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# Internally displaced persons in Nepal: The forgotten victims of the conflict

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## Table of Contents

Executive summary and recommendations

Background to the current political crisis

IDPs in Nepal: The growing humanitarian crisis

Causes and areas of displacement

*Inadequate national response*

*Overdue international response*

Conclusions

## Executive Summary and Recommendations

At the end of November and beginning of December 2004, a two-member team of *Human Rights without Frontiers Int.* conducted a 10-day fact-finding mission in Nepal with the objective of taking stock of events in the country with regard to its deteriorating security situation, increasing governmental crisis, and escalating human rights violations on the side of both the Government and the Maoist insurgents. In co-operation with *Human Rights without Frontiers – Nepal*, the mission travelled across the country into a number of districts located in the Western Hill region, the Central Mountain region, the Central Tarai and Eastern Tarai regions, as well as in Kathmandu and the Kathmandu valley. A series of interviews were conducted with government officials (Chief District Officers, army officers), politicians, local human rights NGOs, *Dalits*, internally displaced people (IDPs), victims of human rights violations, Bhutanese and Tibetan refugees, as well as members of the diplomatic community.

The situation in Nepal has been rapidly deteriorating since the end of the fact-finding mission. On February 1, 2005, King Gyanendra dismissed the government of Prime Minister Shah Bahadur Deuba and declared a state of emergency. In a statement, the king suspended the constitutional freedoms of press, speech and expression; the freedom to assemble peacefully; the right to privacy; and the constitutional protection against news censorship and preventive detention. On 29 April, 2005, King Gyanendra announced the end of the state of emergency, without however extending measures to stem the abysmal decline of human rights. The Royal Nepalese Army rounded up political leaders in the country's capital, Kathmandu, instantly following the king's emergency decree. The ongoing crackdown against opposition political groups, along with former members of the government, points to a snap and brutal silencing out of all political dissent. The army continues to crack down heavily on press and human rights activists throughout the country. Many political leaders, students, human rights activists, journalists and trade unionists arrested following the state of emergency remain in detention.

The growing insecurity and lack of protection of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) has been unfolding in the first half of 2005 against the background of the country's political crisis and unabating conflict. Caught in between the Maoist rebels and the government security forces, many civilians were forced to flee their home places in search of some security and protection. The King and the Government are reluctant to acknowledge the soaring numbers of IDPs across the country creating a situation, whereby IDPs numbers have remained largely unaccounted for and the IDPs humanitarian needs and human rights concerns have escaped proper attention and action strategies.

## Recommendations

To King Gyanendra and the Government appointed by him:

- Recognize IDPs as a group, which needs protection during all phases of the displacement cycle;
- Take all measures necessary to ensure that IDPs are guaranteed the full protection of national law;
- Comply with the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement;
- Commission without any delay a survey and assessment of the needs and vulnerability of the growing IDPs population in Nepal;
- Spell out clear-cut national strategies for addressing the humanitarian needs and human rights concerns of uprooted populations across the country;
- Ensure the safe access of IDPs to food, water, shelter, clothing, medical services, sanitation;
- Take all measures necessary to reinforce the local and national capacity to deal with the needs and concerns of IDPs;
- Ensure the access of international humanitarian organizations offering their services in support of internally displaced persons;
- Share information in order to forge common understanding of the problems;
- Refrain from any activities that would lead to further displacements.

To the leadership of CPN-Maoist:

- Refrain from any activities that would lead to further displacements ;
- Comply with the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which shall be observed by “all authorities, groups and persons irrespective of their legal status”;
- Ensure free access of humanitarian organizations to IDPs in their efforts to address the humanitarian needs of the displaced;
- Instruct CPN-Maoist forces to ensure the full protection of IDPs and to prevent any further displacements.

