

**Refugee Review Tribunal  
AUSTRALIA**

**RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE**

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**Questions**

- 1. Has there been any evidence of Maoist activity in Mehelkuna district, and in particular in Surkhet village in 2001?**
- 2. Are members of the National Teachers Association of Nepal particular targets of Maoists?**
- 3. Is there any information on the Nepal Maoists Victims Association – when was it established, membership, office holders, etc?**

**RESPONSE**

- 1. Has there been any evidence of Maoist activity in Mehelkuna district, and in particular in Surkhet village in 2001?**

Note: Mehelkuna is a village in the mid-western district of Surkhet, around 400 kms west of Kathmandu. There is also a town named Surkhet in Surkhet district. A map showing Mehelkuna is included as Attachment 1 (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) 2006, 'Surkhet District', United Nations Nepal website, 15 June <http://www.un.org.np/reports/maps/OCHA/districts/Surkhet.pdf> – Accessed 1 August 2007 – Attachment 1; see also: 'Surkhet' 2007, Wikipedia<sup>1</sup>, updated 7 March <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surkhet> – Accessed 18 July 2007 – Attachment 2).

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<sup>1</sup> Users should be aware that [Wikipedia](#) is a Web-based free-content encyclopaedia which is written collaboratively by volunteers. Research Services recommends that users of Wikipedia familiarise themselves with the regulatory practices which Wikipedia employs as a preventative measure against vandalism, bias and inaccuracy.

According to the available information Surkhet is one of the districts which has been most affected by the Maoist insurgency. Reports indicate that as of late 2001, Maoists controlled most of the countryside in Surkhet district. Limited information was found on Mehelkuna specifically, although a few articles mention Maoist attacks in the village round 2001. These reports are detailed below. It should be noted that, according to a Belgium fact-finding mission to Nepal in early 2002, obtaining information about the then-present situation was very difficult as many journalists practiced “autocensorship” when reporting on the Maoist revolution. More reports describing Maoist activity in Surkhet district are also included below. It should also be noted that 2006 information indicates that one of the main Maoist Army bases is located in Surkhet (for information on Surkhet, as well as lack of press freedom in Nepal, see: Belgium Ministry of Interior Affairs 2002, *Mission to Nepal: 21 January to 9 February 2002*, March – Attachment 3; for a map showing Maoist Army cantonments in Nepal, see: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) 2006, ‘Nepal: Maoist Cantonment Divisional Locations and UNMIN Sector HQs – Map’, United Nations Nepal website, 26 November <http://www.un.org.np/reports/maps/OCHA/2007/2007-4-10-CPN-Maoist-Army-Cantonment-Divisional-Locations-with-Sector-HQs.pdf> – Accessed 6 July 2007 – Attachment 4).

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), the Maoist insurgency started in 1996 when Maoists began attacking the police, the main landowners, members of other political parties, teachers and local government officials in the districts of the mid-western region. The conflict escalated in late 2001 when a state of emergency was declared and the army was deployed. After November 2001, security deteriorated markedly in rural areas. An information update on the RAOnline<sup>2</sup> website, dated 23 November 2001, states that Maoist insurgents had broken a four-month old truce and had launched attacks in many places across the country. Maoists attacked police posts and infrastructure in a number of districts, including Surkhet. The update warns against any travel in the district of Surkhet, stating that it is one of the Maoist strongholds. According to this information, in Surkhet and other areas, the Maoists controlled most of the countryside, and the security forces were mainly present only near the highways and the district headquarters. The above-mentioned 2002 Belgian report also includes Surkhet as one of the districts which had been struck hardest by the insurgency (‘Nepal: IDP return still a trickle despite ceasefire – A profile of the internal displacement situation’ 2006, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre website, 16 October, pp. 9-10 [http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/\(httpInfoFiles\)/6C8B65949B9B0229C12572090038DEE5/\\$file/Nepal+-October+2006.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/(httpInfoFiles)/6C8B65949B9B0229C12572090038DEE5/$file/Nepal+-October+2006.pdf) – Accessed 18 January 2007 – Attachment 5; RAOnline 2002, ‘Maoists in Nepal’, updated 14 July [http://www.mypage.bluewin.ch/raonline/pages/npinfo\\_cau.html](http://www.mypage.bluewin.ch/raonline/pages/npinfo_cau.html) – Accessed 23 July 2002 (website no longer accessible) – Attachment 6; Belgium Ministry of Interior Affairs 2002, *Mission to Nepal: 21 January to 9 February 2002*, March, p. 17 – Attachment 3).

