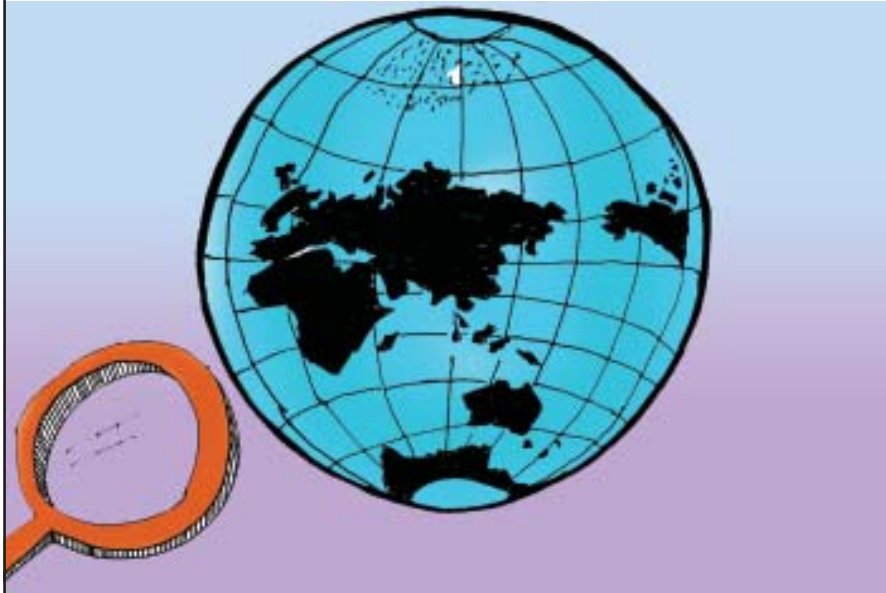
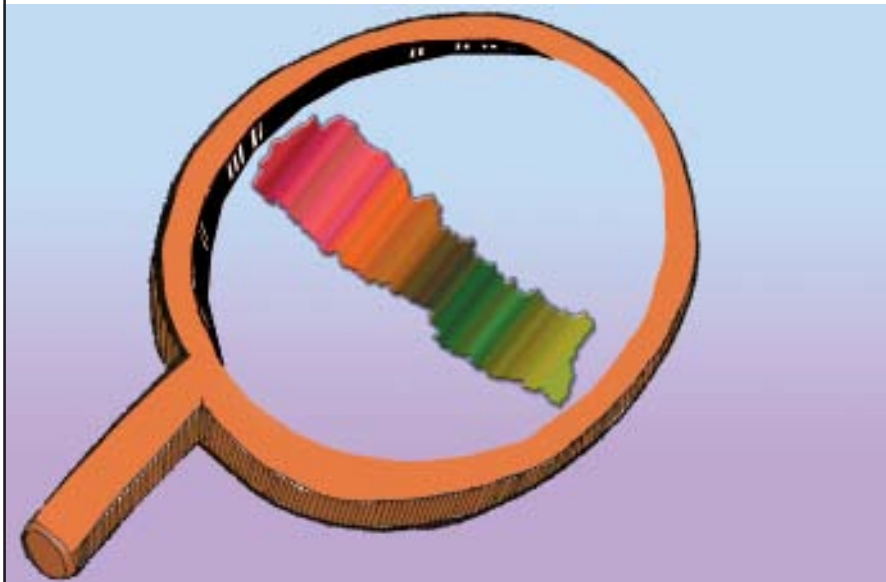


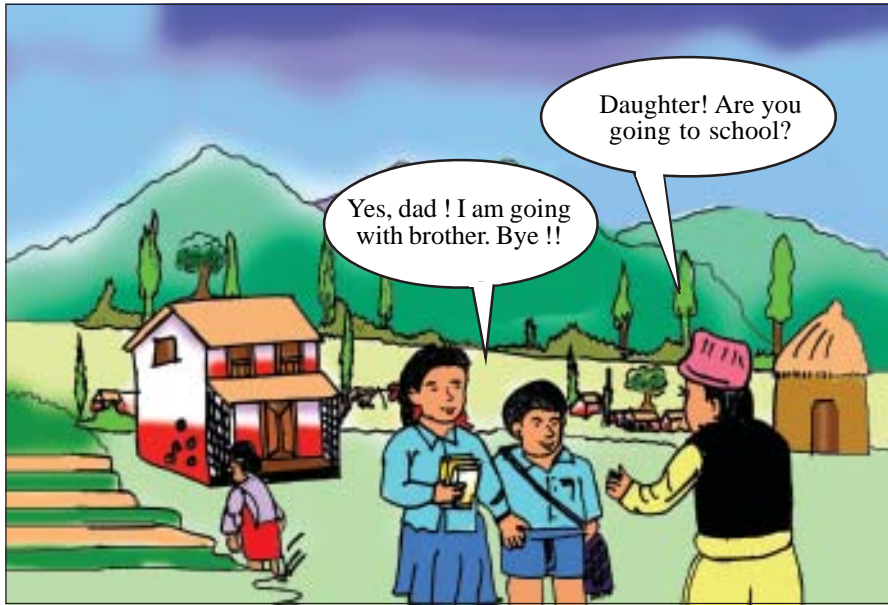
Many countries in the world are plagued by armed conflicts.



