



February 9, 2006

His Majesty
King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev
Narayanhity Royal Palace
Durbar Marg
Kathmandu
NEPAL

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Your Majesty:

I am writing on behalf of the 1.3 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, to express our concern over the arrests of hundreds of trade union activists, including teachers, as well as students and others who are seeking to establish a democratic government in Nepal. We are particularly concerned about the increased level of violence which your government has been using to suppress peaceful demonstrations in support of re-establishing a full multi-party democracy in Nepal.

The AFT is a member of Education International, along with the Nepal National Teachers' Association (NNTA) and the Nepal Teachers' Association (NTA), both of which also operate under the joint banner of the Teachers' Union of Nepal (TUN). Our colleagues at Education International have informed us of the arrests of several TUN leaders and members in violation of Nepal's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Those arrested include:

- Mr Keshav Pd. Bhattarai, President of TUN
- Mr Mohan Gnwali, President of NTA
- Mr Babu Ram Thapa, Vice President of NNTA
- Mr Mahendra Sharma, C.C. member of TUN
- Mr Dandi Pd. Sharma, C.C. member of NNTA
- Ms Indira Sapkota, C.C. Member of NTA
- Ms Binda Sahani, Teacher

I urge you to release all of these individuals immediately. In addition, I encourage you to cease all of your government's efforts to block the work of those engaged in peaceful efforts to promote democracy in your country. A continuation of your government's policy of suppression of democracy can only lead to further violence.

Sincerely,

Edward J. McElroy
President

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American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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