

URGENT ACTION

FEARS FOR TWO MEN TORTURED BY POLICE IN NEPAL

There are fears for the safety of Kalu Chaudhari and Hikmat Chaudhary after they filed an official complaint against Kanchanpur District police personnel, who had tortured them in late April. The lawyers for the two men have expressed concern that the police might retaliate against the men for taking legal action and may even pose a threat to their lives.

According to lawyers with the Terai Human Rights Defenders Alliance (THRD), on 30 April, **Kalu Chaudhari** of Bhimdutta Municipality in Kanchanpur District, Nepal, was arrested and tortured by three police personnel of Kanchanpur district and was hospitalised. Another man, **Hikmat Chaudhary**, who was arrested along with Kalu Chaudhari, was also beaten but sustained less serious injuries and is recuperating at home. On 4 May the two men registered a case in the District Court against the police who abused them, claiming compensation for torture under the Torture and Compensation Act 1996.

Their complaint states that their arrest followed an altercation instigated by a neighbour on the evening of 29 April. The neighbour then told police the two men had beaten him and the next morning they were arrested. The police ordered the men to sign a document pledging to pay the neighbour's medical expenses, but they refused to do so without a court order. According to their complaint, police beat Kalu Chaudhari with a stick in the presence of witnesses until he agreed to sign the document. He was then made to lie on the ground while a policeman punched him in the head with his fists and beat his feet with a plastic pipe. He was also reportedly forced to do hundreds of sit ups while police beat him. Kalu Chaudhari was eventually rendered unconscious and admitted to Mahakali Zonal Hospital, where he received treatment. When the two later returned to the police station to request a case form to note the injuries they sustained in custody, the police refused to provide them with the form and threatened to charge them with a serious criminal offence and jail them for life if they complained about their treatment to anybody.

Please write immediately in English or your own language:

- Calling on the Nepal authorities to take immediate action to protect Kalu Chaudhari and Hikmat Chaudhari from further threats, abuse or other retaliation for their legal actions against Kanchanpur police whom they allege tortured them in custody;
- Ensuring that the alleged torture and mistreatment of Kalu Chaudhari and Hikmat Chaudhari by the Kanchanpur police is fully investigated and those responsible are brought to justice in accordance with international standards of due process.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 17 JUNE 2014 TO:

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for

Home Affairs

Bamdev Gautam

Home Ministry

Singh Darbar, Kathmandu

Nepal

Fax: +977 1 4211232

Email: gunaso@moha.gov.np

Salutation: **Dear Minister**

Attorney General

Babu Ram Kunwar

Office of Attorney General

Ramshah Path, Kathmandu

Nepal

Fax: +977 1 4262582 / 4218051

Email: info@attorneygeneral.gov.np

Salutation: **Dear Attorney General**

And copies to:

Inspector General of Police

Upendra Kant Aryal

Inspector General of Police

Police Head Quarters

Naxal, Kathmandu

Nepal

Fax: +977 1 4415593

Email: phqigs@nepalpolice.gov.np

Salutation: **Dear Inspector General**

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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Name: Kalu Chaudhari and Hikmat Chaudhary

Gender m/f: both m

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