



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN NEPAL**



Press Release – 18 April 2010

OHCHR saddened by demise of activist Jay Kishore Labh

18 April Kathmandu,

United Nations Human Rights Office in Nepal (OHCHR) is deeply saddened to learn of the untimely demise of human rights defender, Jay Kishore Labh, of Danusha.

Mr Labh's son Sanjiv Kumar Karn (Dipu) disappeared on October 2003 along with four other students who were arrested by police in Janakpur and have not been seen again. Mr Labh, a lawyer, fought tirelessly for the disclosure of the fate of the disappeared students and for those responsible to be held to account.

The case has become an emblematic one for many victims and human rights defender organizations, including OHCHR. When the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, visited Nepal last year, she visited Janakpur and held an interaction with Mr Labh and other family members of the disappeared. She also met with the Superintendent of Police (SP) of the Nepal Police in Danusha and called on him to complete the investigation into the disappearance of the five students. OHCHR has continued to follow up on the case, alongside others such as NHRC, and only 10 days ago urged the IGP to complete the investigation.

The fate of most of those who were disappeared by the State and by the then Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) during the conflict remains unknown, despite repeated requests for clarification by their families and human rights organizations.

‘Jay Kishore Labh was a sensitive and determined man who, despite health problems that were almost certainly exacerbated by the anguish of his loss and his outrage at ongoing impunity, fought courageously to obtain justice for his son and others who were disappeared. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to his family on behalf of OHCHR and once again call on the authorities in the Home Ministry to disclose the fate of the disappeared students in Danusha and bring to justice those responsible.’ said Richard Bennett, the Representative of OHCHR-Nepal.

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