

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 31/052/2002

18 July 2002

Further information on UA 211/02 (ASA 20/012/2002, 12 July 2002) - Fear of torture/fear of "disappearance"

NEPAL/INDIA Partha Chettri (m), journalist
Maheshwar Dahal (m), journalist
Aditi Shah (f), journalist
Moti Prasad (m), student

The four Nepalese named above, who were arrested in New Delhi by Special Branch police on 11 July, were reportedly deported to Nepal on 14 July. It is not known where they are currently detained and there are fears they may be subjected to torture or ill-treatment while in custody.

The four were reportedly taken to the Nepal-India border and handed over to Nepali security officials in Nepalgunj, Banke district. There are unconfirmed reports that they were transferred the same day by air to Kathmandu.

All four are suspected of being members of the *Akhil Bharatiya Nepali Ekta Samaj* (All India Nepalese Unity Society), which is banned under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in India. They had reportedly attended a meeting in New Delhi of the India-Nepal People's Solidarity Organization, a public forum which has been publicising human rights violations committed by the Nepalese security forces in the context of the ongoing Maoist "people's war" in Nepal. The authorities consider the activities of these organizations to be supporting the aims of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) (Maoist).

The four were deported before the hearing of a *habeas corpus* petition, filed on their behalf, had taken place. The hearing is now scheduled to take place on 22 July.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals in English or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Partha Chettri, Maheshwar Dahal, Aditi Shah and Moti Prasad, who were reportedly deported to Nepal from India on 14 July;
- urging the authorities to make public their whereabouts;
- appealing to the authorities to ensure that they are not subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment while in custody;
- calling on the authorities to allow them access to their relatives and lawyers, and any medical attention they may need.

APPEALS TO:

Rt Hon Sher Bahadur Deuba
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Singha Durbar
Kathmandu
Nepal

Telegram: Prime Minister, Kathmandu, Nepal

Fax: + 977 1 227 286 (It may be difficult to get through but please keep trying)

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

General Prajwal Shamsheer Rana JBR
Chief of Army Staff (COAS)
Kathmandu

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Nepal

Telegram: Commander-in-Chief, Kathmandu, Nepal

Fax: + 977 1 242 168

Salutation: Dear Commander-in-Chief

Mr Pradeep Shamsher J B Rana

Inspector General of Police

Police Headquarters

GPO Box 407

Naxal

Kathmandu

Nepal

Telegrams: Inspector General of Police, Kathmandu, Nepal

Faxes: + 977 1 415 593/ 415 594

Salutation: Dear Inspector General

COPIES 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 29 August 2002.