



Statement to the Press

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I am deeply shocked by the deaths of at least six CPN-Maoist cadres and injuries to others as a result of firing by security personnel in Dang district, and by the killing of the UML candidate for Surkhet-1 constituency, yesterday evening. An UNMIN team is already on the spot investigating the Dang events, and another team is travelling to the place of the shooting of UML candidate Rishi Prasad Sharma; UNMIN is coordinating its inquiries with OHCHR and with the newly formed Peace and Conflict Management Committee. Security personnel against whom there is reasonable suspicion of excessive use of force or political partiality should be suspended while there is an investigation independent of their chain-of-command. All parties should exercise restraint and avoid provocations of one another, including detention of party workers.