer

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Amnesty International has learned that Ujjwal Sukla was released from detention at 9.30pm on 28 September. He had been arrested on 23 September by nine members of the security forces, two of whom wore masks.

Ujjwal Sukla was reportedly detained by the Royal Nepalese Army (RNA). He said that he was unable to identify the location where he was held as he was kept blindfolded for much of his detention. Army personnel allegedly interrogated him to find out if he was connected to the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) (Maoist), which Ujjwal Sukla continually denied. On 28 September, army personnel reportedly claimed that Ujjwal Sukla was "innocent" and drove him back to his residence in Kathmandu.

There is no further information on the whereabouts of either Lokendra Dhvaj Khand or Nirmala Bhandari.

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

- welcoming the release of Ujjwal Sukla;
- expressing concern for the safety of Lokendra Dhvaj Khand and Nirmala Bhandari who were reportedly arrested by plain clothes security forces personnel in Kathmandu on 27 August and 15 September respectively;
- urging the authorities to make public their whereabouts, grant them immediate access to their relatives, lawyers and any medical attention they may require;
- calling upon the authorities to guarantee that they are not subjected to torture or ill-treatment while in custody;
- calling for their immediate and unconditional release, unless they are to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence.

**APPEALS TO:**

General Pyar Jung Thapa  
Chief of Army Staff (COAS)  
Army Headquarters  
Kathmandu, Nepal

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

**Fax: + 977 1 4 242 168**

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

Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa  
Prime Minister's Office  
Singha Durbar  
Kathmandu, Nepal

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

**Fax: + 977 1 4 227 286 (fax may be switched off outside office hours, 5 ½ hours ahead of GMT)**

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

Brigadier General B A K Sharma

Head, Army Human Rights Cell

Army Headquarters

Kathmandu, Nepal

**Telegram: Brigadier General, Kathmandu, Nepal**

**Fax: + 977 1 4 226 292 / 229 451**

**Salutation: Dear Brigadier General**

Shyam Bhakta Thapa

Inspector General of Police

Police Headquarters

Naxal

Kathmandu, Nepal

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

**Fax: + 977 1 4 415 593 / 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 24 November 2003.