



Nepal – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 21 July 2010

Information on rebel group Madhesi Tigers said to be based in Terai region of Nepal

In a section titled “Militant and Fringe Groups” (paragraph headed “Fringe groups/local alliances”) an *International Crisis Group* report states:

“Some dozen armed groups in the Terai claim to be fighting for the Madhes cause, including both JTMM factions. Little is known about them, and residents view them as opportunistic, making the most of weak law and order. Their activities are largely criminal, and most have not issued political manifestos. The Madhesi Tigers, formed almost a decade back but only recently again active, are believed to be led by Praful Yadav. Activities include abductions and killings, especially in Sunsari, Saptari and Siraha. The Tigers have clashed with the security forces in Saptari.” (International Crisis Group (9 July 2007) *Nepal’s Troubled Terai Region*, p.10)

In a paragraph headed “Emergence of radical groups” an *IRIN News* report states:

“The number of militant groups in the Terai has been increasing and spreading fear among the Pahades, said local activists. Among the most feared are the Madhesi Tigers, Cobra Group, two factions of JTMM and nine other similar groups who are bent on cleansing the Pahades from the Terai region, according to some local rights NGOs who requested anonymity for fear of attacks from these armed groups.” (IRIN News (25 July 2007) *Hundreds displaced by violence in southeast*)

A report from the *Press Trust of India* states:

“An armed group, which describes itself as members of the ‘Madhesi Tigers’, abducted 11 people from Nepal’s eastern Saptari district. The group comprising nearly 100 armed men abducted the 11 men yesterday after taking the entire settlement in Koshi Tapu area of the district under their control, a report said today.” (Press Trust of India (1 March 2007) *Madhesi Tigers abducts 11 from eastern Nepal*)

A report from *Radio Nepal* states:

“Cadres of the Madhesi Tigers today launched a socket-bomb attack on a microbus carrying journalists heading towards Kerabari [phonetic] from Biratnagar [east Nepal] at Samudra Chowk in Duhabi-4 in Sunsari. Two Madhesi Tigers cadres, riding a motorcycle with its number plate covered, hurled a socket bomb at journalists but as the bomb exploded on the empty road, no-one was hurt.” (Radio Nepal (29 April 2007) *Nepal protest group attacks journalists with bombs*)

A report published on the Nepalese website *eKantipur.com* refers to a strike allegedly announced by the Madhesi Tigers as follows:

“Life in mid and eastern Terai [southern plains] Sunday remained crippled by the continued strikes [bandhs] of the past week announced by the agitating Chure-Bhawa Ekata Samaj as well as the two-day Siraha-Saptari [districts] strike announced by the Madhesi Tigers. While thousands of passengers have been left in a lurch, hundreds of vehicles have been stranded. Meanwhile, protesters have burnt and vandalized more than half-a-dozen vehicles for defying the strike.” (eKantipur.com (29 April 2007) *Nepal plains areas still "crippled" by strikes*)

A report from the Nepalese radio station *HBC 94 FM* states:

“The Armed Police Force [APF] and the Madhesi Tigers exchanged fire in Bagdaha in Saptari [district in south-eastern Nepal] today afternoon. The Madhesi Tigers opened fire on a squad of the APF's Dantakali Battalion that was on a search operation in that area, prompting retaliatory firing from the police. The exchange of fire, which began at 2:00 pm, lasted for nearly one hour.” (HBC 94 FM (3 May 2007) *Nepal insurgents, police exchange fire*)

In a section titled “Progress of the peace process” (paragraph 4) a *UN Security Council* report states:

“The security situation in the Terai has remained extremely disturbed, and efforts to improve law and order in the region have been halting at best. Frequent clashes continue to occur between Maoist and Madhesi activists in the Terai as they compete for political space. Several armed secessionist groups in the Terai, including three factions of the Jantatrik Terai Mukti Morcha (JTMM), the Madhesi Tigers and the Terai Cobra, have continued to challenge both the Maoists and the State.” (UN Security Council (18 July 2007) *Report of the Secretary-General on the request of Nepal for United Nations assistance in support of its peace process*, p.2)

In a section titled “Conflict and Security” a periodic situation overview published by the *UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs* (OCHA) states:

“On 22 August, Madhesi Tigers called a 5- day bandh that severely affected life in Eastern and Central Terai districts.” (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (12 September 2007) *OCHA Nepal Situation Overview – Issue No. 17, covering the period 15 August-12 September 2007*, p.3)

An *OCHA* Situation Overview in a section titled “Operational Space” states:

“During the reporting period, different groups, notably Madhesi Tigers as well as CPN-Maoist continued to interfere with the way development and humanitarian workers operate, especially in Eastern and Central Terai districts.” (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (8 November 2007) *OCHA Nepal Situation Overview – Issue No. 18, covering the period 16 September-08 November 2007*)

An *IRIN News* report states:

“Rights activists are worried that delays in long-awaited peace talks between ethnic Madhesi, fighting for greater autonomy of the Terai region in the south, and the Nepalese government, could unleash more violence. Killings, abductions, death threats, extortion and road blocks by armed men have been affecting the livelihoods and security of ordinary citizens in the fertile flatlands, and failure to resolve the conflict could mean an upsurge in violence in the near future, the activists warned. Eastern and central Terai, in particular, have faced growing unrest since January 2007, as the militant groups push their demands for the establishment of an autonomous Madhesi state and greater rights for the Madhesi people, the dominant ethnic population of the Terai.” (IRIN News (21 October 2008) *Nepal: Talks crucial to prevent upsurge in Terai violence – rights groups*)

In a paragraph headed “Volatile situation” this report states:

“On 3 October, the government invited all the armed groups to talks but so far it has been able to contact only eight of the 17. Among the key ones are two factions of Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha (JTMM), Madhesi Tigers, Terai Madhesi Mukti Tigers, Terai Cobra, Terai Liberation Force and Madhesi Virus Killers.” (ibid)

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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