



**Q10022. Nepal – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 25 May 2009**

**Information on the security and stability of the political system in Nepal.**

A May 2009 *BBC News* report states:

“Two people have been killed and at least 12 injured in an explosion at a Roman Catholic church in Nepal.

The blast, south of the capital Kathmandu, comes as the country's parliament prepares to elect a new prime minister.

Police cordoned off the area, which was strewn with shattered window panes. No group has said it carried out the attack but police said they suspected the involvement of a Hindu extremist group, the Nepal Defence Army. The little known organisation says it wants to restore Nepal's Hindu monarchy.” (BBC News (23 May 2009) - *Church in Nepal hit by explosion*)

Another *BBC News* article speculates that:

“With the resignation of Maoist leader and Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, popularly known as Prachanda, Nepal faces the gravest threat to its peace process since a ceasefire was agreed in the country's civil war in 2006.

As political parties squabble over how the army is run - with the Maoists wanting to dismiss the military commander and other parties insisting that he should remain - the country now stands at a crucial juncture.

There is a possibility Nepal could descend into chaos, with political infighting and instability preventing the smooth functioning of a constitutional democracy, as had been hailed after elections last year.

But analysts say the prospect of a return to full-scale violent conflict is still remote, as the Maoists have repeatedly said in the past that they will agree to play by the rules as outlined in the country's interim constitution. “ (BBC News (04 May 2009) - *Is Nepal sliding back into the abyss?*)

An *Agence France-Press* article, published on Reliefweb, states:

“Efforts to form a new government in Nepal appeared to be stalled Friday with the dominant Maoists refusing to take part in protest after they were blocked from sacking the country's army chief.

Nepal was plunged into crisis this week when Maoist leader Prachanda quit as premier because his attempt to fire the Himalayan nation's top general, a longtime rival, was vetoed by the president, a member of the opposition.

On Friday, around 500 Maoist supporters protested near the office of President Ram Baran Yadav, shouting "President resign!" and "Scrap the unconstitutional move."

The Maoists have vowed to boycott government, continue street protests and disrupt parliament sessions until the president apologises and forces the army chief to go. "(Reliefweb (08 May 2009) - *Nepal in deadlock as Maoists block new govt*)

A more recent *Reuters* article, also published on Reliefweb, states:

"Nepal's Maoists disrupted parliament on Monday, preventing an alliance of 22 political parties that has a majority from forming a new government and ending a political crisis in the young Himalayan republic.

Nepal has been in political turmoil since Maoist Prime Minister Prachanda resigned two weeks ago. Prachanda quit after President Ram Baran Yadav blocked his plan to fire the head of the army, saying the general had refused to accept the supremacy of the civilian government.

The moderate Communist UML party said it had the support of more than 350 members in the 601-seat parliament to form a new government. A date to elect a new prime minister was expected to be announced at the parliamentary sitting on Monday. "(Reliefweb (18 May 2009) - *Nepal in limbo after Maoists block parliament*)

A report by the *International Crisis Group* states:

"Nepal's peace process is facing its most severe tests yet. Major issues remain unresolved: there is no agreement on the future of the two armies, very little of the land seized during the conflict has been returned, and little progress has been made writing a new constitution. Challenges to the basic architecture of the 2006 peace deal are growing from all sides. Key political players, particularly the governing Maoists and the opposition Nepali Congress (NC), need to rebuild consensus on the way forward or face a public backlash." (International Crisis Group (19 February 2009) - *Nepal's Faltering Peace Process*)

The same report states:

"Maoist commitment to political pluralism is still highly questionable. Debate within the party – renamed the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), UCPN(M), following its merger with a smaller group – shows the goal of a communist "people's republic" is still in place. Although leading the government, Maoist leaders continue to threaten renewed revolutionary struggle and the "capture of state power". Such threats have been underlined by cadres' continued violent behaviour and an apparent drive to consolidate

alternative power bases through affiliated organisations like trade unions.  
“(ibid.)

It further states:

“The state of public security and law and order is worrying. Although the incidents that draw most attention – killings, explosions and shutdowns – have all decreased since peaks in the first half of 2008, there is little sense of stability. Districts across the Tarai, from the eastern and central heartland of the Madhesi movement to the far west, continue to be plagued by insecurity and, in many areas, a near collapse of governance and policing. While the police are demoralised, the Nepalese Army (NA) remains a law unto itself, resisting both democratic control and investigation of alleged war crimes during the conflict.” (ibid)

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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