Nepal is also engaged in armed conflict since the last ten years. The conflict that began from a village in a hilly district of mid-west has now engulfed the entire nation.

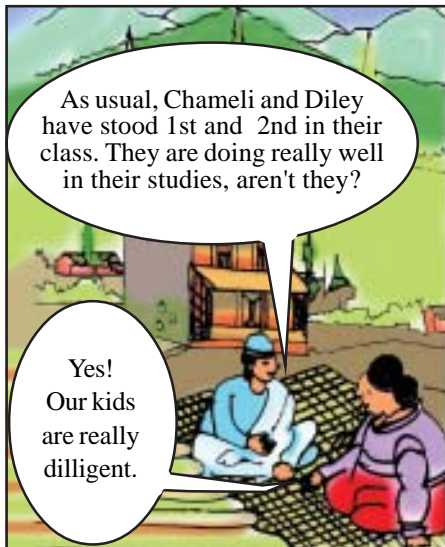


In a hilly village in mid-west Nepal there lived a family of four: Chameli, her brother Diley and their parents.



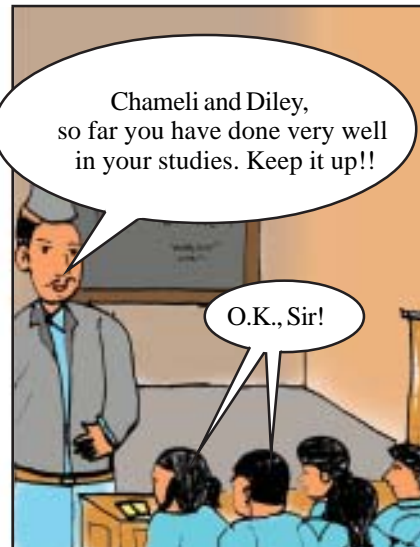
After Chameli and Diley leave for school, their parents talk to each other.

In the classroom



As usual, Chameli and Diley have stood 1st and 2nd in their class. They are doing really well in their studies, aren't they?

Yes!  
Our kids are really dilligent.



Chameli and Diley, so far you have done very well in your studies. Keep it up!!

O.K., Sir!

While the classes are in session, a group of people armed with guns and other weapons enter the classroom.



The insurgents make the students assemble in a queue at the play ground.



Teachers, students and parents attend the insurgents' function.



At around 4 pm when the function is about to conclude the security force suddenly open fire at the gathering from a helicopter.



Crossfire begins between the security force and the insurgents.



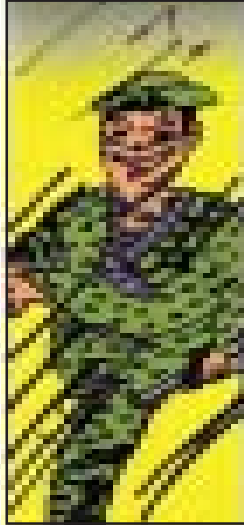
Three students and two civilians are killed in the crossfire.



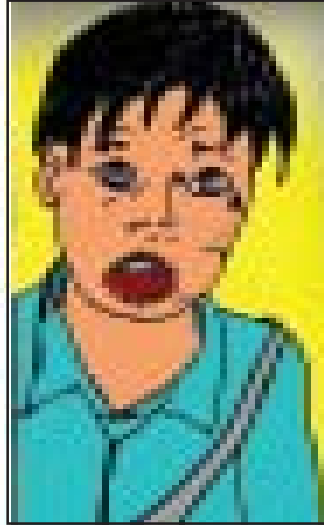
Bombs explode.



