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Lt. Colonel Raju Nepali  
Head, Royal Nepal Army Human Rights Cell  
Army Headquarters  
Singha Durbar  
Kathmandu  
Nepal

23 July 2004

Dear Lt. Colonel,

### Open letter on “disappearances”

I am writing to express Amnesty International’s concern about the reported arrests and subsequent “disappearances” of Chet Bahadur Dhungana and Guna Raj Paudel, on 19 June and 16 July 2004 respectively.

Chet Bahadur Dhungana, a 63-year-old farmer, is a resident of Ward No. 8, Phutung, Kathmandu district. He was arrested from home at night on 29 June by a group of men in plain clothes who identified themselves as security forces personnel. They reportedly told him in front of relatives that they wanted to take him for questioning and that he would return home in three days’ time. They took him away in a van and his whereabouts remain unknown.

Guna Raj Paudel, age 27, is a resident of Ward No. 6, Gopi Krishna Nagar, Chabahil, Kathmandu municipality. He worked as a ticket collector at the Gopi Krishna Movie Hall in Kathmandu. He was arrested from his rented room at Gopi Krishna Nagar, at 11pm on 16 July by seven men in plain clothes believed to have been security forces personnel. One was carrying a radio communication set and one was armed with a pistol. The men searched the premises but reportedly found nothing. They asked who owned a mobile phone. Guna Raj Paudel said he had owned one but had sold it. He was then arrested and taken away. Relatives found out later that the person who had bought Guna Raj Paudel’s mobile phone was also arrested, together with one other person (names unknown) the following day. The owner of the mobile phone was later reportedly released. Guna Raj Paudel’s whereabouts and the reasons for his arrest remain unknown.

The NHRC has been informed about the arrests and “disappearances” of Chet Bahadur Dhungana and Guna Raj Paudel and is reported to be making inquiries to establish their whereabouts.

Amnesty International urges the authorities to make public the whereabouts of Chet Bahadur Dhungana and Guna Raj Paudel and to ensure that they are treated humanely and not tortured or ill treated; and that they are given access to their relatives, lawyers and any medical treatment they may require. Furthermore we urge the authorities to release them immediately and unconditionally, unless they are charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

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Yours sincerely,

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