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News Flash

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Nepal: Hundreds of pro-democracy activists arrested

Amnesty International today urged the Nepali government to stop the arrests of political party and civil society activists and to release immediately all those who have been detained for the peaceful expression of their political views.

"Targeting leaders of the peaceful political opposition is not only wrong, it is dangerous," said Purna Sen, Asia-Pacific Director at Amnesty International. "Squeezing the space for legitimate political activity heightens the risk of violent confrontation and human rights abuses."

Hundreds of people have been arrested over the past two days, according to local media. More arrests are likely in the coming days as the political opposition has launched a four-day nationwide strike and protest programme, due to culminate in a mass demonstration in the capital Kathmandu on 8 April. The government has imposed a blanket ban on public gatherings in Kathmandu.

Public Document

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