

## Public Security and Security Sector Reform in Nepal



International Alert recently held a roundtable discussion in Kathmandu, Nepal entitled 'Security for Who? Security Sector Reform and Public Security in Nepal'. The discussion brought together the European Commission Delegation to Nepal, representatives from EU and non-EU Member States, as well as representatives from local and international NGOs. This event was part of International Alert's ongoing work in Nepal for the [Initiative for Peacebuilding](#) (IfP), a consortium led by International Alert and funded by the European Commission,

The event aimed to share the findings of research carried out by International Alert over the past year on the perceptions and provision of security in Nepal. It also aimed to explore possible ways for the international community to support a return to sustainable peace in the country. In the discussion, donor and civil society representatives highlighted the need to explore how young people are affected by and contribute to public insecurity. They also explored the vital role youth groups can play in building a long-term and sustainable peace in Nepal.

For the past few months, the attention of both the international community and Nepali politicians has been on the national-level political wrangling over integration of Maoist combatants into the state army. However, roundtable participants called for a broader discussion on public security and security sector reform (SSR) at local and regional levels. This should involve the opportunity to debate, learn and share experiences of security and justice among civil society, security sector and government actors.

International Alert's briefing on SSR and public security in Nepal will be released in January 2009. The report encourages donors to look into ways of addressing the public security challenges in the country and preparing the ground for longer-term security sector reform processes.

This is part of Alert's longer-term work in Nepal that aims to support accessible and accountable security and justice in Nepal. In 2009, in partnership with Saferworld and local NGOs, International Alert-Nepal will be embarking on a three year project in six districts across Nepal aimed at enhancing civil society's capacity to engage in debate on security and justice sector reform in Nepal.

For more information, see our 'Nepal Snap-Shot Series' on local security and justice perspectives from the country's districts.

[More on Alert's work in Nepal](#)

Contact:

Rebecca Crozier, Programme Coordinator, Kathmandu Office

Email: [rcrozier@international-alert.org](mailto:rcrozier@international-alert.org) Tel: +977 1426 8471

Charlotte Watson, Senior Programme Officer (for IfP-related issues), London Office

Email: [cwatson@international-alert.org](mailto:cwatson@international-alert.org) Tel: +44 (0) 207 627 6820