



I G L H R C

International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission
80 Maiden Lane, Suite 1505, New York, NY 10038
Website: www.iglhrc.org

March 2007

Dear IGLHRC Friend:

On behalf of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), I am writing to ask for your sponsorship of *A Celebration of Courage*, our signature bicoastal fundraising event. The event will be held on Tuesday, May 1, 2007 in New York City and on Thursday, May 3, 2007 in San Francisco.

IGLHRC is a leading human rights organization solely devoted to improving the rights of people around the world who are targeted for imprisonment, abuse or death because of their sexuality, gender identity or HIV/AIDS status. In the past, we've received event support from prominent corporate partners including Levi Strauss, IBM, Wells Fargo, Working Assets, and American Airlines.

The 2007 celebration will be a special one! We are specially thrilled to present our Felipa de Souza Award to **Blue Diamond Society**, Nepal's only organization for sexual minorities, which has fought courageous battles against police violence and arbitrary imprisonment of LGBT people.

We invite you to join past supporters by sponsoring IGLHRC's *A Celebration of Courage* event this year. Significant opportunities for publicizing your commitment to human rights include:

- Multiple listings and/or logo placements on *A Celebration of Courage* and IGLHRC print materials (including event invitations and program, IGLHRC website and newsletters)
- Prominent acknowledgement of corporate sponsorship at both *A Celebration of Courage* events in San Francisco and New York

Please refer to the attached sponsorship reply form and premiums listing for specific sponsor benefits. To become a sponsor, complete and return the attached Sponsor Reply Form. You may contact the Development Department at 212-430-6054 or events@iglhrc.org if you have any questions.

Your sponsorship of *A Celebration of Courage* will greatly support IGLHRC's work with the hundreds of global LGBT groups who struggle daily against violence and discrimination. Your tax-deductible contribution will help ensure that the promise of human rights and dignity extends to all—regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and HIV status.

Thank you for helping us to make a difference in promoting human rights for everyone. Everywhere.

Sincerely,

Paula Ettelbrick
Executive Director

1991

IGLHRC works successfully with Amnesty International to advocate that Amnesty include abuses against LGBT people in its mandate.

1992

IGLHRC organizes a delegation of leaders, including Congressman Barney Frank, to visit Russia to lobby against Rule 121, left from the Stalin era, that imprisoned consenting adult males for 5 years for loving each other. The law was subsequently repealed.

IGLHRC wins asylum in Canada for a 28-year-old Argentine gay man, the first time in the world that asylum is granted to a person fleeing persecution on the basis of sexual orientation.

1993

IGLHRC wins the first sexual orientation asylum case in the U.S. for a Brazilian man after documenting more than 1,200 murders of homosexuals in that country over the past decade. IGLHRC also convinces the U.S. State Department to include the persecution of LGBT people in their annual country reports on human rights, and is asked to create the Asylum Documentation Program.

1994

IGLHRC launches the Felipa de Souza Award, named after a lesbian who endured exile and persecution after proudly declaring her love for another woman during a 16th century inquisition trial when Brazil was a colony of Portugal.

2007 HONOREE



Felipa de Souza Award *Presented to courageous individuals and organizations working for the fundamental human rights of all people since 1994, the award is designed to bring about public recognition to grassroots activists in their struggle for human rights and offers a \$5,000 stipend.*

Blue Diamond Society

The Blue Diamond Society (BDS), Nepal's only organization for sexual minorities, was founded in 2001 in an effort to address the needs of sexual minorities. In June 2004, in response to increasing incidents of police brutality against LGBT people, BDS organized the first public demonstration to support human rights for sexual minorities. Two months later, in another incident, Nepalese police arrested and jailed 39 LGBT activists. Immediately afterward, BDS spearheaded a national and international campaign to secure the release of the detainees.

BDS' mission is to create an acceptance of sexual minorities in the society, reduce stigma and discrimination of sexual minorities, reduce high-risk sexual behaviors and increase Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) service utilization among sexual minorities for prevention of STI/HIV infection in Nepal, and to provide care and support for those sexual minorities who are HIV positive.

NEW YORK		SAN FRANCISCO	
Date:	Tuesday, May 1, 2007	Date:	Thursday, May 3, 2007
Time:	6:30 to 8:30 p.m.	Time:	6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Location:	Manhattan Penthouse 80 Fifth Avenue (at 14 th St.)	Location:	Clift Hotel 495 Geary Street

Tickets are \$125 person for the cocktail reception and awards presentation.