To the international community:

- Pressure King Gyanendra and the government to recognize IDPs as a vulnerable group in need of protection during all phases of the displacement cycle;
- Pressure Nepal's authorities to extend to IDPs the full protection of national law;
- Pressure King Gyanendra and the government to abide by international human rights and humanitarian law and to comply with the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement;
- Spell out coherent and consistent strategies for international IDPs assistance and protection;
- Assist the government of Nepal to reinforce its local and national capacity for IDPs assistance and protection.

## Background to the current political crisis

Nepal is at a critical juncture of its history. Fourteen years after the introduction of multi-party democracy, the political life of the country is in a state of paralysis. Nepal's nascent democracy dates back to the beginning of the 1990s when a popular movement brought changes to the centuries-old system of autocratic rule and feudal structures of social and political life. The 1990 Constitution of Nepal set the basis for the introduction of a multi-party electoral system, separation of power, and the respect for fundamental human rights. However, this loosely drafted constitution did give increased powers to the king, especially over the military. The last fourteen years have displayed a gap between the formulation of policies and its actual implementation. The current political, economic and social context of Nepal is predominantly characterised by a huge democracy deficit, poverty affecting two-thirds of the population, inequalities and discrimination. These factors have rendered Nepal a fertile soil for the upsurge of armed insurgency between government troops and Maoist guerrillas.

The "People's War" was launched in 1996. On February 4, 1996, the Maoist political wing leader Baburam Bhattarai submitted a 40-point memorandum to the then Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba. Broadly divided into three groups pertaining to nationality, questions of governance and livelihood, the memorandum's demands include abolition of special privileges of the king and the royal family, promulgation of a new republican constitution drafted by people's elected representatives, and turning Nepal into a secular state. Greatly underestimated as a security threat concentrated in the remote rural areas in the Far Western and Mid-Western regions of Nepal, the Maoist consolidated their ranks and gradually turned into a real threat to the constitutional order. There was a short period of ceasefire. Its breakdown in August 2003 led to a renewed cycle of insurgency and counter-insurgency operations and escalation of violence.

By definition, insurgency stays at the lower end of conflict intensity and is a complex warfare situation, in which the political system of a country is challenged and the forces of the government and the insurgents are engaged in outmanoeuvring military tactics. The Maoist guerrillas claim to control most of the rural areas in the country, while the government claims control of urban areas, including the capital, Kathmandu.

The conflict has claimed more than 11,000 lives since it erupted in 1996. Since the last ceasefire in August 2003, there has been an increase in documented human rights abuses, including torture, detention, disappearances, abductions and extra-judicial killings.

## IDPs in Nepal: The growing humanitarian crisis

The deteriorating security and human rights situation in Nepal has caused significant population movements over the last few years. This is a fact that has been acknowledged by international organizations and relief agencies.<sup>i</sup> However, there is only very limited information on the exact scope of the displacement problem in Nepal and on the assistance and protection needs of displaced persons. It has also been difficult to distinguish between poverty-induced and conflict-induced population movements, as in many cases the motives can be a combination of interlinked and overlapping factors.

There is no comprehensive and reliable data on the displaced population in Nepal. On the basis of data provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Nepal Red Cross Society, the Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC) as well as a survey of 12 municipalities, it has been concluded that between 100,000 and 150,000 people could be displaced in Nepal as a direct or indirect consequence of the conflict.<sup>ii</sup> According to the data available to the Community Study and Welfare Center, an NGO advocating the rights of IDPs in Nepal, over the last nine years of Maoist insurgency between 350,000 to 400,000 Nepalese have been displaced from their homes.<sup>iii</sup>

In March 2005, the Global IDP Project of the Norwegian Refugee Council placed Nepal among the countries worst affected by new displacements in 2004, alongside Sudan, Uganda, Colombia, Iraq and Somalia. Nepal is also on the list of countries experiencing the world's displacement situations. The assessment was based on the combination of indicators including type of displacement, number of IDPs, access to protection and assistance, security situation, and governmental response.<sup>iv</sup>

According to the UNDP Nepal Human Development Report 2004, the country's level of human development remains among the lowest in the world.<sup>v</sup> The country has a long list of disadvantaged and marginalized groups – notably women, *Dalits*, indigenous people, people with disabilities, children and senior citizens. The group of IDPs adds to the list of the “weak” and “disempowered”, while at the same time it cuts across those groups, further augmenting their vulnerability.

