

SOUTH ASIA PROGRAMME
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LONDON

Nepal - Maoists Peace Process since July 2001

Date	Event	Location
18 July 2005	Baburam Bhattarai is reinstated into the Maoist politburo special committee. Two other Bhattarai's key supporters are also reinstated.	
11 July 2005	Maoist leader Prachanda calls on the international community to help peace efforts in Nepal. Prachanda says he is ready to hold talks with for example the United Nations. He also asks Nepal's seven-party opposition alliance to name a team of negotiators to hold talks with the Maoists.	
19 June 2005	Maoist leader Prachanda says cadres have been ordered not to carry out "physical attacks on unarmed people". The move comes two weeks after a Maoist landmine killed 38 civilians on a bus.	
18 June 2005	Nepal's seven-party opposition alliance says it will boycott municipal elections announced by King Gyanendra.	
13 May 2005	Nepal's opposition turns down an offer of help from Maoist rebels. Opposition leader Ram Sharan Mahat rejects cooperation with the rebels until they renounce violence.	
12 May 2005	Maoist leader Prachanda issues a statement offering to help the coalition of opposition parties in their campaign against King Gyanendra.	
8 May 2005	Seven of Nepal's opposition parties say they will unite to fight for the restoration of democracy. The parties say they will launch a peaceful movement across the country to press their demands.	
1 May 2005	Maoist leader Prachanda admits that he has serious differences with Baburam Bhattarai. He appears to confirm that Bhattarai has been stripped of key position he held in the movement.	
15 April 2005	A number of private schools in western Nepal shut down following threat by the rebel's student wing, the All Nepal National Free Student Union, to bomb the schools that defy their closure call.	
15 March 2005	Maoists deny claims that they have expelled one of their senior leaders, Baburam Bhatarai, after a drift developed between him and Prachanda over resuming peace talks with the government.	
1 March 2005	Maosts call off the blockade but threaten to call an indefinite blockade next month, starting 14 March, unless the King reverses the state of emergency.	
24 February 2005	King Gyanendra addresses a group of journalists. He says that the dismissal of the government and the declaration of emergency were targeted against terrorism and calls on Nepal's friends to continue supporting it in its fight.	
22 February 2005	India and the UK halt military aid to Nepal. India has been one of the major arms suppliers to the Royal Nepal Army.	
18 February 2005	King Gyanendra defends the dismissal of the government and the declaration of emergency in the Democracy Day address, saying that the coup was necessary to tackle	

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	Maoist rebels and corrupt politicians.	
13 February 2005	Maoists announce a nationwide transport blockade, stopping transport in and out of the main cities.	
7 February 2005	Nepal's new government offers unconditional talks with the Maoists. According to the statement, the government will appoint a team of negotiators for talks with the Maoists.	
4 February 2005	Nepal's new government says it will not restore multi-party democracy and allow elections until it has defeated the Maoists.	
2 February 2005	Senior Maoist leader Krishna Bahadur Mahara says that the King has closed the door to any possible dialogue. King Gyanendra forms a new government under his own leadership.	
1 February 2005	Nepal's King Gyanendra dismisses the government and declares a state of emergency. In his announcement, King Gyanendra says he is dismissing the government "because it has failed to make necessary arrangements to hold elections by April and protect democracy, the sovereignty of the people and life and property". He also says a new government will be formed under his leadership, which will "restore peace and effective democracy in this country within next three years". The dismissed Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba says that the government will oppose the King's decision, which "violates the constitution and is against democracy".	
13 January 2005	A deadline set by the government for the Maoists to resume peace talks passes without response.	
27 December 2004	Thousands of people take part in a demonstration, demanding peace talks between the government and the Maoists.	Kathmandu
23 December 2004	Maoists announce blockade of roads leading to Kathmandu, cutting supply lines into the city.	
6 December 2004	A UN fact-finding mission begins an investigation into political disappearances in Nepal. This follows a sharp rise in the number of people missing in the conflict between the Maoists and security forces. Majority of the people have reportedly disappeared after they have been taken into custody by security forces.	
27 November 2004	Maoists reject a two-month deadline set by the government to begin peace talks. According to Prachanda this deadline further diminishes the prospect for talks. Prachanda repeats his longstanding demand for international mediation.	
13 November	Nepalese government gives a deadline of 13 January for the Maoists to return to talks. Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba suggests that the government might be willing to discuss establishment of a constitutional assembly to draw up a new constitution, lift the terrorist tag on the Maoist negotiators and guarantee their safety. However, Deuba also indicates that if the Maoists ignore the deadline, the government will step up its security offensive and call elections for Parliament.	
1 November 2004	Violence erupts between the Maoists and security forces in north western Nepal after temporary truce.	

