



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO NEPAL

17.01.2013

PRESS RELEASE

EU missions (Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, UK, and the EU Delegation), Norway and Switzerland express concern for delays in the completion of the peace process, respect for human rights and democracy

In recent weeks we have witnessed a sharp upsurge in political debate. This activism reveals a deep desire for peace, democracy, respect for human rights and rule of law. The EU missions (Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, UK, and the EU Delegation), Norway and Switzerland call on Nepal's political leaders to listen to and act upon these concerns.

Whether their focus is violence against women or conflict-era human rights cases, the message is clear: that crime must not be condoned; that victims must not be ignored; and that perpetrators must not be shielded from the due process of the law.

As partners for peace and development in Nepal, we constantly called for independent and impartial investigation of credible allegations. We call on all concerned to work together to fulfill the commitments enshrined in the Comprehensive Peace Accord and meet Nepal's obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law.

We remain concerned about progress on the proposed Commissions on Truth and Reconciliation and on Disappearances. Where sufficient evidence exists, cases can and should be prosecuted in the courts independently of the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms. Such Commissions complement but do not replace criminal proceedings.

We again make clear that granting the Commissions authority to confer amnesties for serious human rights abuses would not only breach international law but would also fundamentally weaken the foundations for a lasting peace in Nepal. To deal effectively with the legacy of the

conflict, Nepal needs independent and credible Commissions that result from extensive public consultation and regard for victims' needs. The EU missions (Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, UK, and the EU Delegation), Norway and Switzerland will be unable to support mechanisms that do not meet international standards.

As friends and well-wishers of Nepal, we reaffirm our continued commitment and support to the aspirations of Nepali people for lasting peace, a new democratic and inclusive Constitution that protects fundamental rights, the rule of law and a sustainable socio-economic and political environment.

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