

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 31/012/2003

20 February 2003

Further Information on UA163/02 (ASA 31/037/2002, 31 May 2002) Fear for safety/fear of torture/ill-treatment

NEPAL

Tikajung Singh (formerly Tikajung Shahi) (m), age 55, lawyer

Tikajung Singh (referred to as Tikajung Shahi in UA 163/02) was released on 12 February 2003, after army personnel handed him over to the police three days earlier.

He had been held in illegal detention, without formal charge or trial and outside any legal framework, for over eight months at the Chisapani army barracks near Nepalgunj, Banke district. He was released on condition that he present himself once a week at the office of the Chief District Officer in Nepalgunj.

Tikajung Singh was originally arrested by army personnel at his office at *Kanuni Upachaar Kendra* (Legal Remedy Centre) in Nepalgunj, on 29 May 2002. It is believed that he was arrested because the authorities suspected that he may have had links with the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) (Maoist) and because of his activities as a lawyer representing people suspected of being members or supporters of the CPN (Maoist).

No further action is requested from the Urgent Action network. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.