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28 October 2004	Temporary truce between the Nepalese government and the Maoists ends. Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba rules out the possibility of unilaterally extending the truce.	
20 October 2004	Temporary truce between the Nepalese government and the Maoists comes into force.	
18 October 2004	Nepalese government announces that it will temporarily suspend army operations against the Maoists, in response to the Maoist truce offer.	
15 October 2004	Maoists announce a one-week truce during the Hindu festival of Dasain .	
29 September 2004	The government's peace committee meets.	
28 September 2004	Maoists announce a two-day strike to protest against the killing of two rebel leaders.	
24 September 2004	Maoists reject government's appeal to join talks to end the conflict. Maoist leader Krishna Bahadur says that the Nepalese government has neither the authority nor sincerity to hold talks. He claims that the government wants to step up operations under the guise of peace initiatives.	
23 September 2004	Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba appeals to the Maoists to join talks to end the conflict. He says "We have decided to officially call the Maoists for talks. Talks will be held secretly and with adequate homework".	
2 September 2004	Nepalese government announces establishment of a high level peace committee and a peace secretariat. Prachanda rules out peace talks with the four-party coalition led by Deuba. However, he does not rule out direct talks with King Gyanendra under credible international mediation.	
24 August 2004	Maoists suspend the week-old blockage of Kathmandu for a month. They demand release of detained rebels and inquiry into the killings of others.	
18 August 2004	Maoists block the main highway linking Kathmandu and southern Nepal. This is part of their efforts to increase pressure on the Nepalese government. Maoist demands include release of detained rebels and inquiry into the killings of others.	
4 August 2004	Nepalese Information Minister Mohammad Mohsin hints that the Nepalese government may be holding secret negotiations with the Maoists. Mohsin also says that international mediation, for instance by the UN might be possible at a later stage.	
5 July 2004	Deuba establishes a broad-based coalition government to resolve the conflict and clear the way for parliamentary elections. The government does not include one of the country's biggest parties, the Nepali Congress.	
5 June 2004	Switzerland proposes to mediate between the Nepalese government and the Maoists in an effort to end the conflict.	
2 June 2004	King Gyanendra appoints Sher Bahadur Deuba as the new Prime Minister of Nepal. Maoists reject the King's appointment.	
7 May 2004	The 11-month-old Surya Bahadur Thapa led-government collapses after the Prime Minister resigns. Thapa say he "did not want the current political impasse in the country to	

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	continue". His resignation comes after massive demonstrations, demanding the government be dismissed.	
18 April 2004	King Gyanendra calls for peace and consensus to pave the way for parliamentary elections within the next 12 months.	
13 March 2004	Spokesperson of the Home Ministry Gopendra Bahadur Pandey says that over 2178 people have lost their lives since the breakdown of the cease-fire on 27 August 2003: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 160 Nepalise police personnel • 147 Royal Nepal Army (RNA) soldiers • 58 Armed Police Force personnel • Over 1534 Maoists insurgents • Over 279 civilians 	
20 February 2004	Spokesperson of the Home Ministry Gopendra Bahadur Pandey says that over 10,000 people have lost their lives during the course of insurgency in the last eight years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1122 Nepalise police personnel • 372 Royal Nepal Army (RNA) soldiers • 172 Armed Police Force personnel • Over 6600 Maoists insurgents • Over 1175 civilians 	
13 February 2004	Senior Maoist leader Krishna Bahadur Mahara says that the Maoists would not compromise their main demand of creating a republic. He said that the King has lost public confidence and was ruling with the support of the army.	
4 February 2004	Prachanda says his party is willing to accept UN mediation or monitoring for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.	
4 November 2003	Thapa rejects international mediation in solving the Maoist problem saying, "we are capable of dealing with the insurgency".	
31 October 2003	UN says it is ready to mediate in the conflict in Nepal, if asked by both the government and the Maoists.	
2 October 2003	Maoists declare a nine-day unilateral ceasefire between 2 and 10 October during the Vijaya Dashami Hindu festival period. Maoists say they are willing to extend the truce if the government takes their demands seriously.	
27 August 2003	Maoists unilaterally and 'temporarily' pull out from the seven-month old ceasefire with the government starting a new wave of violence. Prachanda gives a statement, blaming the government for the decision. He says, "The rationale for ceasefire, code of conduct and talks process is now over for the time being."	
22 August 2003	Government peace talks' convenor Prakash Chandra Lohani says that the Maoist demand to establish a Constituent Assembly is unacceptable.	
17 August 2003	The Third Round of peace talks between the government and the Maoists ends without an agreement. Nepalese government presents its agenda, agreeing to hold a round table conference and form an interim government. However, the government reject demands to establish a Constitutional Assembly to decide the fate of the King. Insurgents' chief negotiator Bhattarai describes the government's agenda as disappointing and says it will not resolve the current crisis.	Meeting between the representatives of the government and the Maoists in Nepalgunj.
12 August 2003	Government spokesperson Kamal Thapa announces 17	

