

URGENT ACTION

FEARS FOR MISSING NEPALI

A Nepali man, Ajit Kumar Karna, was reportedly arrested by police on 6 May, in connection with a bombing that killed five people and injured more than 30. Police have denied holding him and his family still do not know his whereabouts. He may have been subjected to enforced disappearance by the Nepal police.

According to information received by Amnesty International, on 6 May local police together with members of the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) arrested **Ajit Kumar Karna** and five others in connection with a bomb blast which had taken place in Janakpur, in the south of the country, on 30 April. Ajit Kumar Karna's family believe he was arrested because police have charged his older brother, Jitendra Karna, with being involved in several recent bombings, including the blast which took place in Janakpur on 30 April. Jitendra Karna is currently in hiding.

Media sources present at a press conference on 18 May reported that the police named four people arrested in connection with the bombing, Ajit Kumar Karna's name was not mentioned, and his family believe he is being held incommunicado. A sixth man who was also allegedly arrested is also missing.

Ajit Kumar Karna's family registered a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission and filed a habeas corpus petition in the Supreme Court on 17 May. The court ordered the police to present Ajit Kumar Karna before the court within five days, but they failed to do this, alleging that an ongoing *bandh* (general strike) in the region had delayed their receipt of the court order. During a hearing on 6 June, the court ordered a search of the CIB head office in Kathmandu after the police denied arresting Ajit Kumar Karna. He was not found during the search. On 13 June, the Supreme Court ordered the NHRC to produce a report on the arrests within two weeks.

Please write immediately in English or your own language:

- Expressing concern for the safety and wellbeing of Ajit Kumar Karna;
- Calling on the Nepalese authorities to ensure that if Ajit Kumar Karna is in official custody, he is not tortured or mistreated; that he is given immediate access to lawyers and family members, and that he is produced before a magistrate and either charged with a recognizably criminal offence or released.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 31 JULY 2012 TO:

Chief District Officer, Mahottari district

Fax: +977 44 520099

Salutation: Dear Sir

Deputy Inspector General of Police

Upendra Kant Aryal

Nepal Police, Central Investigation

Bureau

Maharajung (National Police Academy),

Kathmandu, Nepal

Fax: +977 1 4414391 (say "fax")

Email: cib@nepalpolice.gov.np

/ cibnepal@gmail.com

And copies to:

Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission

Kedar Nath Upadhyay,

Harihar Bhawan, Pulchowk, Lalitpur,

G.P.O. Box: 9182,

Kathmandu, Nepal

Fax: +977 1 5547973

Email: nhrc@nhrcnepal.org

Salutation: Dear Chairperson

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

Name: Ajit Kumar Karna

Gender m/f: male

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