### Causes and areas of displacement

Despite difficulties to distinguish between poverty-induced and conflict-induced displacements in Nepal, it has been now fully acknowledged that the fight between Maoist rebels and governmental security forces of the Royal Nepal Army (RNA) has been the main cause for displacements.

Different groups of IDPs can be identified.

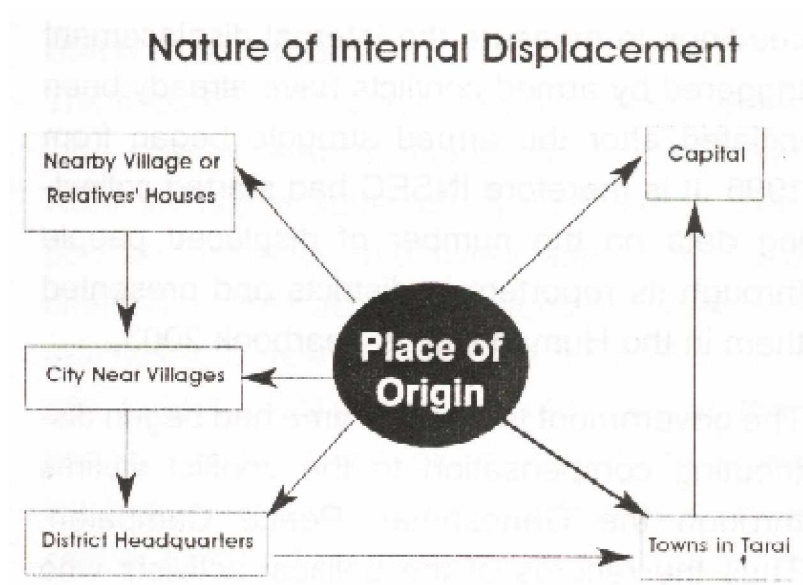
Local political leaders, Village Development Committee (VDC) chairmen, government employees, teachers, and landowners have been targets of Maoist attempts to expand their power base across the country. Under threats and pressure, they have been forced to leave their positions, elected or appointed, and flee their home places.<sup>vi</sup> Poor people from remote, rural areas have been greatly affected by Maoist activities. The general conditions of insecurity in those areas have driven large segments of Nepali society out of their home places. Those IDPs were also targets of killings, forced recruitment, abductions of family members, extortions, and other human rights violations committed by Maoist rebel forces.<sup>vii</sup> Many of them were forced to flee due to charges raised by Maoists of them acting as spies for the government forces. Civilians have also become targets of the operations of governmental security forces against the Maoists. People were forced to leave their home places after authorities had raised charges against them for assisting or for acting as spies for Maoists. Many people were caught in the fire between Maoists and security forces. Left without shelter, food and security in their home place, they were forced to head for other places in search of safety and means of subsistence. Many of them need medical treatment, which they can not afford.



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Raga Damai was burnt in her house while caught in crossfire between Maoists and the Royal Nepali Army. Her house was totally damaged and she fled to Kathmandu. She has got no assistance needed for her medical treatment.

The groups of IDPs have been generally dislocated from rural to urban areas with the capital Kathmandu as their final destination. People from remote areas would move first to villages close to towns and then to district towns. The logic of dislocation follows closely the dynamics of the conflict. In the districts, the governmental control is focused in the district towns, while rural areas have remained largely beyond the protection of the RNA and governmental authorities.



