



## **Nepal - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 20 August 2012.**

### **Information on a group called Janatantrik Mukti Morcha.**

In August 2012 *NepalNews.com* points out that:

“Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha (JTMM), a Terai-based armed group led by Bhagat Singh has agreed to handover its weapons to the local authority following the talks with government's representatives in Pakali of Sunsari on Saturday.”  
(*NepalNews.com* (4 August 2012) *Nepal: Terai-based armed group hands over weapons to govt*)

An undated report from the *South Asia Terrorism Portal* describing notes:

“The Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha (JTMM) was formed in July 2004 by Jaya Krishna Goit after splitting from the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-Maoist). Goit, formerly a leader of the Unified Marxist Leninist (UML), was also co-ordinator of the Madhesi National Liberation Front of the CPN-Maoist. Gradually, as he came to believe that the Maoists were not serious about the development of the Terai region, he floated a separate outfit charging the Maoist leadership of betraying the Madhesi people...JTMM-G demands an independent state for the Madhesis in the Terai region. He believes that Terai was never a part of Nepal; rather it was annexed by the Nepali pahade (hill people) rulers and then parts of it were ceded to them by the British through treaties. Thus, he says that, his armed struggle is meant to correct the historical wrong committed by the Nepali rulers...JTMM-G is led by its founder Jaya Krishna Goit. The cadre strength of the JTMM-G remains difficult to estimate, though unconfirmed reports suggest a support base of a thousand, including hard-core cadres and sympathisers. The Goit faction functions with a central committee, East and West Terai Regional Bureaus, village, ward and cell committees and a parallel military organisation...The JTMM-G is mainly active in the Terai region bordering India, particularly, in the districts of Siraha, Dhanusha, Morang, Sarlahi, Bara, Saptari, Mohattari, Lalitpur and Rautahat.” (South Asia Terrorism Portal (Undated) *Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha – Jaya Krishna Goit (JTMM-G)*)

The *Associated Press* in May 2012 states:

“A bomb exploded in a busy market area in a southern Nepal town where a political rally was being held, killing at least four people and wounding 14 others, police said. The explosion occurred in Janakpur during Monday morning rush hour, police said. People had gathered in the area for a political rally to demand a separate state in a new constitution being drafted by the country's Constituent Assembly...Police detained one person for questioning. A little-known group calling itself Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha claimed responsibility for the bombing.” (*Associated Press* (1 May 2012) *Bomb explodes in market in south Nepal, killing 4*)

Commenting on the incident in Janakpur, the *Times of India* in May 2012 points out that:

“A little-known armed political group Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha (Democratic Terai Liberation Front) has claimed responsibility to local media through text message.” (Times of India (1 May 2012) *5 die in Nepal blast, little know group claims responsibility*)

A report issued in September 2011 by the *Small Arms Survey* notes that:

“Some of the well-known armed groups, such as the JTMM, have split into various factions, which had contributed to a proliferation of groups, though the groups are smaller in size.” (Small Arms Survey (September 2011) *Armed Violence in the Terai*)

The *South Asia Terrorism Portal* in an undated document states:

“The Jwala Singh faction of the Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha (JTMM-J) was formed by Nagendra Kumar Paswan a.k.a. Jwala Singh in August 2006 after he broke away from the Jaya Krishna Goit led JTMM. Jwala Singh is a former CPN-Maoist cadre and had joined Goit when he floated the JTMM. Later, he developed differences with Goit over the strategies to be adopted for the liberation of the Terai and establishment of an independent Terai state...Jwala Singh demands complete secession from Nepal and to form a new independent state of Terai. In fact, he has already declared Terai as an independent state and says that any talks with the Government will be to demarcate the border only. Demands [of the group are:] The Terai should be declared an independent state. There should be proportionate participation by determining constituencies on the basis of population. All the police, army and administration in the Terai should be evacuated and Madhesi people should be posted there. Population census should be conducted in Terai under the supervision of Madhesis. All the revenue collected from Terai should be spent for the development of Terai. All the Madhesi killed by the state and Maoists should be declared martyrs and NPR 1.5 million should be provided as compensation. Citizenship should be issued from the central to district level in coordination with the Madhesis. The land of Madhesis captured by Maoists should be given back. Maoists should end their ‘donation drive’ and tax collection in Terai...Jwala Singh is the leader of the organisation. The group claims to have formed an armed militia in 12 of the Terai’s 20 districts. With a cadre strength of a few hundreds, this group has an organisation modeled on the CPN-Maoist, with a central committee, central and district level governments, a Terai Liberation Army and district committees across the districts...It is primarily active in the Terai region bordering India in the districts of Siraha, Dhanusha, Morang, Sarlahi, Bara, Saptari, Mohattari, Birgunj and Rautahat.” (South Asia Terrorism Portal (Undated) *Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha – Jwala Singh (JTMM-J)*)

## References

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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.

### **Sources Consulted**

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