



Press Release

10 August 2005

Dhangadhi Visit

Dhangadhi, 10 August 2005 – Ian Martin, the Representative in Nepal of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) visited Dhangadhi today.

During his visit, Mr Martin met with Royal Nepali Army Brigadier Dambar Singh Gurung, Chief District Officer Ran Prasad Sharma, Superintendent of Police Pankaj Shrestha, Armed Police Force Deputy Inspector General Narayan Pandey, Nepali human rights non-governmental organisations and local journalists.

At his meetings with security forces, Mr Martin reminded the RNA, the APF and the Nepal police that, “OHCHR has a very clear agreement with His Majesty’s Government that my officers have a right to access and inspect any place of detentions without prior notice and conduct private interviews with detainees.”

Mr Martin also discussed the killings of six individuals at Banbehda on 14 June, noting that the perpetrators had not yet been identified.

Speaking at a meeting with local NGOs, Mr Martin said that “the OHCHR in Nepal is already active, receiving complaints, taking up issues directly with the state authorities and actively investigation priority issues and cases, including field visits, such as the horrific Banbehda killings. Our field presence will increase as more staff are recruited, which everyone understands, takes time.”