Source: INSEC, Nepal, *Human Rights Yearbook 2004*

The gathering of people in towns, already ravaged by unemployment and poverty, may lead to increasing tensions between IDPs communities and host communities. Deprived of agricultural land and means of subsistence in hostile environment, IDPs and particularly women and children are faced with a range of threats such as trafficking, prostitution, and bonded labour. Nepal is one of the countries, in which displaced children have difficulties in accessing education, as highlighted by the report of the IDP Global Project of the Norwegian Refugee Council.<sup>viii</sup>

The plight of IDPs in Nepal has escaped international attention until recently. The long overdue protection is predicated on two factors. Firstly, the internal displacements have taken place over the span of several years and have not therefore projected an image of an imminent crisis. Since the beginning of the People's War in 1996, the numbers of IDPs in Nepal have been growing gradually over time. In the wake of the ceasefire end in 2003, the situation has dramatically deteriorated letting IDPs numbers soar in the last few years. All in all, however, the country has not witnessed a one-off, massive wave of displacements and the deteriorating situation failed to attract international attention. Secondly, IDPs can merge in families and social networks, making it difficult to verify the number and location of IDPs. There are certain "coping mechanisms" allowing societies and social networks to cushion the first effects



of emerging humanitarian crises of a smaller scale. However, these “coping mechanisms” are not durable and stable, once the situation gets worse.

The current stage of the IDPs situation in Nepal can be defined as a “transition gap”, which is the period between the moment when displacement occurs and when redress is given to the victims of forced migration and other violations.<sup>ix</sup> In Nepal, this “transition gap” has lasted for years, during which time both the national authorities and UN agencies have fallen short in providing protection to the displaced and in assuring respect for their physical safety and human rights.

### Lack of protection for IDPs in Nepal

Despite the fact that Nepal has been listed among the countries currently experiencing most serious humanitarian crisis, no targeted assistance has been delivered to address the most immediate humanitarian needs of uprooted populations. Health, nutrition and shelter are the basic needs that have to be first addressed in conditions of massive population dislocations. No survey, however, has been carried out to assess the vulnerability of IDPs on the basis of different indicators such as access to shelter, food, drinking water, sanitation, medicine and care. Apart from being a humanitarian problem, internal displacement is a human rights problem as well, requiring specific measures to protect the physical safety and human rights of those uprooted.

With regard to national and international assistance, the Global IDP Project of the Norwegian Refugee Council has placed Nepal on three lists. The first list is of countries where IDPs have not received assistance from national authorities; the second one is of countries where national authorities have reacted with hostility or indifference to IDP protection needs, and the third one is of countries where the United Nations have not been involved in IDP assistance.<sup>x</sup>

#### *Inadequate national response*

One of the reasons for the inadequate response is the nebulous area of IDPs protection in international humanitarian law. Unlike refugees whose protection is guaranteed within the remit of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol hereto, the IDPs do not enjoy any legal status under the provisions of international humanitarian and human rights law. Therefore, national authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to internally displaced persons within the jurisdiction of their own state. Despite the lack of explicit international legal provisions on IDPs, states are bound to assist and protect their uprooted populations in compliance with the international human rights and humanitarian obligations, especially those under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

In 1998, the UN Commission on Human Rights adopted non-binding Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement elaborated with the purpose to address the specific needs of IDPs worldwide by identifying rights and guarantees relevant to their protection. Though legally non-binding on states, the Guiding Principles reflect and are consistent with international human rights law and international human rights law.

Therefore, there are relevant legal benchmarks by which a state can be held accountable for its refusal or inability to protect the rights of IDPs and to address their most immediate humanitarian needs. In general, Nepal has a poor record of protecting the rights of its marginalized and weak groups. So far, the government has failed to spell out a coherent set of practices and policies to address the protection and assistance needs of IDPs. Moreover, Nepal's government has been generally reluctant to acknowledge that there has been a displacement crisis in the country caused by the fighting between Maoist insurgents and governmental forces.