Information published on the Nepal Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) website notes that during the census of 2001, the CBS could not collect the household-level individual data in 80 villages of eight Maoist insurgency affected districts: Salyan, Kalikot, Jhapa, Surkhet, Mugu, Humla, Jumla, Dolpa and Sindhupalchok (Dahal, D.R. 2003, ‘Chapter 3: Social Composition of the Population: Caste/Ethnicity and Religion in Nepal’ in *2003 Population*

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<sup>2</sup> RAOnline describes itself as “a private and non-profit website based in Switzerland. RAOnline is politically independent. RAOnline is not a travel agency. Our website was established in March 2000. RAOnline’s mission is to promote the Nepalese, Bhutanese and Swiss tourism. We can provide you more than 8,500 pages on these three countries.” RAOnline’s homepage is <http://www.raonline.ch/raohomefr00.html>.

*Monograph Volume I*, Nepal Central Bureau of Statistics website  
<http://www.cbs.gov.np/Population/Monograph/Chapter%2003%20%20Social%20Compositi%20of%20the%20Population.pdf> – Accessed 7 May 2007, p. 88 – Attachment 7).

### **Mehelkuna**

Only a few mentions of Mehelkuna were found in the available information. The following news articles, dated from 1999 to 2003, mention Mehelkuna in relation to Maoist attacks.

A 1999 article describes a Maoist attack on a police post in Mehelkuna:

Two pipe-bombs planted by the Maoist insurgents went off at 8.45 last night near the Charikot Police Office in Dolakha. The bombs were planted 200 metres away from the police office. The Maoists also attacked a police post in **Mehelkuna** VDC in Surkhet at 12.45 last night. According to a police at the Mehelkuna post, they were attacked by around 20-25 insurgents. The rebels also exploded a pipe bomb 200 metres away from the post ('Serial blasts reported' 1999, Archived Documents, Human Rights Server website, 22 September [http://www.humanrights.de/doc\\_en/archiv/n/nepal/news/220999\\_news.htm](http://www.humanrights.de/doc_en/archiv/n/nepal/news/220999_news.htm) – Accessed 4 July 2007 – Attachment 8).

According to a December 2001 update by the South Asia Analysis Group (SAAG), Maoists had set fire to an abandoned police post at Mehelkuna in Surkhet (Chandrasekharan, S. 2002, 'Nepal Update 16: The going gets tougher for the Army in dealing with Maoists', *South Asia Analysis Group*, 28 January <http://www.saag.org/notes2/note144.html> – Accessed 8 July 2002 – Attachment 9).

A June 2002 article mentions Mehelkuna in relation to the recent abduction and murder of two Royal Nepalese Army (RNA) soldiers:

[A] group of armed rebels on Sunday killed two soldiers of the Royal Nepal Army after abducting them from their houses in Maintada VDC, about 25-km east of Birendranagar, the district headquarters. The soldiers were taken into hostage on Friday.

The deceased soldiers have been identified as Parsuram BK and Jhule BK, both from the same VDC. Locals said their bodies were recovered in front of an empty police post in the neighbouring **Mehelkuna** VDC ('Three rebels, two soldiers killed' 2002, *Kathmandu Post*, 25 June <http://www.nepalnews.com.np/contents/englishdaily/ktmpost/2002/jun/jun25/local.htm> – Accessed 6 July 2007 – Attachment 10).

A September 2002 article reports that there had been recent clashes between Maoists and security forces at Mehelkuna, and a Maoist rebel had been killed there. Maoist rebels in Mehelkuna are also mentioned in a 2003 article in *The Kathmandu Post* ('Defence Ministry says three Maoists killed in 5 September clashes' 2002, *BBC Monitoring South Asia*, 7 September – Attachment 11; 'Three Maoists killed in police action' 2003, *Kathmandu Post*, 31 October <http://www.nepalnews.com.np/contents/englishdaily/ktmpost/2003/oct/oct31/local.htm> – Accessed 6 July 2007 – Attachment 12).

