

**SANSAD**  
**South Asian Network for Secularism and  
Democracy**

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**A Public Forum**

**Nepal at the Crossroads:**

**Marching to Restore Democracy  
Under the Shadow of the "War on Terror"**

**A Public Forum with**

**Dr. Chitra K. Tiwari**

author and political analyst, Washington, DC.

**Saturday, June 19, 2-5 pm**

Fletcher Challenge Theatre SFU Harbour Centre, Vancouver, BC

Panelists:

**Dr. Hari Sharma, President, SANSAD**

**Prof. Mordecai Briemberg, Political Analyst, member of Stopwar.ca.**

**Mr. Naresh Koirala, Spokesperson, Nepal Concern Group, Canada**

Nepal is in a state of crisis that is not only a defining moment in its history but of great significance for all democratic people in the world. Thousands of people have been marching in the streets of Kathmandu since early April 2004 demanding the restoration of multi-party democracy and peace talks with Maoist insurgents.

Maoists have been engaged in an armed insurgency since 1996 and currently control a large part of the countryside.

Although Nepal is a constitutional monarchy, the King dismissed the elected Prime

Minister and dissolved Parliament in October 2002, and has, since, been ruling through his appointed officers. He is conducting counter-insurgency, supported militarily by the Governments of India and the United States in the name of their "War on Terror." The King's attempt to control the demonstrations led by the five major parliamentary parties by force and by promulgating a draconian act has only increased the numbers of the demonstrators in Kathmandu and elsewhere in the country. The King's refusal to restore the democratic process and work with the political parties has put the future of the monarchy in question.

The speakers will discuss the current political situation in Nepal and consider its future in the context of the "War on Terror." They will also focus on the role of the Nepali Diaspora in resolving the present crisis.

Organized by

**South Asian Network for Secularism and Democracy(SANSAD)**

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**Institute for the Humanities, Department of Political Science, and Dept. of  
Sociology and Anthropology, SFU  
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