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	August as the date for third round of peace talks with the Maoists.	
4 August 2003	Maoists dissolve the existing five-member peace talks team and appoint a new two-member team, which comprises Baburam Bhattarai and Krishna Bahadur Mahara.	
29 July 2003	Nepalese government releases three Maoist central committee members from prison and the government spokesperson Kamal Thapa says that the Royal Nepalese Army (RNA) will not act against Maoists except in self-defence. These are seen as attempts to woo the Maoists back to the negotiation table.	
21 July 2003	Maoists close their contact office in Kathmandu citing security reasons. This increases uncertainty over peace prospects in Nepal.	
17 July 2003	Maoist leaders and peace negotiators meet in western Nepal to discuss a resumption of peace talks.	
13 July 2003	Government negotiator Kamal Thapa issues a formal request to the Maoists to resume stalled peace talks. He sends a letter to the insurgents' chief negotiator Bhattarai, proposing a date for peace talks. Bhattarai says an interim government under the Maoist leadership will be the prime agenda in the talks.	
11 July 2003	Representatives of the government and the Maoists hold an informal meeting.	Meeting between the representatives of the government and the Maoists in Kathmandu.
4 July 2003	Royal Nepal Army (RNA) reiterates that it has not received any orders from the government on restriction of its movement.	
3 July 2003	Representatives of the government and the Maoists hold an informal meeting. Maoists continue to demand that three central committee members are released and restrictions introduced on army deployment.	Meeting between the representatives of the government and the Maoists in Kathmandu.
19 June 2003	Nepalese government opens coordination secretariat for peace talks in Kathmandu. Government and the Maoists accuse each other of violating the ceasefire rules and the code of conduct.	
13 June 2003	Maoist leader Krishna Bahadur Mahara warns that there will be no third round of peace talks unless previous agreements between the government and the Maoists are first implemented.	
12 June 2003	Nepalese government announces Finance Minister Prakash Chandra Lohini and Communications Minister Kamal Thapa as the official negotiators for peace talks and Kamal Thapa as the Government spokesperson. Insurgents' chief negotiator Bhattarai alleges that the King is undermining the existing Constitution and also political parties' recommendation by appointing Thapa as the Premier. He warns that the Maoists may 'return to the forests' if the peace talks fail.	
8 June 2003	Maoists appointment a 9-member committee under Chitra Bahadur Shrestha to conduct the peace talks.	

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4 June 2003	King Gyanendra appoints Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) leader Surya Bahadur Thapa as the new Prime Minister. This move is followed by further protests against the King. Maoists continue to demand release of three Central Committee Member of their party.	
30 May 2003	Chand resigns after eight months of increasing protests by opposition parties angry at his appointment by the King.	
16 May 2003	Government coordinator Narayan Singh Pun says that a decision was taken at the second round of peace talks to restrict the movement of the army.	
15 May 2003	Insurgents' chief negotiator Bhattarai introduces five demands, including release of central committee members and restriction on army movement in the 'Maoist areas'.	
9 May 2003	The Second Round of peace talks is held between the Maoists and the Nepalese government. The negotiations focus on procedural matters. The Nepalese government does not submit its agenda to the Maoists.	Meeting between the representatives of the government and the Maoists in Kathmandu.
1 May 2003	Facilitator's meet Chand and the insurgent's chief negotiator Bhattarai to discuss future course of peace talks.	Meeting between the facilitators and the representatives of the government and the Maoists.
27 April 2003	The First Round of peace talks is held between the Maoists and the Nepalese government. Maoists submit a 35-point agenda at the meeting and insist on a deadline for reaching a peace agreement. Government responds by saying that the peace process is too complicated and should not be rushed. Both sides nominate facilitators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAOISTS: Former speaker of parliament Damannath Dhungana and former member of parliament and human rights activist Padma Ratna Tuladhar • GOVERNMENT: Former Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhaya and former Chief Secretary Karna Dhoj Adhikari • Krishna Bahadu Mahara and Narayan Singh Pun are nominated as spokespersons respectively for the Maoists and the government for the talks 	Meeting between the representatives of the government and the Maoists in Kathmandu.
24 April 2003	Nepalese government and the Maoists agree to hold peace talks on 27 April. They agreed to start talking on all issues, including political issues in the very first round of peace talks. Government announces a six-member team for peace negotiations with the Maoists.	
20 April 2003	Postponement of 21 April 'preliminary talks' is announced following a meeting between the insurgents' chief negotiator Bhattarai and the government's coordinator Narayan Singh Pun.	
18 April 2003	Government's coordinator for peace talks Narayan Singh Pun, announces that a first round of 'goodwill talks' with the Maoists will be held on 21 April. The negotiations will focus	

