



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

Commission internationale de juristes - Comisión Internacional de Juristas

" dedicated since 1952 to the primacy, coherence and implementation of international law and principles that advance human rights "

For immediate release

16 May 2005

P
R
E
S
S
R
E
L
E
A
S
E

ICJ calls on the Government of Nepal to respect Supreme Court orders and release illegally detained student leaders

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) today strongly condemned the illegal re-arrest of a student leader by dozens of armed police shortly after 5pm in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The release of student leaders Rajendra Rai and Roop Narayan Shrestha was ordered today by a Supreme Court habeas corpus decision. Following the decision police surrounded the District Court building and at the time of the release pursued the fleeing students, capturing one and removing him from the scene in a police vehicle. Police continued to pursue the second student leader.

"The Government of Nepal continues to surpass its already dismal record of contempt for the Supreme Court's habeas corpus decisions," said ICJ Secretary-General Nicholas Howen.

"This is a well-documented and continuing practice. This most recent re-arrest comes just eleven days after the re-arrest of student leader Gagan Thapa" added Nicholas Howen. "The ICJ is increasingly concerned about the pattern of targeting student leaders who are defending democratic rights in Nepal."

The ICJ called upon the Government of Nepal to immediately release illegally detained student leaders and to comply fully with all Supreme Court orders. The ICJ also called on the Supreme Court to issue appropriate contempt orders against responsible government officials.

The re-arrest was carried out in the presence of United Nations international human rights monitors. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights continues to closely monitor the situation.

For further information please contact Susan Appleyard, International Commission of Jurists, +4122 979 3809.

The ICJ is an international non-governmental organisation comprising sixty of the world's most eminent jurists and has a worldwide network of national sections and affiliated organisations

81A, avenue de Châtelaine, P.O. Box 216, 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41(0) 22 979 3800 – Fax: +41(0) 22 979 3801 – Website: <http://www.icj.org> - E-mail: info@icj.org