For more information: Call Development at: 212-430-6054 or Email: events@iglhrc.org

IGLHRC is a 501(c)(3) organization and all contributions are tax-deductible (less \$40 per ticket) within the limits of the law.

1995

IGLHRC advocates for inclusion of sexual rights into the official discussions at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, giving lesbians and lesbian issues unprecedented visibility.

1996

IGLHRC begins more intensive work in AIDS-ravaged Africa and the Middle East as well as the first resource guide on the issue of asylum based on sexual orientation.

1997

IGLHRC works with South Asian activists to orchestrate the first meeting of LGBT community leaders and His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, to discuss sexual rights. Also, IGLHRC helps win asylum for a Russian lesbian who was arrested and underwent involuntary psychiatric therapy at the hands of the military.

1998

After a historic meeting, the President of Romania agrees to pardon gay men and lesbians imprisoned under that country's sodomy law. Also, IGLHRC conducts an intensive training in New York City for activists from Argentina, Hong Kong, Hungary, Nicaragua, South Africa, Turkey and Zimbabwe.



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A CELEBRATION OF COURAGE 2007

Why Partner with IGLHRC?

IGLHRC is a global advocate for the human rights of all people subject to discrimination or abuse on the basis of sexual orientation and/or expression, gender identity and/or expression, or HIV status. From its inception in 1990, IGLHRC pioneered efforts to bring an international human rights perspective (and effective technical assistance) to the struggles of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities around the world, and to bring LGBT issues into international human rights advocacy and institutions, such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. IGLHRC plays a critical role in increasing awareness of the conditions faced by LGBT people around the world through working closely with LGBT groups in developing their advocacy, reporting human rights violations to the United Nations, and taking action to demand that governments conform to international human rights norms in their treatment of LGBT people.

Sponsorship Categories and Premiums

	Lead Sponsor \$25,000+	Presenting Sponsor \$10,000-\$24,999	Underwriting Sponsor \$5,000-\$9,999	Benefactor Sponsor \$2,500-\$4,999	Supporting Sponsor - \$1,000-\$2,499	Advocate Sponsor \$500-\$999	Friend Sponsor \$250-\$499
Listing or logo placement in event program and invitation							
Ticket(s) to either event - NY or SF	12	10	8	6	4	2	1
Acknowledgement in IGLHRC annual report							
Brochure and/or promotional materials/product placement at both events							
Premium placement of display ad in program book	Full	1/2	1/2	1/4			
Name/logo inclusion in events' advertising in key gay publications							
Event signage with logo							
Link, logo placement, and listing on IGLHRC website for one year and in bi-annual newsletter							
Public acknowledgement at both events							
Reserved Seating at <i>A Celebration of Courage</i>							
VIP Pre Reception with Awardees							
Opportunity to designate CEO or other representative as events' Honorary Chairperson							
CEO or designee invited to present donation at either or both events							

1999

IGLHRC holds a training in South Africa for African activists and establishes a network of pro bono attorneys to work on LGBT issues in that country. Increases collaboration with activists in Korea, Japan, Taiwan and the Philippines. Debates availability of life-saving AIDS drugs with the World Trade Organization.

2000

As part of the Pink Triangle Coalition (also founded by Julie Dorf), IGLHRC convenes a conference in Berlin on Nazi persecution of filmmakers. An IGLHRC publication on how sexuality is used to attack women's organizing is enthusiastically received by hundreds of activists at a UN-sponsored 5-year anniversary of the Beijing conference.

2001

IGLHRC, through its Emergency Response Network, helps win the release of four HIV prevention workers in India after they are imprisoned for 5 weeks for doing life-saving work. IGLHRC is the first organization to draw attention to 52 Egyptian men who are put in jail after a raid on a Cairo disco.

2002

IGLHRC conducts human rights training with activists in Puerto Rico, Paraguay, Mexico, South Africa and India and starts a harm-reduction program with AIDS activists in Thailand.

A CELEBRATION OF COURAGE 2007

Sponsor Reply Form

- ☐ **Lead Sponsor** \$25,000+
- ☐ **Presenting Sponsor** \$10,000 to \$24,999
- ☐ **Underwriting Sponsor** \$5,000 to \$9,999
- ☐ **Benefactor Sponsor** \$2,500 to \$4,999
- ☐ **Supporting Sponsor** \$1,000 to \$2,499
- ☐ **Advocate Sponsor** \$500 to \$999
- ☐ **Friend Sponsor** \$250 to \$499

-
- ☐ Enclosed is a check for \$_____, payable to IGLHRC.
 - ☐ Please charge this MasterCard, American Express, or VISA card for \$_____.