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	first on humanitarian issues before moving to political ones. Insurgent's negotiator Krishna Bahadur Mahara insists that the political issues should take precedence in the negotiations on substantive issues.	
13 April 2003	Insurgents' chief negotiator Bhattarai along with five other Maoist leaders meets the government coordinator Narayan Singh Pun and the chief government negotiator B. P. Mandal, for talks.	Meeting between the representatives of the government and the Maoists in Kathmandu.
8 April 2003	Insurgent's negotiator Dev Gurung says the Maoists are ready to withdraw their demand to establish a Constituent Assembly.	
7 April 2003	Insurgents' chief negotiator Bhattarai demands immediate release of Maoists prisoners or at least five central committee members to resume peace talks.	
6 April 2003	Government coordinator Narayan Singh Pun says that the government will not release all Maoist prisoners.	
3 April 2003	Maoists suspend peace talks with Government alleging non-fulfilment of its demands on withdrawing cases against two of its leaders, Prachanda and Baburam Bhattarai.	
31 March 2003	Insurgents' chief negotiator Bhattarai meets Chand at a public meeting in Kathmandu and calls for fresh elections to resolve the continuing political crisis.	Meeting between Bhattarai and Chand in Kathmandu.
28 March 2003	Government coordinator Narayan Singh Pun says peace talks will commence on 1 April.	
27 March 2003	Maoists accuse the Nepalese government of delaying the peace talks.	
25 March 2003	Prachanda says in an interview that the government forces are violating the ceasefire and also reiterates the demand for the release of five jailed central-level leaders ahead of talks. Several Maoist insurgents are released from different jails, but some of them are later re-arrested.	
23 March 2003	Nepalese government and the Maoist insurgents accuse each other of ceasefire violations.	
22 March 2003	Maoist leader Krishna Bahadur Mahara sets as a precondition for peace talks the release of five central-level leaders and also withdrawal of cases filed against many Maoists, including Prachanda and Baburam Bhattarai.	
19 March 2003	Minister for Physical Planning Works Narayan Singh Pun is appointed as convenor, and Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) spokesperson Kamal Thapa as monitoring team member from the government-side to oversee 'code of conduct' and ceasefire violations.	
14 March 2003	Maoists say for the first time that they may not seek the end of the country's monarchy.	
12 March 2003	Government coordinator Narayan Singh Pun and the Maoist parallel government Chairman Baburam Bhattarai sign a 22-point 'code of conduct' to govern the peace process.	
28 February 2003	Maoist leader Krishna Bahadur Mahara presents two key conditions to start the peace talks with the government. Nepalese government must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • release jailed Maoist insurgents 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • call the Royal Nepalese Army (RNA) back into barracks 	
26 February 2003	Government coordinator for the proposed peace talks Narayan Singh Pun says that talks will be held in the second week of March.	
25 February 2003	Spokesman of the Royal Nepalise Army (RNA) says that the ceasefire between the security forces and the Maoist insurgents is holding. He also makes clear that soldiers will not return to barracks until ordered to do so by the government.	
19 February 2003	Maoist leaders Krishna Bahadur Mahara and Dinnath Sharma ask human rights activists Padma Ratna Tuladhar and Daman Nath Dhungana to act as facilitators in the peace talks with the government.	
7 February 2003	Prachanda expresses his optimism about the planned peace talks and calls the government to take steps to boost confidence. He says that for confidence in the peace process to be boosted the government must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • release jailed Maoist insurgents • provide information about those who have allegedly disappeared in police custody • call the Royal Nepalese Army (RNA) back into barracks • work to frame a mutually acceptable code of conduct for the dialogue 	
5 February 2003	Nepalese government sends an official invitation to the Maoists for a dialogue.	
2 February 2003	Maoists announce a five-member team for peace negotiations with the government. The team is headed by Baburam Bhattarai and consists of Ram Bahadur Thapa alias Badal, Matrika Yadav, Krishna Bahadur Mahara and Deb Bahadur Gurung.	
29 January 2003	Prachanda announces cease-fire and says the government has agreed to pre-conditions for peace talks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • removing the terrorist label on the Maoists • lifting Interpol Red Corner notices • establishing an interim government • halting all offensives • withdrawing 'head money' on key Maoist leaders Prachandra does not comment the insurgent's long-standing demand to abolish the monarchy. Nepalese government responds by announcing a ceasefire and appointing Minister for Physical Planning Works Narayan Singh Pun as its coordinator for the peace talks.	
11 October 2002	Pro-monarchist Lokendra Bahadur Chand is appointed as the caretaker Prime Minister in place of Deuba.	
6 October 2002	Prachanda condemns the move by King Gyanendra to dismiss the country's elected Prime Minister from office, saying that his aim is to regain absolute power.	
4 October 2002	King Gyanendra calls Deuba inept at handling the Maoist insurgency. He dismisses Deuba from the office and assumes executive powers. King declares that a national	

