



Press Statement

Kathmandu, 20 July -

Use of Force at the Hospital Premises Unacceptable

Amnesty International Nepal expresses its deepest concern on the use of force by the Police at the Karnali Academy of Health and Sciences (KAHS) in Jumla on 19 July in its bid to forcefully transfer Dr. Govinda KC to Kathmandu. Dr. KC was on a hunger-strike at the KAHS since 30 June demanding key reforms in Nepal's health sector including withdrawal of the Medical Education Bill from the parliament.

It is deeply saddening to see the baton-wielding police forcefully enter the hospital premise manhandling medical professionals and general people, and use unwarranted force including tear gas, and allegedly a "live ammunition" seriously injuring a police constable, twenty medical doctors and others.

Under international human rights law, Nepal is obligated to protect the right to life, liberty and security of every person. It is also an obligation of the Government to ensure and respect the right to freedom of expression and opinion of every individual.

Amnesty International Nepal urges the Government to sufficiently ensure that the the law-enforcement officials adhere to the *UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms*, which requires at a minimum to ensure the necessity, proportionality, legality and accountability of any amount of force used in all circumstances.

"We also urge the Government of Nepal to resolve any outstanding issues with the opposition party and/or dissenting groups including Dr. KC through a process of meaningful dialogue," said Nirajan Thapaliya, Director of Amnesty International Nepal.