

**February 2000**  
**AI Index: ASA 31/05/2000**  
**PUBLIC**

# **NEPAL**

## **Mohan Lal Oli**

Mohan Lal Oli (pictured above), a teacher, "disappeared" after his arrest by police on 12 June 1998. According to eye-witnesses, eight armed police in uniform came to his home in Mahadevpuri, Banke district, at around midnight on 12 June 1998. They dragged him to the main road wearing only his undergarments and put him into one of two waiting police vans. Onlookers heard shots and shouts of "Long Live the Maoists" but suspect that the police shouted this in order to cover up their identity and make his arrest look like an abduction by members of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) (Maoist).

The following morning two policemen from the police post in Shamsergunj came to the house to ask some questions about Mohan Lal Oli and suggested that the relatives file a complaint at the local police post. When the relatives went to do this, they were told by policemen there that they were not responsible for the arrest and suggested again that he had been abducted by members of the CPN (Maoist). On further inquiry, the Deputy Superintendent of Police at the District Police Office denied that Mohan Lal Oli had been taken into custody and the Chief District Officer of Banke District said he had no knowledge of his arrest.

Mohan Lal Oli is by profession a lower secondary level teacher and a supporter of the Communist Party of Nepal-Marxist Leninist (CPN-ML). He is married with two children.

The "disappearance" of Mohan Lal Oli was raised in parliament but despite a number of appeals to the authorities by members of parliament, relatives and human rights organizations, no steps have been taken by the authorities to investigate his "disappearance". His case was also raised with the Inspector General of Police who said there would be an investigation if the Home Ministry requested it. To Amnesty International's knowledge, no such investigation has been initiated to date.

### **Background Information:**

The establishment of multi-party democracy in Nepal in 1990 providing for a new Constitution with increased protection for human rights and the ratification of all major human rights treaties led to high expectations of an era of stability, development and increased human rights protection. Despite some improvements, progress towards bringing existing legal and administrative provisions fully in line with the principles enshrined in the Constitution and international standards has been slow and a climate of impunity has persisted among members of the police force. Nepal remains one of the poorest countries in the world and many people are denied their basic economic and social rights.

Reports of torture, alleged extra-judicial executions and "disappearances" have been reported in recent years in the context of a "people's war" declared by the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) (Maoist) on 13 February 1996. Continued poverty and corruption are seen as among the main factors behind this conflict. Support for the "people's war" has been particularly strong in the most economically deprived areas of Nepal. The aims of the CPN (Maoist) include the establishment of a republican state. Members of the CPN (Maoist) have been responsible for scores of deliberate killings, abductions and torture of civilians. Grave human rights violations by the police, including hundreds of extrajudicial executions, dozens of "disappearances" and numerous incidents of torture and arbitrary arrests and detentions have been reported.

Amnesty International recognizes the responsibility of the Nepali state to maintain order and protect life and property, but asserts that this must be done by adherence to the human rights principles laid down in its Constitution and international standards to which it is a party. The organization calls on armed political groups to respect human rights and to halt abuses such as the abduction of civilians, hostage-taking, torture and unlawful killings.

Amnesty International is concerned about reports in recent years of an upsurge in human rights violations in Nepal, most of which have occurred in the context of a "people's war" declared by the Communist Party of Nepal in February 1996. The organization has called upon the government to ensure that all reports of extrajudicial executions, torture and "disappearances" are fully and impartially investigated and that those found responsible are brought to justice. It has also called on the CPN (Maoist) for an immediate halt to deliberate killings of civilians.

### **The re-emergence of "Disappearances" in Nepal?**

Amnesty International is disturbed by a re-emerging pattern of "disappearances" and long-term unacknowledged detention in the context of police operations against suspected members of the CPN (Maoist). Since the beginning of 1998, Amnesty International has recorded a total of 44 "disappearances", all of which have occurred within the context of the Maoist "people's war". There is evidence to suggest that some detainees have been held incommunicado in unofficial places of detention, including the Police Training Centre in Maharajgunj, Kathmandu.

Several "disappearances" were reported in Nepal in mid-1985 in the context of a civil disobedience campaign against the government and a series of bomb explosions in the capital. The United Nations Working Group on Disappearances retains four un-clarified cases from that period. In at least two of these cases, there were credible reports that detainees had been held at the Maharajgunj Police Training Centre.

## **TAKE ACTION!**

**Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters/e-mails in English:**

- expressing concern about the "disappearance" of Mohan Lal Oli, whose whereabouts remain unknown following his arrest by police on 12 June 1998;

- calling on the government to investigate his fate and whereabouts and to make the findings public;
- urging that, if he is found to be in detention, he be promptly charged with a recognizably criminal offence, or immediately released;
- calling upon the government, if he is in detention, to safeguard his physical integrity and to allow him immediate access to his family, legal counsel and medical care;
- expressing concern at the deteriorating human rights situation in Nepal and appealing for a halt to human rights violations.

## Addresses:

Rt Hon Prime Minister K P Bhattarai  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Singha Durbar  
Kathmandu, Nepal

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Kathmandu, Nepal**  
**Faxes: +977 1 227 286 or 428570**

Hon Purna Bahadur Khadka

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Minister of Home Affairs

Ministry of Home Affairs

Singha Durbar  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
**Telegrams: Home Affairs Minister, Kathmandu, Nepal**  
**Faxes: + 977 1 241 942**  
**Email: [moha@mos.com.np](mailto:moha@mos.com.np)**

Mr Achyut Krishna Kharel  
Inspector General of Police

**Salutation: Dear Inspector General**

Police Headquarters

GPO Box 407  
Naxal  
Kathmandu, Nepal

**Telegrams: Inspector General of Police, Kathmandu, Nepal**  
**Faxes: + 977 1 415593 or 415594**  
**Email: [info@nepalpolice.gov.np](mailto:info@nepalpolice.gov.np)**

## For further information see:

- Amnesty International, Urgent Action 187/98 "*Mohan Prasad Oli, age 31, school teacher*" (AI Index: ASA 31/08/98)
- Please note Mohan Prasad Oli is the same person as Mohan Lal Oli. Mohan Lal Oli is his correct name.**
- *Nepal: Human rights and security*, February 2000 (AI Index: 31/01/2000)
- *Nepal: Human rights at a turning point?*, March 1999 (AI Index: 31/01/99)

*Nepal: Human Rights violations in the context of a Maoist "people's war", March 1997 (AI Index: 31/01/97)*

**Amnesty International, International Secretariat  
Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, United Kingdom  
<http://www.amnesty.org>**