Name (as it appears on the card) _____

Credit card # _____ Exp _____

Name as it should be listed _____

Contact name/title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

- ☐ I will be using ____ of my tickets for SF event,
and ____ of my tickets for NY event.
- ☐ Please contact me. My organization/company may be interested in promotional opportunities/sponsorship or donating products to the event.
- ☐ Do not include my name in event listing

Please return this reply form by March 15, 2007 to:

IGLHRC, Development, 80 Maiden Lane, Suite 1505, New York, NY 10038
Tel: 212-430-6054 / Fax: 212-430-6060 / Email: events@iglhrc.org

2003

IGLHRC releases a report on the consequences of state-sponsored homophobia in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe and works with the U.S. State Department to promote immigration and asylum policies that are supportive of LGBT issues.

2004

IGLHRC works with Blue Diamond Society to release 39 HIV workers arbitrarily imprisoned and to fight a lawsuit attempted to revoke BDS' legal status. IGLHRC brings dozens of activists to the UN Human Rights Commission to support the Brazil Resolution on human rights and sexual orientation.

2005

IGLHRC launches its first Latin America/Caribbean Human Rights Training Institute. 20 trans and intersex activists from the region participate.

2006

IGLHRC succeeds in gaining release of 11 gay men in Cameroon; at IGLHRC's request the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions intervenes. IGLHRC and global colleagues succeed in gaining consultative status for LGBT groups at the United Nations.



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A CELEBRATION OF COURAGE 2007

Journal Advertisement Form

Thank you for your sponsorship of *A Celebration of Courage 2007*. All sponsors who have committed \$2,500+ are eligible for an ad in our journal.

Important Reminders

- All ads must be received no later than April 3, 2007. Please submit your ad by email to Crystal Weber, studio.c@sbcglobal.net. Please place your Company name and IGLHRC in the subject line.
- Reserve ad space by: March 27, 2007. To reserve ad space, please contact Lisa Levy, llevy@iglhrc.org.

Ad Sizes (Journal Size = 7" x 8.5")

- ☐ Full Page (6.5" x 8")
(3" x 3.75")
- ☐ Half Page (6.5" x 3.75")
- ☐ Quarter Page

Artwork Specifications

All ads will be printed in black and white.

- ☐ TIFF, PDF, EPS, JPEG
- ☐ Camera-ready artwork

Contact Information

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please return this reply form by March 27, 2007 to:

IGLHRC, Communications, 80 Maiden Lane, Suite 1505, New York, NY 10038
Tel: 212-430-6019 / Fax: 212-430-6060 / Email: llevy@iglhrc.org



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PRESS RELEASE

Blue Diamond Society, Nepal's only Organization for Sexual Minorities, Receives International Recognition for LGBT Human Rights Work

January 16, 2007

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Hossein Alizadeh 212-430-6016 halizadeh@iglhrc.org

(New York, NY, January 16, 2007)- The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) proudly announced today the selection of the Blue Diamond Society (BDS) (<http://www.bds.org.np>) as the recipient of its internationally recognized Felipa de Souza Award. BDS is a community-based organization working for sexual minorities in Nepal. The 2007 Felipa Award will be presented to Sunil Pant, the Founder and Director of BDS, at two awards ceremonies to be held on May 1, 2007 in New York and on May 3, 2007 in San Francisco.

Since 1994, the Felipa Award has acknowledged the courage and impact of grassroots groups and leaders dedicated to improving the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and other individuals stigmatized and abused because of their sexuality or HIV status.

"Blue Diamond Society is one of the most effective human rights groups in the world. What Sunil and other members have been able to do in such a short time to build visibility and effective action around LGBT issues in Nepal and international renown among their global peers is nothing short of astounding," said Paula Ettelbrick, the Executive Director of IGLHRC. "It is truly our honor to continue to work with them and to honor all they have done to promote human rights for everyone, everywhere - not just in Nepal."

The Blue Diamond Society was founded in 2001 in an effort to address the needs of sexual minorities. In June 2004, in response to increasing incidents of police brutality against LGBT people, BDS organized the first public demonstration to support human rights for sexual minorities. Two months later, in another incident, Nepalese police arrested and jailed 39 LGBT activists. Immediately afterward, BDS spearheaded a national and international campaign to secure the release of the detainees.