### **Surkhet**

As detailed above, the available information indicates that Surkhet is one of the districts which has been most affected by the Maoist insurgency. The following reports provide examples of some incidents which took place in Surkhet in 2001 and 2002. More recent reports regarding Surkhet have also been included below.

The US Department of State report on human rights in Nepal for 2001 includes the following incident, which took place in Surkhet on 3 February 2001:

Maoists ambushed the vehicle in which the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court was riding in Surkhet District, in the midwest. Although the Chief Justice survived the attack, six others (including the judge's bodyguard, a local court official, and four policemen) were killed (US Department of State 2002, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2001 – Nepal*, March, Section 1.a – Attachment 13).

A January 2002 Nepal update by SAAG lists recent Maoist attacks around the country between November 2001 and January 2002. A number of these attacks took place in Surkhet district: On 5 December 2001, insurgents bombed and destroyed the house of MP Hridayaram Thani in the Birendranagar Municipality of Surkhet. Also in December 2001, Maoists kidnapped a Village Development Committee (VDC) Chairman. On 25 November 2001, four members of the armed police force and a driver were killed in Surkhet when the truck carrying the personnel of the armed police force fell into an ambush laid by the Maoists at Kalidmar Mangde in the Kohalpur-Surkhet section of the Ratna Highway. On 23 November 2001, the insurgents bombed and destroyed a parked helicopter of the Asian Airlines at the Surkhet Airport (Chandrasekharan, S. 2002, 'Nepal Update 16: The going gets tougher for the Army in dealing with Maoists', *South Asia Analysis Group*, 28 January <http://www.saag.org/notes2/note144.html> – Accessed 8 July 2002 – Attachment 9).

A May 2002 SAAG update on Nepal lists Maoist attacks which had taken place between April 2002 and May 2002. Among other incidents in Surkhet, the article states that "terrorists set off a pressure cooker bomb at the SOS Children's Village in Kalagaon in Surkhet destroying a part of its building". An article dated 19 May 2002 on the SOS-Kinderdorf International website also describes this incident. According to this article, Maoist guerrillas had demanded that all private schools close between 15 and 21 May. It was therefore assumed that the attack was directed at the SOS Hermann Gmeiner School, which had remained open (Chandrasekharan, S. 2002, 'Nepal Update 19: Nepali Congress is doing a "Harakiri"', *South Asia Analysis Group*, 31 May <http://www.saag.org/notes2/note154.html> – Accessed 8 July 2002 – Attachment 14; 'Bomb explodes at SOS Children's Village Surkhet, Nepal' 2002, SOS-Kinderdorf International website, 19 May [http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/html/bomb\\_explodes\\_at\\_sos\\_children\\_s\\_village\\_surkhet\\_nepal.html](http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/html/bomb_explodes_at_sos_children_s_village_surkhet_nepal.html) – Accessed 4 July 2007 – Attachment 15).

### **Recent events**

According to a November 2006 article on ReliefWeb website, the Maoists were still engaged in recruitment drives in various districts including Surkhet. The article also describes a recently signed agreement between the Nepalese government and the Maoist Peoples Liberation Army which allowed for Maoist guerrillas "to be housed in seven main and 21 subsidiary camps across the country." A November 2006 UN map, included as Attachment 4, shows that one of the main Maoist Army camps is located in Surkhet ('Maoists reported on fresh recruitment drive in Nepal' 2006, *Deutsche Presse Agentur*, ReliefWeb website, 15 November <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/SODA-6VK9KN> – Accessed 21 November 2006 – Attachment 16; UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) 2006, 'Nepal: MaoA Cantonment Divisional Locations and UNMIN Sector HQs – Map', United Nations Nepal website, 26 November <http://www.un.org.np/reports/maps/OCHA/2007/2007-4-10-CPN-Maoist-Army-Cantonment-Divisional-Locations-with-Sector-HQs.pdf> – Accessed 6 July 2007 – Attachment 4).