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	government will be appointed and postpones parliamentary elections set for 13 November 2002 indefinitely.	
22 September 2002	Prachanda offers ceasefire. In his statement he says, "We would agree on a cease-fire if the government comes forward for peace talks".	
11 August 2002	Prachanda says that his party is ready for peace talks but the Communications Minister Jayaprakash Prasad Gupta reiterates the government stand that there will be no talks with the insurgents unless they give up their arms and stop the violence.	
27 May 2002	State of Emergency is extended for three months through an executive order.	
23 May 2002	Deuba says that he has no majority support in parliament to seek the extension of the 'state of emergency' and recommends to the King that the parliament be dissolved.	
18 February 2002	Nepalese government orders its security forces to increase their efforts to crush the Maoist insurgents. This comes after the Maoists carry out two simultaneous attacks killing 130 people in the west.	
19 December 2001	Senior Maoist leader Dinanath Sharma says that the insurgency will continue until the monarchy is abolished. He emphasises that talks would only resume if the government agrees to establish a Constituent Assembly.	
14 December 2001	Nepalese newspaper quotes two Maoist leaders as saying they are ready to suspend armed activities and resume peace talks if the government agrees to their demand to establish a Constituent Assembly. The government reiterates its position that it will not resume talks with the Maoists until they give up their arms and stop the violence.	
26 November 2001	Nepalese government declares a state of emergency, after more than 100 people are killed in four days of violence. King Gyanendra orders the army to crush the Maoist insurgents.	
23 November 2001	Maoists say peace talks have failed and they break the ceasefire by launching attacks on army and police posts. The insurgents also announce the formation of a central People's Revolutionary Government with Baburam Bhattarai as the Chairman of the Maoist parallel government.	
21 November 2001	Maoist chairman Prachanda warns that the four-month old ceasefire might be ending. Prachanda says that the current ceasefire has lost its justification in light of the "government's insincerity in finding a peaceful solution to the long-running conflict".	
14 November 2001	Nepalese government indicates its willingness to discuss establishment of an interim administration, but insists that the Maoists must give up their arms and participate in democratic elections. The issue of monarchy is non-negotiable.	
13 November 2001	The Third Round of talks is held between the government and Maoists. The talks end in a dead lock: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepalese government is willing to consider changes to the Constitution, but is not willing to abrogate it completely • Maoists continue to demand the establishment of a 	

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	Constituent Assembly but drop their demand for a republic.	
13-14 September 2001	The Second Round of peace talks is held between the government and the Maoists. The talks end inconclusively. Thousands of people in Nepal attend peace rallies across the country calling for an early negotiated solution to the conflict.	Meeting between the representatives of the government and the Maoists in Kathmandu.
6 September 2001	Nepalese government urges the Maoists to stop activities, which threaten to disrupt the talks.	
30 August 2001	The First Round of peace talks is held between the government and the Maoists. Maoists demand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • abolition of constitutional monarchy • rewriting of the Constitution • establishing an interim administration and a Constituent Assembly to facilitate transition to a republic 	Meeting between the representatives of the government and the Maoists in Kathmandu.
16 August 2001	The Maoists nominate a three-member delegation for the talks with the government. The delegation is headed by Krishna Bahadur Mahara.	
10 August 2001	Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba receives the support of all major political parties for the proposed talks with the Maoists.	
23 July 2001	Nepalese government and the Maoists declare ceasefire.	