

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 31/115/2004

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Further Information on UA 55/04 (ASA 31/027/2004, 12 February 2004) Fear for safety / possible disappearance

NEPAL

**Shakti Raj Bhattarai (m), aged 19, Journalist
Leknath Sapkota (m), Travel agency employee**

Shakti Raj Bhattarai and Leknath Sapkota were released on 9 February and 11 March respectively.

Shakti Raj Bhattarai was reportedly arrested by two security force personnel in plain clothes at the Telecommunication Office in Pokhara, Kaski district on 1 February. He was reportedly accused of paying the bill of a mobile telephone which was allegedly used by members of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) (Maoist). He was released from Bijaypur army barracks in Kaski district.

Leknath Sapkota released at 10am on 11 March. He had reportedly been arrested at his place of work in Kathmandu on 4 February. He does not know where he was held because he was kept blindfolded throughout his detention. No reason was given for his arrest but he is now said to be in good health.

No further action is required from the network at this time. Thanks to all who sent appeals.