Also of interest is a survey report focusing on displaced peoples both in Kathmandu and in the district headquarters of Surkhet (Birendranagar). The information was compiled by the South Asian Forum for Human Rights (SAFHR) and was published in March 2005. The report provides information on those displaced by Maoist violence, reasons for leaving rural villages, registration of IDPs, and other relevant issues (Rai, D. 2005, *A Pilot Survey on Internally Displaced Persons in Kathmandu and Birendranagar*, South Asia Forum for Human Rights website, March <http://www.safhr.org/pdf/IDP%20survey%20report.pdf> – Accessed 6 July 2007 – Attachment 17).

The following research responses provide general information on the recent security situation in Nepal:

- An April 2007 research response provides recent information on the stability of the peace agreement and interim government (RRT Country Research 2007, *Research Response NPL31626*, 5 April – Attachment 18);
- A January 2007 research response provides information on the situation in Nepal with regard to the Maoists and the government in terms of: cease fire and/or amnesty; possibility of, and steps towards, a coalition government; the open presence in Kathmandu of Maoists, both leaders and ordinary rank and file; opinions as to whether the current situation appears to be a significant and lasting change to Nepalese politics (RRT Country Research 2007, *Research Response NPL31000*, 15 January – Attachment 19).

## **2. Are members of the National Teachers Association of Nepal particular targets of Maoists?**

There are a number of teachers' associations in Nepal, and reports give different and sometimes confusing information regarding these associations. According to the available information there is a Maoist-affiliated national teachers' organisation, and a number of other national teachers' organisations/associations. It is unclear as to which teachers' association is referred to. In general, according to human rights reports, teachers and teachers' organisations have been targeted by both Maoists and government forces. Information on the various teachers' organisations is set out below (for information on Maoist targeting of teachers, see: 'Nepal: IDP return still a trickle despite ceasefire – A profile of the internal displacement situation' 2006, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre website, 16 October, pp. 134-140 [http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/\(httpInfoFiles\)/6C8B65949B9B0229C12572090038DEE5/\\$file/Nepal+-October+2006.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/(httpInfoFiles)/6C8B65949B9B0229C12572090038DEE5/$file/Nepal+-October+2006.pdf) – Accessed 18 January 2007 – Attachment 5).

### **Teachers' associations in Nepal**

A June 2007 article lists five teachers organisations – Nepal Teachers' Association, Nepal National Teachers Organisation, Teachers Council, Nepal National Teachers Forum and Nepal Revolutionary Teachers Organisation. These organisations come under the umbrella organisation of the Teachers' Union of Nepal (TUN) ('Teachers meet begins' 2007, *Himalayan Times*, 16 June. Cited on South Asian Media Net website <http://www.southasianmedia.net/cnn.cfm?id=397985&category=civil%20society&Country=NEPAL> – Accessed 6 July 2007 – Attachment 20).

It appears, from the available information, that the “Nepal National Teachers Organisation (NNTO) is also known as the “Nepal National Teachers’ Association” (NNTA). According to a 2004 Amnesty International statement, the NNTA is close to the Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML). A number of reports of Maoists targeting NNTO/NNTA members were found in the available information (Amnesty International 2004, ‘Nepal: Fear for safety/possible “disappearance”’, 3 March, ASA 31/061/2004 <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGASA310612004?open&of=ENG-2S4> – Accessed 6 July 2007 – Attachment 21).

The “Nepal Teachers Association” (NTA) has also been targeted by Maoists. A 2000 ICFTU report states that between July-September 1999, at least 30 members of the Nepal Teachers’ Association (NTA) and the Nepal National Teachers’ Association (NNTA) were murdered.” The above-mentioned Belgium fact-finding mission 2002 report states that “[a]ccording to Amnesty International, especially the teachers who belong to the ‘Nepal Teachers’ Association’, an organisation linked to the government party (Nepali Congress Party) are targeted by the Maoists” (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions 2000, *Annual Survey of Violations of Trade Union Rights – 2000*, p. 121 – Attachment 22; Belgium Ministry of Interior Affairs 2002, *Mission to Nepal: 21 January to 9 February 2002*, March, p. 22 – Attachment 3).

An article dated 26 August 2006 reports on concerns over the “continuing threat to teachers by the Maoists”, and includes comments by the president of the NTA:

The government and Maoists have failed to implement the code of conduct, as well as other understandings in practice, former NHRC member Kapil Shrestha said at an interaction programme organized by the Human Rights Organization of Nepal here today. Teachers also expressed concern over the continuing threat to teachers by the Maoists and the government’s refusal to pay some of the teachers’ salaries.

Despite the ongoing cease-fire, the Maoists are still forcing the teachers to pay them tax out of their regular salaries, said Mohan Gyawali, president of the Nepal Teachers Association. “Although the Maoists’ central committee is trying to resolve the conflict through dialogue, Maoist leader Prachanda has failed to bring the Maoists cadres under control,” he said.

The Maoist cadres are openly going against their central committee’s directions; therefore, it is difficult to say whether the peace process will be taken to the logical conclusion, he added. Displaced individuals and families have been asked to go home but the Maoists continue to occupy their households and property, he added (‘Activists concerned at ongoing rights violations in Nepal’ 2006, *BBC Monitoring South Asia*, 26 August – Attachment 23).

From the available information, it appears that the “All Nepal National Teachers Organisation” (ANNTO) is a Maoist-affiliated organisation. A 2006 report by Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR) describes the forced closure of hundreds of schools by ANNTO in December 2005. ANNTO is also called the “All Nepal National Teachers Association” in a December 2005 *BBC Monitoring* article. The “Nepal National Teachers’ Organization (Revolutionary) [NNTO-R]” is described as the Maoists’ teachers’ wing in a May 2006 article. A March 2007 report mentions a “teachers’ association affiliated to the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoists)”, however, the association is not named (Asian Centre for Human Rights 2006, *Nepal: One Year of Royal Anarchy*, 30 January, pp. 84-85 – Attachment 24; ‘Maoist force closure of schools in mid-west Nepal’ 2005, *BBC Monitoring South Asia*, 12 December – Attachment 25; ‘Nepal Maoists’ sister organizations open offices’ 2006, *BBC*

*Monitoring South Asia*, 8 May – Attachment 26; ‘Nepal Maoist wants reforms in educational sector’ 2007, *BBC Monitoring South Asia*, 19 March – Attachment 27).

A previous research response, dated 31 May 2004, provides detailed information on the targeting of teachers by Maoists in Nepal. A number of Nepali teachers’ associations are also mentioned in this response (RRT Country Research 2004, *Research Response NPL16750*, 31 May, Question 1 – Attachment 28).

### **Maoists targeting teachers**

Teachers and students, and the education system generally, have been a particular target of Maoists’ attacks throughout the course of the insurgency. The IDMC report states that “[s]ince 1996 and the beginning of the ‘people’s war’, members of the rural elite and teachers were specifically targeted by the Maoists.” The report also notes that Maoists “considered the education sector inseparable from politics, arguing that the ‘bourgeois regime’ is supported by the current education system which has to be changed”. The attacks have occurred for a range of reasons including: the targeting of schools as a source of children for forced recruitment; the extortion of money from teachers; the ideological indoctrination of teachers and students; and the abuse of teachers as agents of the state. A *OneWorld South Asia* 2004 report notes that teachers offered Maoists an easy target as state agents: “Since schools are the only government agencies allowed to operate in the Maoist heartland, teachers are easy prey” (‘Nepal: IDP return still a trickle despite ceasefire – A profile of the internal displacement situation’ 2006, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre website, 16 October, pp. 30-32 [http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/\(httpInfoFiles\)/6C8B65949B9B0229C12572090038DEE5/\\$file/Nepal+-October+2006.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/(httpInfoFiles)/6C8B65949B9B0229C12572090038DEE5/$file/Nepal+-October+2006.pdf) – Accessed 18 January 2007 – Attachment 5; Dhakal, Sanjaya 2004, ‘Nepal’s Insurgency-Hit Teachers Threaten Exam Boycott’, *OneWorld South Asia*, 19 January, OneWorld website – <http://www.oneworld.net/article/view/77064/1/> – Accessed 17 May 2004 – Attachment 29).