A fleeing insurgent



Diley in a terrified state



The security force surrounds the area after few minutes of the aerial attack. Once again crossfire takes place between the security force and the insurgents from their hiding.



Security force escorts two injured civilians to the district headquarters for treatment



Some students suspected for being insurgents are arrested and beaten up by the security force.



Diley and Chameli tumble off the ground while fleeing the crossfire.



Two security personnel approach Chameli and Diley as they gradually stand up.



A security man kicks a terrified civilian fleeing in the process of his arrest.



Security force interrogates arrested civilians and students on the school ground.



Security force take the students and civilians, arrested on suspicion of being the insurgents, to their camp.



Two students are injured and taken to the hospital after the attack at peepal chautari. One loses his hand and the other his leg and become disabled forever.



Detained students and villagers arrive at the camp.



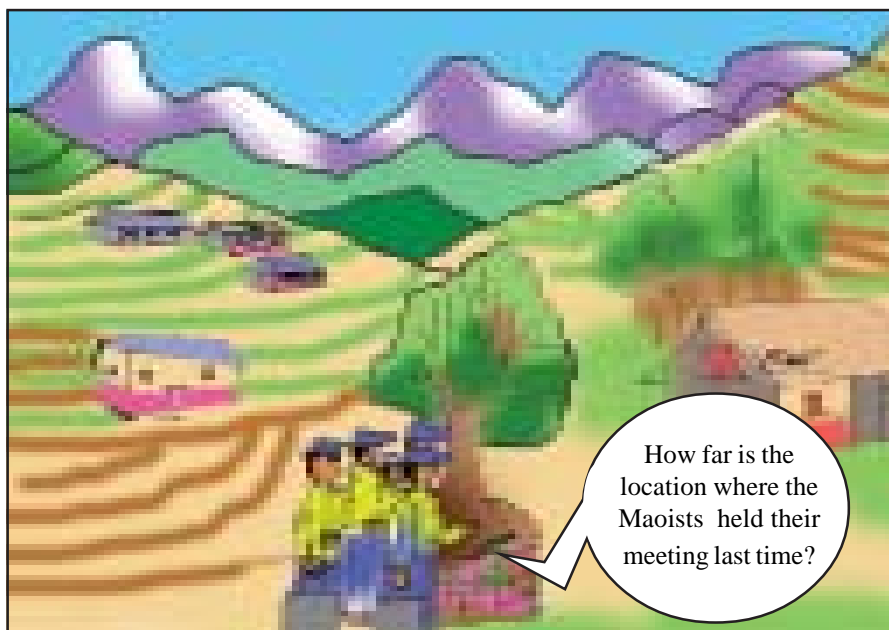
A security personnel inflicts torture upon villagers and students in the camp.



Security personnel inflict torture to the detainees by blindfolding, beating and making them carry stones.



After the crossfire at peepal chautari, human rights defenders arrive at the village for fact finding.



Human rights defenders talk to the villagers.



Fortunately, Chameli and Diley are released by the security force and they walk back home.



After the news of crossfire spreads Chameli and Diley's parents are worried and rush to search for them. They're thrilled to see their children return home.



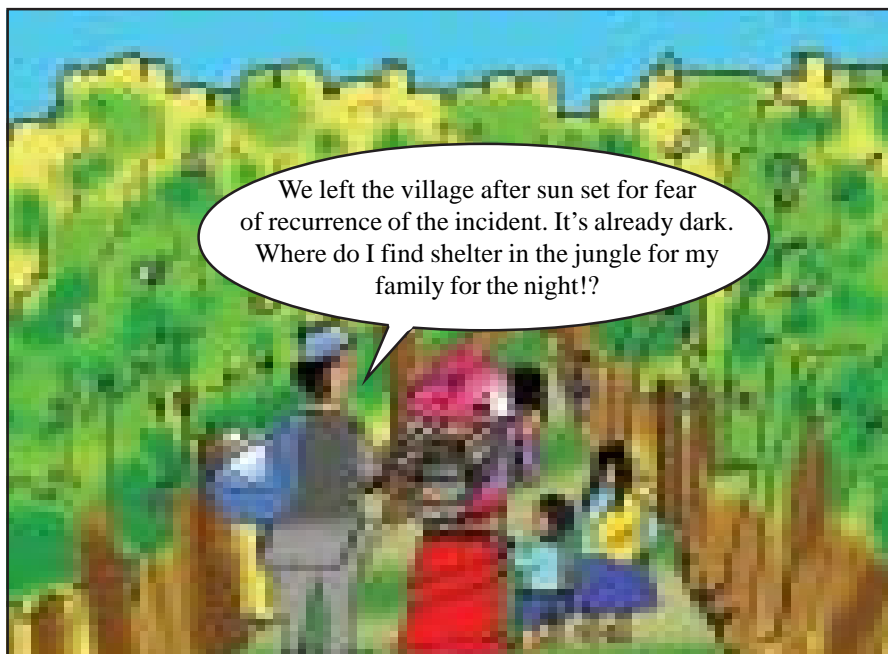
The school is shut down due to the fear of renewed clash.



