

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

6 December 2011
Index: ASA 31/010/2011

OHCHR's mandate in Nepal critically important to safeguarding rights, assuring accountability for past violations

The Government of Nepal, with support from the UN's Office of the High Commission for Human Rights should work more diligently to promote the rule of law, resist political pressures to grant amnesty to war-time violators and make good on other important human rights commitments made in Nepal's Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

This includes establishing fair and effective transitional justice mechanisms that ensure accountability for violations of human rights and humanitarian law, and a new constitution that upholds the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international humanitarian and human rights instruments protecting civil, political, social, economic, and cultural rights.

Article 9 of Nepal's CPA mandates OHCHR to monitor the implementation of these rights commitments and support national human rights institutions until the peace process concludes.

This important work has a long way to go.

Political parties in the current government and Constituent Assembly – parties to the CPA, vowed to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and also to create a commission to investigate disappearances that occurred during the armed conflict.

Five years later, Nepalis who lost loved ones and who suffered serious harm are still waiting for truth and justice.

End/