In the first months of 2005, tensions between IDPs and governmental authorities have been on the rise. A series of protests were staged by the Maoist Victims' Association, which called on the government to recognize the status of IDPs and to ensure the protection of their humanitarian and human rights needs and concerns. Their demands for food and shelter were brutally countered by governmental security forces, despite the fact that the Guiding Principles have clearly stipulated that the internally displaced persons have the right to request and receive protection and humanitarian assistance from their national authorities and "they shall not be persecuted and punished for making such a request" (Principle 3, point 2).

- On May 7, nearly 300 IDPs gathered in Kathmandu demanding food, shelter, and rehabilitation. The chairman of the Maoist Victims' Association (MVA) stated that the situation had worsened after the February 1 political changes.<sup>xi</sup>
- On May 13, the police intervened in a sit-in protest staged by Maoist Victims Association in demand of shelter and food for the displaced from various parts of the country. The demonstrating people were mostly widows and children of persons killed by Maoists and those who had fled their homes as their lives were threatened. According to reports, twenty demonstrators were injured.<sup>xii</sup>
- On May 26, during a rally in Kathmandu the police arrested over 100 IDPs, including women, children and elderly people. Over 40 people, including a small child, were seriously injured.<sup>xiii</sup>
- On June 5, police broke into a IDPs camp at Khaullamanch in Kathmandu and arrested as many as 80 people. According to reports, security forces assaulted and forced into vans even children, women and elderly people.<sup>xiv</sup> Many other IDPs were dispersed and detained in various places around Kathmandu with no information on their whereabouts.<sup>xv</sup> The camp was set up in April in a large open-air theatre in the centre of Kathmandu after IDPs had moved from Jadibuti in the Bhaktapur district, where the Chief District Officer had not allowed them to settle. Some of the people in

- the camp were handicapped. IDPs had no food and drinking water, nor did they have any proper shelter.<sup>xvi</sup>
- On June 25, the Maoist Victims' Association submitted a memorandum to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and called for the resignation of Home Minister Dan Bahadur Shahi. On June 9, the MVA had filed a complaint with the Supreme Court with regard to the police intervention on June 5 destroying the Khaullamanch camp in Kathmandu.<sup>xvii</sup>



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Governmental security forces arrested over 100 IDPs, including children, women and elderly people during a rally on 26 May, when IDPs demanded shelter, food, water, and health care.

### *Overdue international response*

There have been 100,000 Bhutanese refugees on the territory of Nepal since the beginning of the 1990s.<sup>xviii</sup> Settled in seven camps in the eastern part of Nepal, the Bhutanese refugees are under the protection of the UNHCR. Though Nepal is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the government cooperates with UNHCR to assist refugees.

As mentioned earlier in the report, the primary responsibility for the rights and protection of the internally displaced persons rests with their respective governments. Moreover, any international assistance needs the consent of the government and the Guiding Principles advise governments not to consider offers for assistance “as an unfriendly act or an interference in a State’s internal affairs” (Principle 25, point 2).

It is only recently that the United Nations, through its agencies, launched a process of reconsidering its role in the protection of IDPs worldwide. Aide Memoire for the Consideration of Issues Pertaining to the Protection of Civilians (S/PRST/2002/6) was adopted by the Security Council on 15 March 2002. The document sets out the security for refugees and IDPs and host communities as an area of primary concern. Two main objectives were identified in this respect – the support for the immediate protection needs of displaced persons and civilians in host communities through measures to enhance security for displaced persons, support the location of camps in secure areas, and facilitate return under safe and dignified conditions as well as support for the maintenance of the humanitarian and civilian character of camps and settlements for displaced persons through, inter alia, provision of external and internal security, cooperation with host State, and deployment of multi-disciplinary assessment and security evaluation teams.

Despite those prescribed measures, the UN system does not yet have mechanisms at its disposal to proceed with their implementation. In this context, the response of the international community to the needs and concerns of IDPs worldwide has remained inadequate and insufficient. With regard to the unfolding IDPs crisis in Nepal through the years, the UN response has been disparate and unfocused, lacking targeted assistance to the most immediate needs of the displaced.