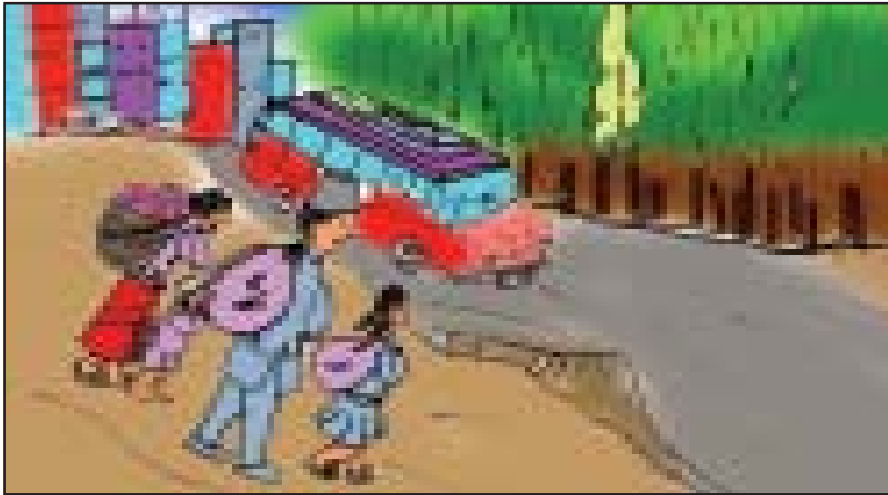
After the crossfire and mounting fear of recurring violence, some villagers leave for Terai.



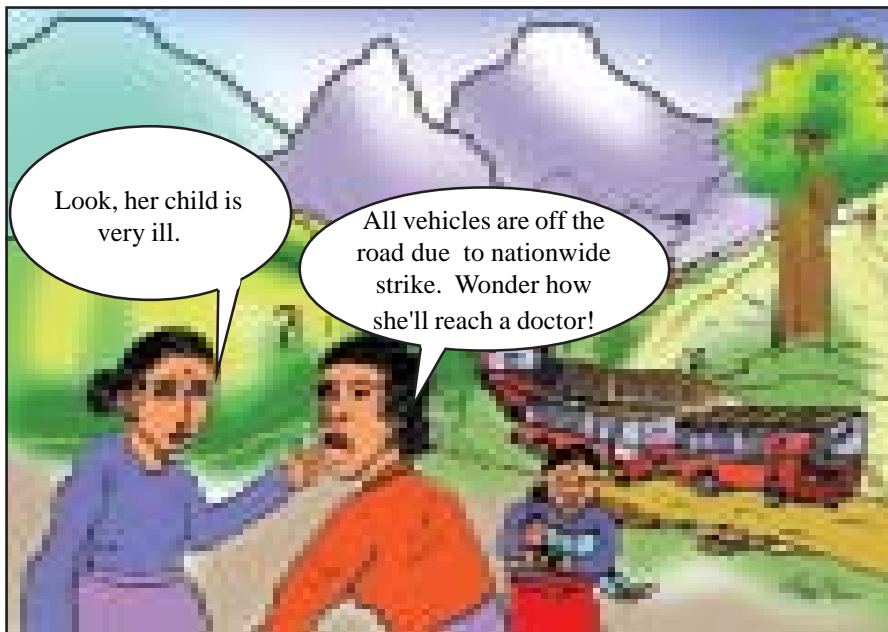
One of the displaced families is stranded in the jungle.



Another displaced family arrives at a market place in Terai without a clue to their final destination.



Another displaced family arrives at a roadside carrying a sick child but due to transportation strike they are stranded.



