

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 31/06/93

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6 July 1993

*This is a limited action. Please send up to 10 appeals per section.*

Further information on EXTRA 63/93 (ASA 31/04/93, 29 June 1993) - and follow-up ASA 31/05/93 of 30 June 1993 - Possible extrajudicial executions/Mass arrests/Fear of torture

NEPAL: Rita Silpakar (female), 24  
Raja Ram Shakya, 30  
Krishna Narayan Manandhar, 28 (please note full name and corrected age)  
Mahesh Manandhar, 25  
Rajesh Bajracharya  
Ram Prasad Sapkota, 31  
Ashim Rai, 19  
Sudama Thapa, 21 (please note corrected name)  
Sagar Ratna (please note corrected name)  
Bharat Tuladhar  
Mohit Krishna Baiju, 13 (please note corrected name)  
Manoj Gautam, 17 (please note corrected name)

and new names: Suresh Basakoti, 18  
Ashok Ratna Karmacharya  
Ram Maharjan  
Rabindra Shrestha

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Amnesty International has learned that the above four people were also killed when police opened fire on demonstrators in Kathmandu valley between 25 and 28 June 1993. The demonstrations in Kathmandu and neighbouring towns followed a strike called by the main opposition party - Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML)).

It has been reported that on 4 July 1993 in Kathmandu, during a further strike called by the CPN-UML and other left-wing opposition parties, the police refrained from firing and dispersed the crowd using tear gas and batons. However, they arrested hundreds of demonstrators. It has also been reported that in Siraha (a town in the Terai Zone) police fired into the air and in Bara a few people were injured by batons.

A number of professional people and human rights activists have formed a committee to monitor the situation and to try to prevent further human rights violations occurring. Committee members who were present during the demonstrations on 4 July were able to intervene in a number of situations in Kathmandu and neighbouring towns and prevent an escalation of violence. The Committee has also met with the Home Minister, Prime Minister, Leaders of the Nepali Congress and General Secretary of the CPN-UML to discuss the situation.

Amnesty International has been given the names of 20 people who are reported to be detained at Nakhhu jail, following the initial demonstrations, and who have been charged with treasonable offences. Amnesty International is further concerned at reports that a number

of people who have been arrested by police during the demonstrations are missing and their whereabouts remain unknown, and is seeking details about the individuals involved.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

A nationwide strike was called by the CPN-UML on 25 June 1993 to urge the government to appoint a Commission of Investigation into the death in May 1993 of party leader Madan Bhandari and Standing Committee member Jeev Raj Ashrit in a road accident. A judicial inquiry conducted last month had returned a verdict of accidental death but CPN members

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believe that Madan Bhandari may have been the victim of a political killing. It has been reported that the government has now agreed to hold a further inquiry into these two deaths under the supervision of an acting-judge of the Supreme Court.

Left-wing opposition parties have combined in calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and have pledged to continue their program of strikes and demonstrations. A three day general strike has been called to start on 9 August 1993.

#### **FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in English or your own language:**

- expressing concern that four more people are now known to have been killed by the police during demonstrations between 25 and 28 June 1993 and asking for the government to institute an independent commission of inquiry to investigate all these killings;

- noting that police appear to have acted in a more restrained way during demonstrations on 4 July 1993 and to have responded positively to interventions by human rights activists and others, and urging the authorities to continue to exercise restraint in the face of any further demonstrations;

- urging the government to ensure that lists are compiled of all persons currently detained, and that the lists be made public;

- expressing concern that reports indicate that as many as 300 people were arrested between 25 and 28 June 1993 and 500 on 4 July 1993;

- requesting the government to release those detained immediately and unconditionally if they are not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;

- requesting that detainees be given immediate and regular access to a lawyer, a doctor and their relatives;

- urging that the government ensure that all detainees are humanely treated and not subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

1) Prime Minister:

Girija Prasad Koirala

Prime Minister

Cabinet Secretariat

Singha Durbar

Kathmandu, Nepal

**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Koirala, Kathmandu, Nepal**

**Faxes: + 977 1 228555**

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

2) Minister of Home Affairs:

Sher Bahadur Deupa

Minister of Home Affairs

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Singha Durbar

Kathmandu, Nepal

**Telegrams: Minister Home Affairs, Deupa, Kathmandu, Nepal**

**Faxes: + 977 1 416016 (Care of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Please write, "Please forward to Minister of Home Affairs".)**

**Telexes: 2224 (Care of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Please write, "Please forward to Ministry of Home Affairs".)**

3) Minister of Law and Justice:

Maheshwor Prasad Singh

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Minister of Law & Justice

Ministry of General Administration

Singha Durbar

Kathmandu, Nepal

**Telegrams: Minister Law and Justice Singh, Kathmandu, Nepal**

**Faxes: + 977 1 416016 (Care of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Please write, "Please forward to Minister of Law and Justice".)**

**Telexes: 2224 (Care of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Please write, "Please forward to Minister of Law and Justice".)**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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 16 July 1993.