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U.N. Says Both Sides in Nepal Violated Rights

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HYDERABAD, India, Feb. 16 — The United Nations envoy for human rights in [Nepal](#), in a report released Thursday, accused both the military and the rebels there of violating international humanitarian law.

The report said the rebels had abducted and assaulted civilians and the Royal Nepalese Army had been guilty of indiscriminate bombings that failed to distinguish between civilian and military targets.

In the report, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights called on the army to ensure that soldiers guilty of rights violations were not permitted to take part in lucrative United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The report said the office had received accusations that people in army custody had been tortured, including beatings, kicking, electric shocks and sexual assault. It cited a "serious inadequacy of efforts by security forces to investigate and hold accountable those responsible for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law."

The report is submitted to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, which convenes next month and deliberates over whether to impose sanctions on any of its member nations. The government had no comment on the report.

The report also accused Maoist rebels, who have carried out a decade long insurgency against the state, of extortion, abduction and the recruitment of child soldiers. Violence fell sharply during the Maoists' unilateral four-month-long cease-fire, which ended earlier this year.

"It is a tragedy for the people of Nepal that full-scale conflict has now resumed," said Ian Martin, the representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal's capital, Katmandu.

Clashes between army and Maoist guerrillas, the report went on to say, were carried out in "highly populated areas, placing the civilian population in grave danger, and combatants made use of civilian buildings, including schools."

No sooner had the United Nations office released its report than news came that army helicopters had bombed two districts in the country's southwest, The Associated Press reported. There was no information available about casualties.

The latest violence comes barely a week after local elections called by King Gyanendra and boycotted by a coalition of the country's major political parties.

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