

Mr. Ng Sing Wai, William  
Coroner,  
10<sup>th</sup> floor, Eastern Law Courts Building,  
29 Tai On Street, Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong

28 August 2009

Dear Mr. Ng,

Re: Inquest hearing of Mr. Dil Bahadur Limbu

We, the Hong Kong Nepalese Federation and Hong Kong Unison, write on behalf of the Nepalese and other ethnic minority communities in Hong Kong to express our concern and regret about your decision to hold the inquest of Mr. Dil Bahadur Limbu in Cantonese.

The killing of Mr. Limbu by a police constable has aroused widespread anger among ethnic minority communities. Since then, we have kept on asking a fair and impartial inquiry. We believe it is especially important for the deceased's nearest relatives, i.e., his widow and elder brother, as well as ethnic minority communities concerning the incident, to understand what happens in the hearing.

However, given that the deceased's widow and elder brother do not know Cantonese, it would be difficult for them to catch up with the proceeding if it was held in Cantonese. To make matters worse, the court decides to adopt double interpretation, i.e., from Cantonese into English; then English into Nepali. We believe such arrangement would only make the risk of distortion even higher. Besides, the proceeding would also be prolonged unnecessarily, which would make the deceased's family feel even more stressful.

As an international city with strong tradition rule of law, we believe justice must not only to be done, but seen to done in Hong Kong. Therefore, it is important for our court to manifest they have balanced interests of different parties in a hearing. Yet your decision to hold the inquest in Cantonese could hardly be claimed as balanced and fair. Taking into account that English is one of the official languages in court hearing, we could not see why the inquiry could not be held in English.

In the light of the above circumstances, we strongly request your Honour,

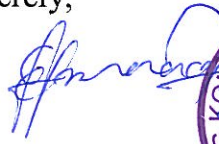
- 1) to reconsider your decision and hold the inquest hearing in English;

- 2) to provide quality interpretation service to all the audiences attending the hearing, including from English into Chinese; and from English into Nepalese;
- 3) to ensure the hearing to be conducted in impartial and professional manner.

Should you have any enquires, please contact our social worker, the Executive Director of Hong Kong Unison, Ms Fermi Wong (tel. no: 2789 3246). We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,

  
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Hem Limbu  
Chairman  
Hong Kong Nepalese Federation



  
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Fermi Wong  
Executive Director  
Hong Kong Unison



**Mailing Address: Flat 1303, Wang Yip Ind. Building, 1 Elm Street, Tai Kok Tsui, Kowloon**

c.c.

The Hon. Chief Justice Li  
Members of Security Panel, the Legislative Council

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***1. The Hong Kong Nepalese Federation***

With over 31 member groups and bodies, the Federation is the largest civil organization for the Nepalese communities in Hong Kong. It aims at protecting the livelihood and rights of Nepalese residents in Hong Kong.

***2. The Hong Kong Unison***

Hong Kong Unison is a public charity non-government organization which aims to eliminate racial discrimination and promote racial harmony. Since our founding in 2001, we have been striving for ethnic equality, and fighting for equal opportunities for Hong Kong's ethnic minorities in various areas including education, employment, public services, and political rights as well as social participation.