



RITA MAHATO

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER IN NEPAL

'Women human rights defenders are being harassed, humiliated and even killed for the work they do.' Dr Renu Adhikari, Chairperson, WOREC

Rita Mahato is a 30-year-old health counsellor with the Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) in Nepal. In June 2007 she was threatened with rape and death when her office in Siraha district was attacked by men from her community who objected to WOREC's work to defend the rights of women and dalits. When staff went outside to confront the group, bricks were thrown at them before the attackers fled. The police have failed to initiate any investigation into the incident.

WOREC investigates and documents cases of sexual violence against women, and provides legal and other support to victims. Staff face discrimination in their communities and are frequently threatened during the course of their crucial work.

ACT NOW

- Call on the authorities to take all possible measures to ensure the safety of women human rights defenders, particularly in rural areas.
- Urge them to develop a national plan of action to implement the UN Declaration enabling human rights defenders to carry out their legitimate work without fear of reprisals.

WRITE TO:

Hem Bahadur Gurung
Inspector General of Police
Police Headquarters
GPO Box 407, Naxal
Kathmandu, Nepal

Email: info@nepalpolice.gov.npinfo@nepalpolice.gov.np

Salutation: Dear Inspector General

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