BDS' mission is to create an acceptance of sexual minorities in the society, reduce stigma and discrimination of sexual minorities, reduce high-risk sexual behaviors and increase Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) service utilization among sexual minorities for prevention of STI/HIV infection in Nepal, and to provide care and support for those sexual minorities who are HIV positive.

In the past few years, BDS has played an active role in Nepal's politics by supporting the pro-

democracy movement in the country. Since the gay community was systematically targeted and oppressed under the absolute reign of King Gyanendra, BDS joined other Nepalese people in opposing his regime. Following the King's agreement to hand over power to the Nepalese people in April 2006, BDS has been working with the new government to include sexual minorities' basic human rights and protections in the new constitution. In January 2007, Blue Diamond Society organized a forum on "Nepal's New Constitution and the Rights of Minorities" where Lena Sundh, Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Justice Edwin Cameron, Supreme Court of Appeal, South Africa shared their thoughts and experiences with Nepalese legal and political experts.

"[Receiving] this [award] is such a great honor for Blue Diamond Society, all the Nepalese LGBTs and our families and friends who have been supporting of us," said Sunil Pant, director of the Blue Diamond Society in Kathmandu, Nepal. "This award means increased visibility of the Nepalese LGBT community and empowering us in a crucial moment for the country as well as for the LGBT community itself."

Nominations for the Felipa Award are solicited each year from activists around the world. Nominees go through a rigorous review by the staff, board and the International Advisory Committee of IGLHRC. The Award embodies the spirit and story of Felipa de Souza, who endured persecution and brutality after proudly declaring her intimacy with a woman during a 16th Century inquisition trial in Brazil.

The Felipa Award carries with it a \$5,000 (USD) stipend to assist and strengthen the ability of grassroots human rights groups to do their work. The awardees will also have the opportunity to meet with U.S.-based LGBT activists and supporters during special award ceremonies and public education events in New York and San Francisco.

Previous Felipa Award winners include: Rauda Morcos, founder of ASWAT (Voices) (www.aswatgroup.org), the first group for Palestinian lesbians, Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ) (www.galz.co.zw), the first organization to push for the human rights of LGBT people in Zimbabwean society and to provide counseling services and HIV/AIDS prevention campaigns; Simon Tseko Nikoli, the famed LGBT/HIV activist from South Africa; Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All-Sexuals and Gays (www.jflag.org), whose leader Brian Williamson was murdered in 2004; Lohana Berkins, a globally known transgender activist from Argentina; and Maher Sabry, the Egyptian activist who notified IGLHRC of the arrests of the Cairo 52, a group of 52 men who were arrested by the Egyptian police at a Cairo gay nightclub in 2001 (<http://www.iglhrc.org/site/iglhrc/section.php?id=5&detail=164>).

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The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) is a leading human rights organization solely devoted to improving the rights of people around the world who are targeted for imprisonment, abuse or death because of their sexuality, gender identity or HIV/AIDS status. IGLHRC addresses human rights violations by partnering with and supporting activists in countries around the world, monitoring and documenting human rights abuses, engaging offending governments, and educating international human rights officials. A non-profit, non-governmental organization, IGLHRC is based in New York, with offices in San Francisco and Buenos Aires. Visit <http://www.iglhrc.org> for more information.



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SF
WEEKLY

SF Weekly

<http://www.sfweekly.com/Issues/2005-03-16/news/worldview.html>

March 16, 2005

PRESS CLIPS

Gay Rights in High Places

As the king fights a Maoist insurrection, the Nepali Supreme Court decides whether homosexual acts are "bestiality"

By Cristi Hegranes

A year ago, Meera, a 22-year-old woman from Hetauda, a district in southeast Nepal, was scheduled to be the bride in a marriage arranged by her family. When Meera refused to marry and attempted to run away with Laxmi, her lesbian partner of two years, Meera's family caught her, poisoned her with herbs, and brought her back home.

On their second escape attempt, the couple made it to Katmandu and found shelter and protection at the Blue Diamond Society, the only organization in Nepal dedicated to the rights of sexual minorities.

But within weeks the girls' families came looking for them. "It started with threatening phone calls," says Sunil Pant, director and founder of the society, with Meera sitting next to him, her eyes fixed to the floor, too shy to speak. Then, eight months ago, Meera and Laxmi were kidnapped from the Blue Diamond Society during the night. Midway through the seven-hour journey back to Hetauda, they asked for a bathroom break and took the opportunity to run away a third time. It took three days on foot, but they made it to Katmandu again.