In May-June 2004, a joint mission of the IDP Unit of the UN Secretariat and the Office of Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) visited Nepal to conduct an initial assessment of potential humanitarian consequences of the population movements in the country and to identify the need for humanitarian action. The mission concluded that despite the great socio-economic disruption and increased population displacement, Nepal had not yet been confronted with a humanitarian crisis. The United Nations has been primarily involved in development-oriented and capacity-building programmes and targeted programmes for IDPs have not been part of the UN repertoire of activities in the country. The report draws attention to the fact that UN agencies have in general resisted a shift to humanitarian assistance, the rationale being that such assistance would “undermine the population’s coping mechanisms and further destabilise the already precarious social structures”.<sup>xix</sup> Eschewing from the subject of direct and immediate humanitarian assistance to meet the day-to-day needs of displaced people, the report’s conclusions and recommendations focused on continued human rights monitoring and development-oriented activities that help prevent the need for humanitarian assistance. Faced with the difficulty to clearly identify the groups of IDPs and to prioritize their needs vis-à-vis other clearly marginalized groups of the Nepalese society, as ample as they are, the UN IDP Unit and OCHA recommended community-based programs that would help prevent further displacement and would reinforce the absorption capacity of receiving communities.

In April 2005, less than a year later, Prof. Walter Kälin, Representative of the UN Secretary General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, clearly stated that IDPs in Nepal had been largely overlooked and neglected and the “coping mechanisms” were near exhaustion. It has been recognized that there has been no coherent assistance and protection response either

from the Government or from national or international organizations. In contrast to the development-oriented strategies followed by UN agencies, the Representative clearly advocated the need for a comprehensive strategy and a framework to respond to the human rights and humanitarian needs of IDPs, including prevention of displacement, during displacement, and with regard to finding long-term solutions on behalf of displaced persons.<sup>xx</sup>

## Conclusions

The balance sheet of responses to the surging IDPs crisis in Nepal is upsetting. So far, the international community has failed to provide targeted humanitarian assistance to cover the most basic needs of uprooted populations in the country such as food, shelter, water, sanitation, and health care. On their side, national authorities have remained completely indifferent and even hostile to the plight of those people who were driven away from their homes by the conflict and the reigning terror. In a country where two-thirds of the population is affected by poverty and human rights abuses are rampant, the creation of a new marginalized and vulnerable group of people can only lead to further escalation of tensions. Therefore, it should be a matter of priority to assess the vulnerability of the IDPs, to identify their most immediate humanitarian needs and human rights concerns, and elaborate strategies and structured mechanisms, on national and international level, to assist and protect the uprooted people of Nepal.

To this end, *Human Rights without Frontiers Int.* recommends:

To King Gyanendra and the Government appointed by him:

- Recognize IDPs as a group, which needs protection during all phases of the displacement cycle;
- Take all measures necessary to ensure that IDPs are guaranteed the full protection of national law;
- Comply with the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement;
- Commission without any delay a survey and assessment of the needs and vulnerability of the growing IDPs population in Nepal;
- Spell out clear-cut national strategies for addressing the humanitarian needs and human rights concerns of uprooted populations across the country;
- Ensure the safe access of IDPs to food, water, shelter, clothing, medical services, sanitation;
- Take all measures necessary to reinforce the local and national capacity to deal with the needs and concerns of IDPs;
- Ensure the access of international humanitarian organizations offering their services in support of internally displaced persons;
- Share information in order to forge common understanding of the problems;
- Refrain from any activities that would lead to further displacements.

To the leadership of CPN-Maoist:

- Refrain from any activities that would lead to further displacements ;
- Comply with the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which shall be observed by “all authorities, groups and persons irrespective of their legal status”;
- Ensure free access of humanitarian organizations to IDPs in their efforts to address the humanitarian needs of the displaced;
- Instruct CPN-Maoist forces to ensure the full protection of IDPs and to prevent any further displacements.

