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Lt. Colonel Raju Nepali
Head, Royal Nepal Army Human Rights Cell
Army Headquarters
Singha Durbar
Kathmandu
Nepal

16 July 2004

Dear Lt. Colonel,

Open letter on “disappearances”

I am writing to express Amnesty International’s concern about the reported arrests and subsequent “disappearances” of Hari Sharan Maharjan and Ravi Karki on 2 and 8 July 2004 respectively.

Hari Sharan Maharjan, a 23-year-old accountant, is a resident of Ward No. 3 Satungal Village Development Committee (VDC), Bosigaun, Kathmandu district. He was arrested by security forces personnel at 4pm on 2 July from his workplace at the Machhindra Nath Brick Industry, Ward No. 4, Satungal VDC.

Ravi Karki, age 35, a resident of Ward No. 29, Samakhushi, Kathmandu, was arrested from home at midday on 8 July by six men in plain clothes who identified themselves as security forces personnel.

The whereabouts of Hari Sharan Maharjan and Ravi Karki are unknown and there are fears for their safety. The reasons for their arrest are unknown, since neither man is reported to have any political affiliations.

The NHRC has been informed about their arrest and “disappearance” and is reported to be making inquiries to establish their whereabouts.

Amnesty International urges the authorities to make public the whereabouts of Hari Sharan Maharjan and Ravi Karki; to ensure that they are treated humanely and not tortured or ill treated; and to ensure that they are given access to their relatives, lawyers and any medical treatment that they may require. Furthermore we urge the authorities to release them immediately and unconditionally, unless they are charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, United Kingdom

Tel: Int. Code: 44 (20) 7413 5500. UK Code: 020 7413 5500. Fax: Int. Code: 44 (20) 7956 1157. UK Code: 020 7056 1157

E-Mail: amnestyis@amnesty.org

Web: <http://www.amnesty.org>

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Nevins
Acting Deputy Program Director
Asia & Pacific Regional Program