One week later, the families pressed charges against the society, accusing Pant of trafficking the women. Charges were dropped after Meera and Laxmi explained their situation to what Pant calls "sympathetic" female law enforcement officials.

Today, Meera and Laxmi live together in Katmandu. But they still use the back roads, Pant says, because the two women continue to receive threats, primarily from Laxmi's uncle and Meera's brother, who only recently threatened to break her legs. They also receive threats by telephone at the Blue Diamond Society offices, where Meera is the receptionist.

Soon, Meera, Laxmi, and fellow gays and lesbians will find out whether the Blue Diamond Society can even operate within the traditional Hindu culture of Nepal.

When King Gyenendra dismantled democracy in Nepal last month to combat Maoist insurgents on his own, he also suspended civil liberties in the name of security. In the wake of the king's action, as internal conflict in Nepal reaches a fever pitch, the fight between traditional Hindu culture and the emerging homosexual population of Nepal has also reached critical mass.

On Friday, the Supreme Court of Nepal will take the first step toward either legitimizing or criminalizing homosexuality, when it hears a petition that seeks to ban the Blue Diamond Society. Given the unstable state of Nepal's government, the condition of the court system is also uncertain, but Sapana Malla, one of Nepal's most well-known human rights attorneys, who is representing BDS at the Supreme Court, says, "The courts have been functioning."

The maltreatment of gays throughout Nepal has provoked anger and stern warnings from Amnesty International, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, and the British Embassy in Nepal. But Achyut Prasad Kharel, the law student who filed the petition seeking to outlaw the Blue Diamond Society, believes that the Nepalese Constitution clearly prohibits homosexuality, classifying it as "bestiality." His petition says that the Blue Diamond Society should be banned for "polluting the culture of Nepal." Kharel did not respond to numerous phone and e-mail interview requests.

Pant, the BDS director, is worried that the legality of homosexuality in Nepal hangs on the court's definition of a single word. "The [Nepalese] Constitution says that unnatural sex acts are illegal," Pant explained in an August interview at the society's offices in Katmandu. "But 'unnatural' is nowhere defined."

Pant says the Supreme Court has been "quite good recently," and he remains hopeful that the high court will rule in favor of his group, given the court's record on other recent human rights cases, including the 2002 legalization of abortion and a 2004 case that allowed women to own property.

Malla, who was the primary attorney in both the abortion and property cases, is also optimistic. "It will be difficult because I don't know how the court will respond to the homosexual issue," she says. "But I am hopeful, because everyone has right to live free and with dignity; I think the court has shown that."

Kharel, however, has a different definition of human rights. "Even though the homosexuals have termed the right to homosexuality as human rights, in reality homosexuality is not [a] human right," he wrote in his June 2004 petition to the court. He also claimed that no international

human rights instrument has declared homosexuality as a human right with any "legal validity."

False, says Paula Ettelbrick, executive director of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. In June 1994, she notes, the case of Nicholas Toonen, a member of the Tasmanian Gay Law Reform Group in Australia, led the United Nations Committee on Human Rights to define discrimination based on sexual preference as a violation of human rights.

When he founded the Blue Diamond Society in 2001, Pant thought gays in Nepal would be as rare as blue diamonds. Since then, the organization's Web site says, thousands of gays have contacted the organization, which has become increasingly public in both its outreach programs, specifically with HIV/AIDS awareness, and its soliciting of assistance from international organizations. Simultaneously, however, intolerance of the gay community has increased within the general Nepalese culture -- which is widely characterized by low literacy and excruciating poverty -- and local law enforcement.

"We are also seeing an escalation in police violence against people affiliated with the Blue Diamond Society," Ettelbrick says.

On Aug. 9, 2004, for example, 39 members of the society were arrested on public nuisance charges. The men, who were jailed for 15 days, suffered from beatings, denial of food and visitors, and miserable living conditions, such as being housed in the toilet rooms of the detention centers. According to Pant, who was allowed access to the prisoners, at least one man was severely beaten and eight others suffered from fevers, diarrhea, and vomiting.

Malla confirmed the conditions. "I visited a space that was 6 square feet, and there were five men in that space. There was one open window in the cell, and it had rained all night. They were soaking," she says.

In an August interview at Hanuman Dhoka Jail, Ganesh K.C., the deputy superintendent of police in Katmandu, denied that anyone was beaten or refused medical treatment. "There is no one here with any wound or disease," he said. All allegations of inhumane treatment are false, he said, adding that police reports indicated that all

39 men were arrested in a massage parlor in the Thamel district of Katmandu for engaging in "public sexual displays and disrupting people."

