

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 31/186/2004

30 November 2004

UA 327/04      Incommunicado detention/ fear of "disappearance"

NEPAL          Kedar Pudasaini (m), aged 48  
"Ram" (m)

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Kedar Pudasaini (also known as "Hari"), and another man known as "Ram", were arrested by the security forces on 29 November in Thansing Village Development Committee (VDC), Nuwakot district near Kathmandu. Their whereabouts are now unknown, and this puts them at greater risk of being tortured or killed.

Kedar Pudasaini, who lives in Kumari VDC ward no. 7, Nuwakot district, was arrested at 10am. "Ram" was arrested some time the same day. The security forces announced publicly that both men had been arrested and that they were members of the outlawed Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) (Maoist) some time before 4pm that day. Amnesty International has been told that Kedar Pudasaini is involved with the Nuwakot district committee of the CPN (Maoist).

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Since the CPN (Maoist) declared a "people's war" in February 1996 Nepal has been in the grip of a nationwide conflict and human rights crisis. Human rights abuses by both the security forces and the CPN (Maoist) have escalated since a seven-month ceasefire broke down in August 2003.

In both 2002 and 2003, Nepal recorded the highest number of "disappearances" of any country in the world. People detained by the security forces are often held in army barracks with no access to their families, lawyers or medical treatment. They also face a high risk of torture, including beatings, and are sometimes held in solitary confinement or kept blindfolded for the entire time they are in custody. The CPN (Maoist) are also reported to have abducted hundreds of people, including large numbers of teachers and schoolchildren, for the purpose of "political education".

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Kedar Pudasaini and another man known as "Ram" who were reportedly arrested by the security forces on 29 November in Thansing VDC, Nuwakot district;
- calling on the authorities to make the men's whereabouts public;
- urging that both men be treated humanely while in custody and not tortured or ill-treated;
- calling on the authorities to grant them immediate access to their relatives, lawyers and any medical attention they may require;
- calling for both men to be released immediately and unconditionally, unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

**APPEALS TO:**

Head of Royal Nepal Army Human Rights Cell  
Lieutenant Colonel Raju Nepali  
Royal Nepalese Army Headquarters  
Singha Durbar  
Kathmandu, Nepal

**Fax:** + 977 1 4 226 292 / 245 020 (If someone answers the telephone please ask them in English to switch on the fax machine, and resend the fax).

**Salutation:** Dear Lieutenant Colonel

Chief District Officer, Nuwakot district  
Ganesh Prasad Dhakal  
Office of the Chief District Officer,  
Nuwakot District, Nepal

**Salutation:** Dear Chief District Officer

**COPIES TO:**

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba  
Prime Minister's Office  
Singha Durbar  
Kathmandu, Nepal

**Fax:** + 977 1 4 227 286

**Salutation:** Dear Prime Minister

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 11 January 2005.