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To the international community:

- Pressure King Gyanendra and the government to recognize IDPs as a vulnerable group in need of protection during all phases of the displacement cycle;
- Pressure Nepal’s authorities to extend to IDPs the full protection of national law;
- Pressure King Gyanendra and the government to abide by international human rights and humanitarian law and to comply with the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement;
- Spell out coherent and consistent strategies for international IDPs assistance and protection;
- Assist the government of Nepal to reinforce its local and national capacity for IDPs assistance and protection.

## Notes

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<sup>i</sup> The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the IDP unit conducted a fact-finding mission to Nepal in May-June 2004, *Report of the OCHA/IDP Unit Mission to Nepal*. The Global IDP Project of the Norwegian Refugee Council has also studied the IDPs situation in Nepal.

<sup>ii</sup> Norwegian Refugee Council, Global IDP Project, *Training Workshop on protecting IDPs and the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*, 5-6 March 2003

<sup>iii</sup> See *Nepal: Focus on IDPs*, at <http://www.irinnews.org>

<sup>iv</sup> Norwegian Refugee Council, Global IDP Project, *Internal Displacement: Global Overview of Trends and Developments in 2004*. Alongside Nepal, the world's worst displacement situations are in Burma (Myanmar), Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Indonesia, Iraq, Russian Federation (Chechnya), Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda.

<sup>v</sup> UNDP, *Nepal Human Development Report 2004: Empowerment and Poverty Reduction*, 2004

<sup>vi</sup> During its fact-finding mission in November-December 2004, *HRWF Int.* interviewed political leaders (National Congress) from Eastern Nepal who had joined family members in Kathmandu.

<sup>vii</sup> In the first months of 2005, *HRWF- Nepal* has conducted a series of interviews with IDPs from different districts located in Kathmandu and has listed the displacement reason for each individual case.

<sup>viii</sup> *Op.cit.*;

<sup>ix</sup> OCHA and the Brookings-SAIS Project on Internal Displacement, *Protect or Neglect? Toward a More Effective UN Approach to the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons*, Simon Bagshaw and Diane Paul, November 2004

<sup>x</sup> *Op. cit.*

<sup>xi</sup> News Kerala, *Maoist Victims Rally in Kathmandu*, 8 May 2005, [www.newkerala.com](http://www.newkerala.com)

<sup>xii</sup> Kantipur, *Police Break Maoist Victims' Sit-in*, 13 May 2005, <http://kantipuronline.com>

<sup>xiii</sup> Reports and photos from the rally were taken by Mr Raju Thapa, *Human Rights without Frontiers – Nepal*.

<sup>xiv</sup> INSEC, *Victims of Maoist Atrocities Assaulted and Expelled from Khaullamanch*, 6 June 2005,

<sup>xv</sup> AlertNet, *Maoist Victims Feel Neglected by the Government*, 7 June 2005, [www.alertnet.org](http://www.alertnet.org)

<sup>xvi</sup> A team of *Human Rights without Frontiers – Nepal* visited the camp to collect information and verify reports.

<sup>xvii</sup> South Asian Media Net, *Maoist victims knock on NCHR door*, 25 June 2005, [www.southasianmedia.net](http://www.southasianmedia.net)

<sup>xviii</sup> A team of *HRWF Int* and *HRWF Nepal* visited two Bhutanese refugees' camps in Eastern Nepal in December 2004. The concerns of Bhutanese refugees in Nepal fall outside of the scope of this report.

<sup>xix</sup> OCHA/IDP, *Report of the OCHA/IDP Unit Mission to Nepal*, 31 May – 12 June 2004

<sup>xx</sup> Brookings Institute, *Internally Displaced in Nepal Overlooked and Neglected, UN Expert Says*, April 22, 2005. A report on the findings of the UN Secretary General Representative on IDPs will be presented to the next United Nations Commission on Human Rights in March 2006.