But Malla, who represented the men, says, "They were arrested in different places."

Prisoner Suraj Shah issued a statement via the Blue Diamond Society describing how he was taken out of his home by police at gunpoint. Shah says he was directed to take police to homes of other metis, or male cross-dressers, who were also allegedly taken at gunpoint.

K.C. said police plan to continue to crack down on "gay locations" in Katmandu, a city of nearly 900,000, adding that he believes there to be "as many as 70" gay men in the city, the approximate number of members of the Blue Diamond Society.

Both Malla and Pant know that Friday's hearing is crucial for BDS and its members. "If we get a positive judgment, it will mean the court recognizes the existence of these people as human beings who are legal in the eyes of the court," Malla said.

A ruling against the Blue Diamond Society could mean that the court will send legislation to the king requesting the explicit criminalization of homosexuality.

In Nepal, it is not just the fate of sexual minorities that is uncertain. The country's political fate is also on a perilous limb. Much of the western part of Nepal is under Maoist control; Maoist insurgents set up parallel government operations years ago, complete with their own tax collecting agency, police department, and justice system.

Many democratic leaders are still under house arrest. The court system is one of the few reminders that until five weeks ago, Nepal was attempting to forge a multiparty democracy.

Pant is uncertain of the Maoists' stance on homosexuality. "We have no idea," he said. "They have never said anything publicly or directly to us."

As the king and the Maoists prepare for what could be a long and devastating civil war, Pant is determined to stay the course. "We will not allow this prejudice to stop us," he said. "We refuse to go underground."



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UK Gay News
<http://www.ukgaynews.org.uk/Archive/2006nov/2601.htm>
November 2006

PRESS CLIPS

Metis: Victims of Political Change in Nepal?

Arrested and held, but no food or drink for over 36 hours

By Sunil Pant

KATHMANDU, November 26, 2006 – After the recent peace deal between the Nepal Government and the Maoists, metis (cross dressing effeminate males), like every other Nepalese, were hoping that their rights would be ensured and they would also enjoy freedom and safety.

But the situation and hate crimes they face from many directions each day makes them believe that their situation has become far worse than before.

Before the 'peace deal', most of the violence against metis was committed by the Nepali police, but recently many metis have been victimized by men who called themselves Maoists.

On Friday night (November 24), four men, two of them in combat uniform, came to the metis room at Lazimpat where few of them share a apartment building.

They were abused both physically and verbally, beaten badly, and told not to remain metis anymore.

Their mobile phones, money, jewellery were stolen. The four men, who claimed to be from the Maoist party, told the metis to collect the phones from Maoist office either in Kalanki or in Kupondole.

Yesterday, Blue Diamond Society contacted the Maoist in charge of valley operation, Yadav.

He came and talked with metis. He said that unfortunate incident the previous night was not carried out by the Maoists as they don't do this kind of looting especially from the most poor and marginalized section of population.

However, Yadav said that this was not the only case that these kind of criminals carrying out using the Maoists name – and his party was also looking for these criminals.

Many metis said it could be a group of petty criminals who constantly need money for substance use, or some kind of organised move to compromise the credibility of the Maoists among Nepali people.

One of the looters on Friday dropped his photograph and metis handed over the photo to Yadav who assured the them that the party would try their best to crack down these kind of criminals who are using the Maoist name.

In another incident, police from Durbar Marg police station arrested two metis on the same night, no charge has been filed after more than 36 hours. The two Métis, Bagini and Rekha (age about 25, 24) were arrested in front of the Royal Palace.

They were taken to the Kamal Pokharai saying there was not enough room to keep them separate in Durbar Marg police station.

They were taken to Durbar yesterday and have not been given any food or drink.

One of the police officers said they couldn't file the charge as it was Saturday and that they had no mandate to provide the Métis food or drinks.

Another police officer said that they didn't know why these metis were arrested as it was done by the police inspector who was also in charge of that police station.

Blue Diamond Society is very concerned of such

violence and arrest from state and non state parties and demands a thorough investigation over these incidents by the Police and Maoist. The BDS says that the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

BDS is demanding that the government must introduce both laws and a policy that prohibits discrimination and hate crimes against metis on the basis of sexual orientations and gender identities.

This kind of violence and discrimination against metis will be no longer tolerated and government must take immediate action to ensure the safety and freedom on minorities in Nepal.