

## AN APPEAL FOR Investigation, SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT

### **Appeal: Women Journalist Umashingh Murdered**

The National Women Security (NWS) Watch Group and Institute of Human Rights Communication Nepal (IHRICON) requests all of your urgent intervention and investigation in the following situation in Nepal.

Introduction:

NWS watch group and IHRICON became shocked and appalled about murder of Ms. Uma Singh, journalist of Radio Today FM Dhanusha and a resident of Ward Rajyola Village Development Committee of Janakpur Municipality in Dhanusha district. She was severely mutilated by a group of armed men and she died on the way to a hospital in Kathmandu.

On 11 January, 2008 around 7:45 PM, around 15 group of armed unidentified group entered her residence and attacked her with sharp weapons. Her entire body was disfigured and left to die. She was taken to the district hospital in serious condition. Later, she died on her way to the hospital in Kathmandu.

She was an active journalist and a human rights activist. She was working mainly on women rights issues in the radio. She was vocal and spoke against arms violence in Tarai women. She spoke through the radio from where she raised the issue of Violence Against Women in armed conflict in the community and spoke about it openly with defiance. She was displaced from Siraha district after being affected by Conflict and settled in Dhanusha district.

Dhanusha district lies in the central development region. The respective district has witnessed increasing cases of violence against women. The major trends and patterns of violence are murder, rape and physical battering with numerous cases of dowry based violence. There has been at least 100 documented cases of Violence Against Women in the past 3 years, mainly cases are raised from different armed groups in Tarai.

This example is a clear indication of the rampant culture of impunity and it is very sad that the state mechanisms have failed to protect and promote human rights of all citizens. There is no rule of law, the state structures is a complete faade and it lacks accountability.

### **CALL TO ACTION:**

Please write to the names of the following persons given requesting that:

- Demand to the authority for the proper investigation of the incident and the steps to penalize the perpetrator;
- Authority to take action as soon as possible to control arms and armed groups and enforce rule of law in the nation.
- To engage with the National Human Rights Commission Nepal, Government of Nepal and Office of the High Commission of Human Rights Nepal to ensure that the due process of law is respected;
- Stop intimidation and harassment of journalists and human rights activists who are fighting for Justice;
- Immediate assurance that the journalists, especially Women journalists do not face violence and threats
- Conform with the provisions of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 9, 1998, especially its Article 9 that states that Right to Remedy/Justice for violation of Rights;

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

1. Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal  
Prime Minister's office Singha Durbar Kathmandu NEPAL Fax: + 977 1-4428220
2. Mr. Bam Dev Gautam Home Minister Singha Darbar Kathmandu NEPAL Fax: +977 1 4211232 Email: moha@wlink.com.np
3. Mr. Janardan Sharma  
Minister for Peace and Reconstruction  
Peace Secretariat  
Singh Durbar,  
Kathmandu, Nepal.  
Fax: +977 1 4211186 and 4211173  
E-mail: info@peace.gov.np
4. Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare  
Singha Durbar  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
Fax: 977-1-4241516  
E-mail: mowcsw@ntc.net.np
5. Ms. Nainkala Thapa  
Chairperson  
National Women's Commission  
Bhadrakali Plaza  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
Fax: 977-1-4256783  
E-mail: nwc@htp.com.np
6. Mr. Kedar Nath Udadhaya  
Chairperson  
National Human Rights Commission ( Headquarter - Kathmandu)  
Harihar Bhawan, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal G.P.O. Box: 9182, Kathmandu, Nepal Fax: +977-1-5547973 E-mail: nhrc@nhrcnepal.org
7. United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal ( OHCHR)  
Museum Road, Chhauni, G.P.O. Box 24555, Kathmandu  
Telephone +977 1 4280164, 4280326, 4280542  
Fax +977 1 4670712, 4670713, 4671256 (security)  
Email registry.np@ohchr.org  
Spokesperson Marty Logan. mlogan@ohchr.org
8. Mr. Richard Bennet  
Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal ( OHCHR)  
Museum Road, Chhauni, G.P.O. Box 24555, Kathmandu  
Fax: 977 1 4670712, 4670713
9. Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal ( Prachanda)  
Chairman Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)  
Lalitpur  
Nepal  
Fax: 977-1- 4784045
10. Mr. Jhala Nath Khanal  
Member Secretary  
Nepal Communist Secretary ( UML)  
Fax: 9771-1 425184, 4112241

11. Mr. Lilamani Pokharel  
Janamorcha Nepal  
Kathmandu  
Nepal  
Fax: 977-1- 4251841

12. Ms. Margaret Sekaggya  
Special Representative of the Secretary General for human rights defenders Att: Melinda Ching  
Simon Room 1-040, c/o OHCHR-UNOG 1211 Geneva 10 SWITZERLAND Tel: +41 22 917 93 88 Fax:  
+41 22 917 9006 E-mail: MChingSimon@ohchr.org

13. Ms. Yakin Erturk Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women Room 3-042 c/o OHCHR-  
UNOG 1211 Geneva 10 SWITZERLAND Tel: +41 22 917 9615 Fax: +41 22 917 9006 (ATTN: SPECIAL  
RAPPORTEUR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN)

14. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women  
c/o Division for the Advancement of Women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations Secretariat  
2 United Nations Plaza  
DC-2/12th Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
United States of America  
Fax: 1-212-963-3463