The most recent US Department of State’s human rights report notes the Maoist “campaign of abducting civilians, primarily students and teachers, allegedly for indoctrination programs and forced paramilitary training.” The report also states that in 2006:

Maoist groups curtailed academic freedom, regularly extorted money from private schools and teachers, and inflicted punishment on school officials. According to INSEC, from 2002 through 2005, Maoists abducted 18,852 students and 9,261 teachers from schools for indoctrination programs, and bombed over a dozen schools across the country (see section 1.g.). Despite the cease-fire, the country’s media continued to report instances of abduction, extortion, and intimidation by Maoists outside Kathmandu valley (US Department of State 2007, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2006 – Nepal*, March, Section 2.a – Attachment 30).

A news brief dated 11 June 2007 reports the recent abduction and murder of a teacher by a breakaway Maoist faction. A leader of the group was reported as saying that “the teacher was killed for spying against the workers of his group” (‘Nepal rebel group abducts, kills teacher – paper’ 2007, *BBC Monitoring South Asia*, 11 June – Attachment 31).

The 2006 ACHR report states that:

The education system in Nepal has been paralysed as the government in one hand and the Maoists and its affiliated All Nepal National Independent Students' Union- Revolutionary (ANNFSU-R) have been trying to take over control of the schools to spread nationalist education and peoples' education respectively. The school authorities have been caught between the devil and the deep blue sea.

...The CPN-Maoists have deprived thousands of school students their right to education by continued abduction of students and teachers, killings, threats, bombings of school buildings and forcible closure of educational institutions. According to Child Workers Network of Nepal, around 13,723 children were abducted along with teachers during January – September 2005 (Asian Centre for Human Rights 2006, *Nepal: One Year of Royal Anarchy*, 30 January, p. 80 – Attachment 24).

### **3. Is there any information on the Nepal Maoists Victims Association – when was it established, membership, office holders, etc?**

The Nepal Maoist Victims Association (MVA) was frequently mentioned in the sources consulted. It appears that the organisation is also known as the Association of Sufferers from the Maoist Nepal (ASMAN). According to the available information, MVA is an organisation of people displaced by Maoist violence. Many of the MVA members are from middle class families who came to the Maoists' notice due to their links to the government. MVA claims a membership of 27,000 people all over Nepal. MVA was begun in 1999 by Ganesh Chilawal, who was President of the organisation until he was assassinated by Maoists in 2004. Sources also report the assassination of a number of other MVA leaders. It is noted by Refugees International that many displaced people "do not want to register with MVA out of fear of being targeted by Maoists." According to the available information, the current MVA president is Dharma Raj Neupane. Although occasional reports mention names of interviewed MVA members, very little detail was found regarding the organisation's structure or membership. MVA has been organising protests for the last few years, and has thus also been occasionally targeted by the government (for information on MVA, see: 'Salary for Maoists, stick for their victims' 2007, *Indo-Asian News Service*, 23 May – Attachment 32, and: 'Refugee Voices: Maoist Victims Association in Nepal' 2005, Refugees International website, 19 July <http://www.refugeesinternational.org/content/article/detail/6394> – Accessed 6 July 2007 – Attachment 33; for information on the murder of MVA leaders, see: Amnesty International Nepal 2005, 'Open letter condemning attacks on civilians, especially those who criticise Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) (Maoist)', *Amnesty Dialogue*, January-June <http://www.amnestynepal.org/Amnesty Dialogue – Joint issue of Jan-June 2005.pdf> – Accessed 6 July 2007 – Attachment 34).

An article dated 23 May 2007 states that the "Nepal Maobadi Pidit Sangh" is the Maoist Victims' Association. The article reports that a number of MVA members have been arrested whilst protesting against the government:

Durganath Yogi, whose family ran a small shop in Dang in midwestern Nepal, a Maoist stronghold, saw his elder brother killed by the guerrillas and their property confiscated. He was told to leave the village or face severe consequences.

...about 300 people with similar tales of suffering, banded to form the Nepal Maobadi Pidit Sangh – **Maoist Victims' Association** – and sought to demand compensation and justice from the government.

However, the seven-year struggle has come to naught.

The Sangh says instead of justice, they have been further persecuted by the “democratic” multiparty government.

Three years ago, Maoists killed the head of the group, Ganesh Chiluwal, in one of the busiest areas of the capital. Though several organisations, including Amnesty International, have been asking Nepal's government to punish Chiluwal's killers, nothing has happened so far ('Salary for Maoists, stick for their victims' 2007, *Indo-Asian News Service*, 23 May – Attachment 32).

