



GPO Box 980 BRISBANE QLD AUSTRALIA 4001

Level 4, Law Society House, 179 Ann St, BRISBANE QLD AUSTRALIA 4000

Tel: +61 7 3222 5888  
Fax: +61 7 3222 5850  
E-mail: [lawasia@lawasia.asn.au](mailto:lawasia@lawasia.asn.au)  
Web: [www.lawasia.asn.au](http://www.lawasia.asn.au)

LAWASIA Holdings Pty Ltd ABN: 81 086 903 479

---

## **MEDIA STATEMENT - IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 11, 2004

LAWASIA, the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific, has learnt of the recent arbitrary arrest and detention of three lawyers by members of the security forces in Nepal.

Mr Basudev Sigdel , and Mr Gopi Bahadur Bhandari, both lawyers from Kathmandu, were arrested and have been detained in unknown locations. Efforts to seek information on their well-being and whereabouts have not been successful. It is believed that both were taken by men in civilian dress, claiming to be members of Nepal's security forces.

Government agencies formally deny any knowledge of the status of these two persons

In addition, Mr Krishna Silwal, an advocate and officer at the Legal Section of the Central Bank was arrested by security forces, and it is believed that he is being detained by the Royal Nepal Army in Bhairav Nath Gan.

In addition to expressing the deepest concern of the international legal community for the safety of these lawyers, LAWASIA calls upon the government of Nepal to take immediate action to effect their urgent release.

Further, as a representative of the international legal profession, LAWASIA strongly condemns the recent spate of arbitrary arrests, detention, enforced disappearance, harassment and intimidation of Nepalese lawyers whilst carrying out their duties. It calls on the government of Nepal to take all necessary steps to put an end to such activity as a matter of extreme urgency.

ENDS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT JANET NEVILLE, tel: +61 7 3222 5888