

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 305/03 (ASA 31/061/2003, 28 October 2003) Fear for safety/possible "disappearance"

NEPAL

Shyam Kumar Shrestha (m), aged 46, lawyer

Amnesty International has recently received reports that Shyam Kumar Shrestha was released at around 8.30pm on 5 November. He had reportedly been held at the Chhauni army barracks in Kathmandu following his arrest by security forces personnel at his home in Bagbazar, Kathmandu on 23 October.

Shyam Kumar Shrestha was questioned in detention about his alleged links to the *Newar Khala* cultural group, which campaigns for language rights for minorities in Nepal, and is believed by the authorities to be affiliated to the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) (Maoist).

His arrest was reported to the Home Ministry, the human rights investigation cells attached to the army and the police, and to the National Human Rights Commission.

No further action is required. Thank you to all those who sent appeals.