According to a *BBC* article dated 20 September 2006, Dharma Raj Neupane is the president of the Nepal Maoist Victims' Association. The article also describes recent protests by MVA. The 2006 ACHR report also mentions the MVA ('Dozens held at Nepalese rally' 2006, *BBC News*, 20 September [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/5362414.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/5362414.stm) – Accessed 6 July 2007 – Attachment 35; Asian Centre for Human Rights 2006, *Nepal: One Year of Royal Anarchy*, 30 January, pp. 76-77 – Attachment 24).

The 2006 IDMC report mentions Dharma Raj Neupane as the president of ASMAN:

The Association of Sufferers of the Maoists, Nepal (ASMAN), a group formed by 20,000 IDPs, said that cadres in the villages had refused to return the lands and houses seized when people refused to join, pay donations or support them.

...“The Maoists are still doing injustices to a lot of poor villagers. They still intimidate us, ask for donations, torture and even kill people who don't support their party or do as they ask,” Dharma Raj Neupane, ASMAN's president, maintained ('Nepal: IDP return still a trickle despite ceasefire – A profile of the internal displacement situation' 2006, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre website, 16 October, pp. 179-180 [http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/\(httpInfoFiles\)/6C8B65949B9B0229C12572090038DEE5/\\$file/Nepal+-October+2006.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/(httpInfoFiles)/6C8B65949B9B0229C12572090038DEE5/$file/Nepal+-October+2006.pdf) – Accessed 18 January 2007 – Attachment 5; for more information on ASMAN, see: Rai, D. 2005, *A Pilot Survey on Internally Displaced Persons in Kathmandu and Birendranagar*, South Asia Forum for Human Rights website, March, pp. 29-30 <http://www.safhr.org/pdf/IDP%20survey%20report.pdf> – Accessed 6 July 2007 – Attachment 17).

A 2005 article on the Refugees International website provides information on MVA:

Refugees International, on a recent mission to Nepal, interviewed members of the Maoist Victims Association (MVA) an organization of people displaced by Maoist violence. Many of the MVA members are from middle class families who came to the Maoists' notice due to their links to the government. MVA claims a membership of 27,000 people all over Nepal. According to an agency spokesperson, this is a small fraction of the numbers displaced; most people do not want to register with MVA out of fear of being targeted by Maoists. In the last couple of years, the Maoists have assassinated three MVA leaders ('Refugee Voices: Maoist Victims Association in Nepal' 2005, Refugees International website, 19 July <http://www.refugeesinternational.org/content/article/detail/6394> – Accessed 6 July 2007 – Attachment 33).

An Amnesty International Nepal publication provides details on the murder of a number of MVA leaders:

On 4 January 2005, Jay Bahadur Rawal, Vice President of the Maoist Victims Association (MVA) was shot and killed in a market in Kathmandu and the CPN (Maoist) reportedly took responsibility for the killing. The MVA is an organization working for the welfare of victims of Maoist abuses. Before his death, Jay Bahadur Rawal had reportedly received threats from the CPN (Maoist). He had moved frequently because he feared for his safety. Two other members of the MVA were killed in 2004 by alleged CPN (Maoist) cadres. The organisation's President, Ganesh Chiluwal was shot dead in February and another senior member, Nawaraj Bhattarai, was murdered at his home in August (Amnesty International Nepal 2005, 'Open letter condemning attacks on civilians, especially those who criticise Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) (Maoist)', *Amnesty Dialogue*, January-June <http://www.amnestynepal.org/Amnesty Dialogue – Joint issue of Jan-June 2005.pdf> – Accessed 6 July 2007 – Attachment 34).

According to one article there is also a Victimized Teachers' Association (Dhakal, Sanjaya 2004, 'Nepal's Insurgency-Hit Teachers Threaten Exam Boycott', *OneWorld South Asia*, 19 January, OneWorld website <http://www.oneworld.net/article/view/77064/1/> – Accessed 17 May 2004 – Attachment 29).

## List of Sources Consulted

### Internet Sources:

Google search engine <http://www.google.com.au/>

### Databases:

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BACIS (DIAC Country Information database)

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