

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 182/02 (ASA 31/045/2002, 17 June 2002) Fear of "disappearance"/fear for safety

NEPAL

Pramod Kumar Shrestha (m)

Amnesty International has recently learned that Pramod Kumar Shrestha was conditionally released from Chisapani army barracks near Nepalgunj, Banke district on 20 August 2002. He stated that he was held incommunicado at the camp from 9 May 2002 until his release.

During his detention he claims he was accused by army personnel of being involved with the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) (Maoist), a charge he denied. He says that army personnel subjected him to torture and ill-treatment during his detention, including beatings, keeping him bound for long periods of time, and threatening him with death if he did not 'tell the truth.' Pramod Kumar Shrestha has not worked since his release. He suffers from lethargy and mental stress, which may be caused by his treatment during detention.

He was released on the condition that he regularly report to army officers at the Chisapani army barracks. The frequency with which he has to do this has varied from once a day to once a month. At present he has to report every two weeks. The barracks are a three hour walk from where he lives.

Many thanks to all those who sent appeals. No further action from the UA network is required.