



Security Council

Distr.: General
2 December 2005

Original: English

Letter dated 21 November 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on Nepal's media ordinance, issued on 28 October 2005 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Emyr Jones Parry
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom
to the United Nations

Letter dated 21 November 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on Nepal's media ordinance, issued on 28 October 2005 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union is deeply concerned about the actions of the Government of Nepal to impose and enforce repressive restrictions on the media in Nepal. Amendments contained in the new media ordinance infringe upon the right to freedom of expression.

The European Union condemns the seizure at gunpoint of radio equipment from the Kantipur FM station in Kathmandu by the security forces.

As the European Union Troika said publicly during its visit from 4 to 6 October, the people of Nepal want a proper functioning democracy with power vested in the people. Freedom of expression — including access to FM news — is a fundamental prerequisite for an effective democracy.

The Nepalese people have the right to live in a society characterized by respect for human rights and the rule of law. The European Union calls upon the Government of Nepal to uphold the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal and allow the people of Nepal their right to freedom of expression.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate country Croatia,* the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, and the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia continues to be part of the stabilization and association process.