

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 31/189/2004

15 December 2004

UA 335/04      Fear for safety/possible "disappearance"

NEPAL      Naniram Kafle (m), aged 23, farmer

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Naniram Kafle was arrested at his home in Naubise Village Development Committee-1, Dharke, Dhading district on the night of 20 September at about 12.30am. His whereabouts are now unknown and Amnesty International is concerned that he may be at risk of torture.

Naniram Kafle and his family were asleep when about 50 police and soldiers, some in plain clothes, arrived at their house. They demanded to see Naniram Kafle, and arrested him when he came out of his room. They did not show a warrant, but said that they wanted to interrogate him and that he would be returned after four or five days. He did not return, and on 4 October his family reported what had happened to the National Human Rights Commission, but they were not able to find him.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Since the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) (Maoist) declared a "people's war" in February 1996 Nepal has been in the grip of nationwide conflict and human rights crisis. Human rights abuses by both the security forces and members of the CPN (Maoist) have escalated since a ceasefire, that had lasted seven months, broke down in August 2003.

In both 2002 and 2003, Nepal recorded the highest number of "disappearances" of any country in the world. People detained by the security forces are often held in army barracks with no access to their families, lawyers or medical treatment. They also face a high risk of torture, including beatings, and are sometimes held in solitary confinement or kept blindfolded for the entire time they are in custody. The CPN (Maoist) are also reported to have abducted hundreds of people, including large numbers of teachers and schoolchildren, for the purpose of "political education".

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Naniram Kafle, who was arrested in Dhading district on the night of 20 September;
- calling on the authorities to immediately make public his whereabouts and grant him immediate access to his relatives, lawyers and any medical attention he may require;
- urging that he be treated humanely while in custody and not tortured or ill-treated;
- calling for him to be released immediately and unconditionally, unless he is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

**APPEALS TO:**

Lieutenant Colonel Raju Nepali  
Head Royal Nepal Army Human Rights Cell  
Royal Nepalese Army Headquarters  
Singha Durbar  
Kathmandu, Nepal

**Fax:** + 977 1 4 226 292 / 245 020 (If someone answers the telephone please ask them in English to switch on the fax machine, and resend the fax).

**Salutation:** Dear Lieutenant Colonel

Chief District Officer  
Jeevan Prasad Oli  
Office of the Chief District Officer,  
Dhading District  
Nepal

**Salutation:** Dear Chief District Officer

**COPIES TO:**

His Majesty the King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev  
C/O The Chief of Protocol Division  
Protocol Division  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Chital News, Kathmandu  
Nepal

**Fax:** + 977 1 4 416007

**Salutation:** Your Majesty

and to diplomatic representatives of Nepal accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 January 2005.