

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: ASA 31/148/2004**

**23 July 2004**

**Further Information on UA 205/04 (ASA 31/137/2004, 22 June 2004) - Fear of Safety/Fear of Torture**

**NEPAL**

**Prakash Pun (m), age 17  
Prasanta Tharu (m), age 18  
Tilak Ram Chaudhary (m), age 30  
Tika Ram Giri (m), age 41  
Mani Ram Chaudhary (m), age 21  
Sher Bahadur Oli (m), age 28  
Deshu Ram Tharu (m), age 25**

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Amnesty International has learned that the seven men named above have now returned to their homes. They had reportedly been harassed by security forces personnel who threatened to rearrest them, forcing them to seek refuge in the offices of a local human rights organization for two days.

The men were reportedly arrested between October 2003 and February 2004 by army personnel and allegedly tortured. The Appellate Court in Nepalgunj, Banke district, found on 20 June that all seven men were detained illegally and ordered their release. The next day, upon their release, they were reportedly followed by security forces personnel in civilian clothes. They and members of their families went to the local office of human rights organization, Advocacy Forum, in Nepalgunj for their safety.

Security forces then surrounded the office and reportedly threatened to rearrest the men. They remained inside the office until the evening of 23 June when they were given assurances that they would not be rearrested.

**No more action is required from the network. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.**