



Ref: TG ASA 31/2004.26

AI Index: ASA 31/121/2004

Colonel Nilendra Prasad Aryal  
Head, Royal Nepal Army Human Rights Cell  
Army Headquarters  
Singha Durbar  
Kathmandu  
Nepal

14 May 2004

Dear Colonel,

### **Open letter on “disappearances”**

I am writing to express concern about the reported arrests and subsequent “disappearances” of Krishna Bahadur Budathoki and Hari Krishna Adhikari, on 8 and 9 May 2004 respectively.

Krishna Bahadur Budathoki, a 26-year-old taxi driver, was arrested by three security forces personnel in plain clothes at around 12 noon on 8 May 2004 from Putalisadak, Kathmandu, when he was driving a taxi. Since then his whereabouts have been unknown.

Krishna Bahadur Budathoki is originally from Ward No. 9, Pokharichour VDC, Kavre district, but is currently residing at Koteshwor, Kathmandu. He was previously reported to have been involved with the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) but had given himself up to the authorities on 14 January 2004. Following interrogation he was released and provided with a red ID card so that he could have freedom of movement. Since then he had been earning his living as a taxi driver. Relatives do not know the reason for his current detention but believe he may be detained in Bhairabnath army barracks in Maharajgunj, Kathmandu, but so far the authorities have denied any knowledge of his whereabouts.

Appeals on behalf of Krishna Bahadur Budathoki have been lodged with the Home and Defence Ministries, Heads of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister’s office.

Hari Krishna Adhikari was reportedly arrested at 4pm on 9 May 2004, from Machhapokhari, Balaju, Kathmandu, near the bus stop for Nuwakot, where he had gone to meet some friends. Witnesses report that two army personnel in plain clothes separated him from his friend and took him away in a vehicle. His whereabouts remain unknown and there are fears for his safety.

Hari Krishna Adhikari is the headmaster of Puspa Lal Memorial Primary School in Thaprek, Nuwakot district. He was on a visit to Kathmandu to collect some money for his school.

The reasons for his arrest are unknown, but may be due to a suspicion on the part of the authorities that he may be a member or supporter of the CPN (Maoist). One year ago Hari Krishna Adhikari was arrested and held for two days on suspicion of involvement with Maoist activities, which he strongly denied.

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

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Amnesty International appeals for the whereabouts of Krishna Bahadur Budathoki and Hari Krishna Adhikari to be made public; for assurances that they will be treated humanely and not subjected to torture or ill-treatment; and for them to be given access to their relatives, lawyers and any medical treatment they may require. We urge the Nepalese government to release them immediately and unconditionally unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

We look forward to receiving your response to the concerns we have raised about the individuals named above.

Yours sincerely,

Ingrid Massagé  
Interim Program Director  
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