

This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 20 per section

EXTRA 80/98 _____ Disappearance / Fear for safety 4 November 1998

**NEPAL Sumitra Ghimire, (f) aged 20, political activist
Bharat Regmi, (m) aged 26, political activist**

The whereabouts of Sumitra Ghimire and Bharat Regmi are not known following their arrest by police on 29 October 1998. There is grave concern for their safety.

Sumitra Ghimire and Bharat Regmi were among 23 people, including 6 children, arrested by police in Rupandehi district, Western region, on 21 October. Two children and one adult were released two days later and on 29 October the release of the remaining detainees was ordered by Rupandehi district appellate court, in response to a habeas corpus writ filed on their behalf.

The re-arrest of Sumitra Ghimire and Bharat Regmi by police, led by the District Superintendent, took place at the court premises immediately following the order to release them.

In response to a new writ of habeas corpus filed on 3 November, the police have denied all knowledge of their arrest.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The "disappearance" of Sumitra Ghimire and Bharat Regmi occurred in the course of ongoing police operations in several districts of Nepal aimed at flushing out armed members of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) (Maoist).

Following a declaration of a "people's war" by the CPN (Maoist) in February 1996, there have been widespread reports of human rights violations by police, mainly in the mid-Western region. These include extrajudicial executions, "disappearances", torture and widespread arbitrary arrests and detentions.

An upsurge of these violations followed the start of a large-scale police operation aimed at armed members of the CPN (Maoist). This was reportedly initiated on 26 May 1998 and has resulted in an alarming deteriorating in the country's human rights situation. Renewed reports of human rights violations by police and human rights abuses by the CPN (Maoist) has followed the recent launching of a fourth phase of the "people's war" on 26 October.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes in English or your own language:

- expressing serious concern for the safety of Sumitra Ghimire and Bharat Regmi whose whereabouts are not known following their arrest by police on 29 October 1998;
- urging that the government immediately investigate their fate and whereabouts;
- reminding the government of Nepal of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 9: "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile".

APPEALS TO:

Fax tones may be difficult to obtain. Please keep trying.

Rt. Hon Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Singha Durbar
Kathmandu
Nepal

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Kathmandu, Nepal

Faxes: + 977 1 227 765

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Hon. Govinda Raj Joshi
Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
Singha Durbar
Kathmandu
Nepal

Telegrams: Minister of Home Affairs, Kathmandu, Nepal

Faxes: + 977 1 241 942

Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr. Achyut Krishna Kharel
Inspector General of Police
Police Headquarters
GPO Box 407
Naxal
Kathmandu
Nepal

Telegrams: Inspector General of Police, Kathmandu, Nepal

Faxes: + 977 1 41 55 93

Salutation: Dear Inspector General

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Nepal accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.

**"No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest,
detention or exile"**

Article 9, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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