PRESS RELEASE

International Coalition against Enforced Disappearances urges Nepal to ratify the Convention on enforced disappearances

For immediate release

July 1, 2009

Thousands of letters calling on Nepal to ratify a human rights treaty to combat enforced disappearances will be delivered to the Prime Minister of Nepal on Wednesday. "Nepal has a terrible legacy of grave human rights violations, including thousands of enforced disappearances. Two years after the end of a decade-long internal conflict, not one of those responsible has been brought to account. Impunity prevails." said Dave Hardy, coordinator of the International Coalition against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED), which organized the worldwide letter-writing campaign.

More than two years after the Supreme Court of Nepal issued a landmark ruling, recommending the establishment of an effective commission to investigate enforced disappearances, the Coalition asks that the government send an unmistakable signal that enforced disappearances will never be tolerated again in Nepal. "Announcing that that Nepal will soon ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance would send such a signal" added Dave Hardy. "It would also make Nepal one of the very first countries in Asia to become a party to the Convention".

Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2006 the Convention against Enforced Disappearance represents the culmination of a long effort by many families of disappeared persons, non-governmental organizations and governments to address the continuing problem of enforced disappearance through international law.

The Convention will be an effective way to help prevent enforced disappearances and to respond effectively to the crimes when they are committed by establishing the truth, prosecuting the perpetrators and providing reparations to the victims and their families. "As countless persons continue to be “disappeared” throughout the world, the prompt entry into force of the Convention and its ratification and effective implementation in all countries must be a priority for the international community and particularly for countries that have a legacy of enforced disappearances, such as Nepal" concluded Dave Hardy.
The International Coalition against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED) gathers organisations of families of disappeared and NGO’s that work in a non-violent manner against the practice of enforced disappearances at the local, national and international level. The principal objective of ICAED is an early ratification and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances.