

**PROPOSAL**  
**UN HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION UNIT**  
**As at 7 March 2005**

**1. Background**

On 1 February King Gyanendra of Nepal dismissed the Prime Minister and cabinet, assuming direct control of the Kingdom. Simultaneously the King declared a state of emergency derogating from many fundamental rights under the Constitution. An official derogation was submitted to the UN Secretary General on 14 February 2005 without declaring the duration of the measures. Fundamental rights have been derogated, such as freedom of expression, right to assembly and association, freedom of movement, press and publication rights, right to information, right to property, right to privacy, rights against preventative detention and right to a constitutional remedy, except right of habeas corpus. Perceived political and ideological opposition to the Monarchy have been targeted with the arrests of human rights defenders including politicians, human rights activities, journalists, students, unionists and intellectuals. Many are forced to evade arrest by hiding or fleeing the country. It is feared a military campaign against the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoists) will ensue, thwarting efforts for peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Measures to impose the state of emergency have seriously disrupted access to information and communications. All communications have been periodically severed - phone lines, mobiles and internet connections<sup>1</sup>. Mobile phones remain totally disconnected since 1 February. Heavy censorship of the media has led to the closure of an estimated 50% of media nationwide and seriously curtailed access to impartial and credible information. By official order, criticism that affects the moral of the security forces is prohibited. This not only affects journalists but acutely undermines the reporting of human rights organizations and the National Human Rights Commission.

In this changed environment, the United Nations has been requested to play a central role in managing and disseminating human rights information and offering assistance on protection issues for those at risk.

**2. Proposal**

**In this context, a Human Rights Information Unit is being established under the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Nepal, as an extension of the role of the UNOHCHR Senior Human Rights Adviser to the United Nations Country Team.**

UNDP will provide administrative support to the Unit.

**Purpose**

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<sup>1</sup> Phones were cut from 1 – 7 February and on 12 February 2005. There are reports that a number of individuals have had their phones cut since 1 February.

The central purpose of the Unit is to gather, compile and systematize human rights information relating, in particular, to the state of emergency, including arrests of and threats to human rights defenders. Given the frequent breakdown of communications and the decrease in human rights reporting since the declaration of the state of emergency, the Unit will also act as a clearinghouse for information on serious human rights violations resulting from the continuing armed conflict.

### Functions

Under the supervision of the Senior Human Rights Adviser (SHRA) to the UNCT, the Human Rights Information Unit will carry out the following duties:

1. Human rights information management

- Gathering and systematizing of information on human rights under the state of emergency and other serious human rights violations;
- Dissemination and exchange of human rights information to relevant stakeholders as appropriate, including regular meetings of the embassies, donors and National Human Rights Commission;
- Coordinate with the SHRA to meet periodically with the civil society for information exchange;
- Prepare ad hoc reports on the human rights situation under the state of emergency.

2. Tracking responses to the human rights situation



- Mapping international and national response to the state of emergency to determine levels of assistance to address human rights concerns;
- Identify gaps in responses and work with partners to fill these gaps.

3. Human rights defenders



- Identify vulnerable and at-risk groups;
- Maintain contacts and provide advice on protection related issues with such groups;
- Support the SHRA in making human rights interventions to address human rights concerns.

4. Support to the UNCT

- Collaborate with UN information systems to compile human rights information, in particular with OCHA and the UN Information Centre;
- Support and assist the SHRA in his advisory functions to the UNCT on human rights standards and the situation during the state of emergency;
- Advise and assist the SHRA in assessing OHCHR's role in Nepal in light of the evolving human rights context;
- Take over for the SHRA in case of his absence.

### Duration and future

The Human Rights Information Unit will be established for an initial period until September 2005.

With the possibility of an extension of the state of emergency and the on-going conflict situation, the Unit is likely to continue in some form after September. If OHCHR was provided with a monitoring mandate or requested to service a country human rights mechanism, the Unit would be transferred as the beginning of an OHCHR office. Therefore, the role and functions of the Unit will be assessed on an on-going basis in order to remain relevant with the changing circumstances.

### **3. Structure and duties**

The Unit is structured to facilitate three teams comprising of one international and one national staff members. This arrangement ensures that one team will always be attending the Kathmandu Office, while another two teams can be mobile throughout the country as needed, allowing the Unit to reach outside Kathmandu.

