

Mr. Shyam Bhakta Thapa, Inspector General of Police  
Police Headquarters, GPO Box 407, Naxal  
Kathmandu  
N E P A L  
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Dear Inspector General,

Please allow me to draw your attention to the cases of

Mr Krishna Pahadi, Dr Devendra Raj Pandey,  
Dr Mathura Prasad Shrestha, Mr Shyam Shrestha,  
Mr Kundan Raj Kafle, released,  
and hundreds of political party and civil society leaders and activists.

I welcome the release of Mr Kundan Raj Kafle on 20. February and other student leaders and party activists. However, several human rights and peace activists continue to be detained. Mr Krishna Pahadi and Mr Shyam Shrestha are detained at the Armed Police Force Barracks No. 2 at Ranibari, in Maharajgunj, Kathmandu. Dr Devendra Raj Pandey is reportedly being detained at Naxal Armed Police Battalion No. 1 and Dr Mathura Prasad Shrestha at the National Police Academy, also located in Maharajgunj. Amnesty International considers them to be prisoners of conscience detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression and of free association.

This is why I appeal for the immediate and unconditional release of Mr Krishna Pahadi, Mr Shyam Shrestha, Dr Devendra Raj Pandey, and Dr Mathura Prasad Shrestha. All the detainees must be granted immediate access to their relatives, legal counsel, and medical treatment if required. Furthermore, I urge that all detainees be held in an officially recognized place of detention and, in conformity with national law, be brought before a judicial authority promptly after detention.

Dear Inspector General, please ensure that all legislation used to arrest and detain is in conformity with international standards to which Nepal is a state party.

Respectfully,