#### **1. International Coordinator (P-4)**

- Overall day to day supervision on the Unit
- Manage the Unit workplan
- Design and refine methodology for human rights information management
- Gather, collate and systematize human rights information
- Establish and maintain relationships with information networks
- Work closely with UN information systems and the UNCT
- Assistance and support to human rights defenders
- Conduct field visits as required
- Participate in workshops and interactions
- Prepare briefings, reports and other information
- Advise and assist the SHRA as required
- Stand in for the SHRA as requested

#### **2. International Human Rights Officer (P2/3)**

- Gather, collate and systematize human rights information
- Establish and maintain relationships with information networks
- Assist and support human rights defenders
- Conduct field visits as required
- Prepare briefings, reports and other information
- Participate in workshops and interactions
- Maintain records and data bases
- Stand in for the Coordinator as requested.

#### **3. International UNV Human Rights Specialist**

- Gather, collate and systematize human rights information
- Establish and maintain relationships with information networks
- Assist and support human rights defenders
- Conduct field visits as required
- Participate in workshops and interactions
- Prepare briefings, reports and other information

- Maintain records and data bases

#### 4. National Human Rights Officer

- Gather, collate and systematize human rights information
- Establish and maintain relationships with information networks
- Conduct field visits as required
- Participate in workshops and interactions
- Prepare briefings, reports and other information

#### 5. National data entry /administrative assistant

- Enter data into data base
- Maintain records
- Provide administrative support
- Maintain budgets records
- Manage inquiries and visitors

#### 6. National translator /interpreter

- Providing interpretation for international staff
- Translate key documents as request
- Disseminate translations

### **4. Budget**

#### Budget summary in USD

A. Personnel:	174,160.00
B. Other items:	48,898.30
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b><u>223,058.30</u></b>

#### *A. Personnel*

Position	Duration	Arrangement	Cost in USD
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1	Coordinator	1 March – 30 May	Secondment from OHCHR Geneva 3 months	In kind
		1 June – 1 December 2005 <sup>2</sup>	Recruitment P- 4	58,686.00 (6 months)
2	International Human Rights Officer	Mid Feb to mid March	Secondment by Danida	In kind
		15 March - September 2005	Recruitment of P3/P2	43,282.00 (6 months)
3	International UNV Human Rights Specialist	Mid March 2005 – mid March 2006 <sup>3</sup>	Recruitment	38,733.00 (12 months)
4	National Human Rights Officer	1 March – 24 July	Secondment from UNDP Governance unit	In kind
		25 July – September 2005	Local recruitment	1623.00 2 months
5	National data entry/admin	Mid March – mid September 2005	Local recruitment	4,871.00 (Rs.350730.00)
6	Translator/interpreter	Mid March – mid September 2005	Local recruitment	6,965.00 (Rs.501505.00)
7	Consultancies (TA) <sup>4</sup>	As needed		20,000.00
			TOTAL	174,160.00

*B. Other items*

	Items	Qty	Cost per item	Total in USD
1	5 computers	5	825	4,125.00

<sup>2</sup> In order to ensure continuity of the Unit a permanent coordinator will be recruited when the secondment of OHCHR Geneva comes to an end. A recruitment for 6 months avoids short term consultancies which are far less cost effective and cannot be renewed on the same basis as regular UN staff. The duties of this position are subject to change over time, under the SHRA.

<sup>3</sup> In accordance with standard UNV procedures, an International UNV is recruited on a one or two year basis. In order to benefit from the UNV arrangements, a minimum duration of one year is proposed. The duties of this position will be subject to change over time, under the SHRA.

<sup>4</sup> TA: for example, information management systems for human rights issues; trainers; security expertise etc.

2	2 Lap tops	2	2,000	4,000.00
3	700 VA UPS	7	220	1,540.00
4	1 network printer with duplexer	1	2200	2,200.00
5	Photocopy Machine	1	4000	4,000.00
6	4 Satellite phones with docking stations	4	1400	5,600.00
7	Stationary and maps	1	4000	4,000.00
8	60 Pens drives/memory stick	60	50	3,000.00
9	Travel and DSA to regions Including air ticket*	1	8100	8,100.00
10	4 Mobile telephones	4	210	840.00
11	SIMCARD	4	112	448.00
12	Office rental	6	100	600.00
13	Office phones/fax - Per month (\$1000)	6	1000	6,000.00
	Subtotal			44,453.00
14	Miscellaneous (10% of total)			4,445.30

Grand Total      48,898.30

\*Nrs. 10,000 x 2 pax X 3 Days X 6 Trips Nrs= 360,000 (\$5100)

\*Air Ticket - 250 X 2 X 6 = \$3000

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