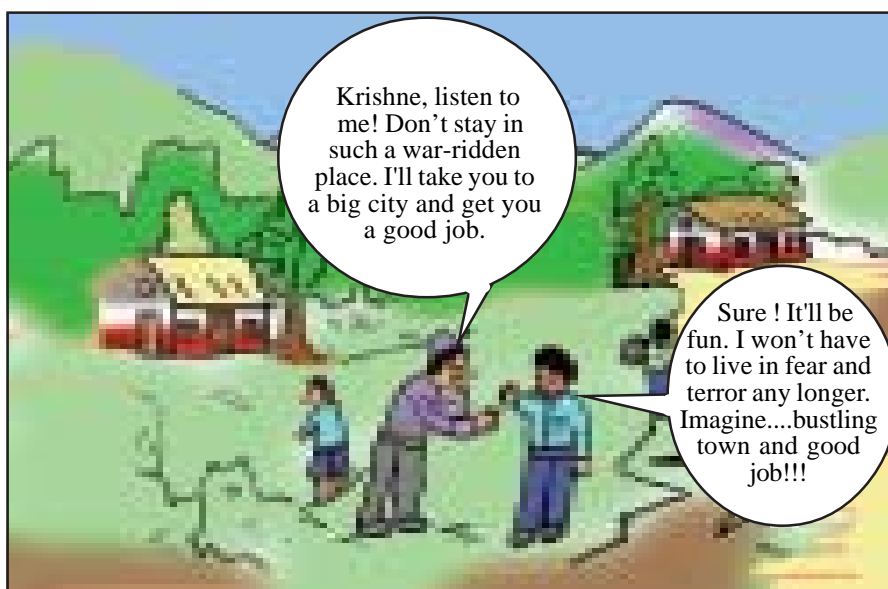
One of the displaced victims expresses her joy upon reaching Terai.



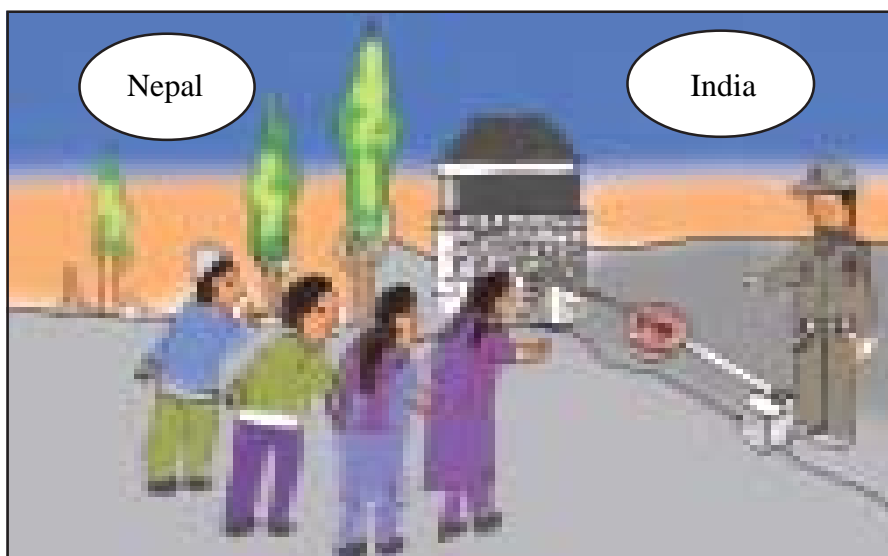
Upon arrival in Terai some of the displaced families from the hills set up plastic tents in an open field.



After the attack at the mass meeting, Krishna, a friend of Diley is lured by his uncle to go to Calcutta where he plans to sell him.

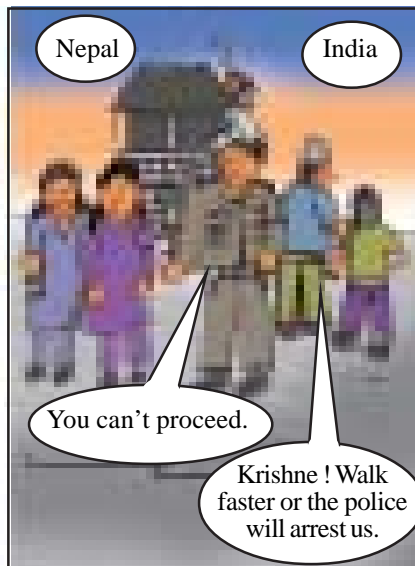
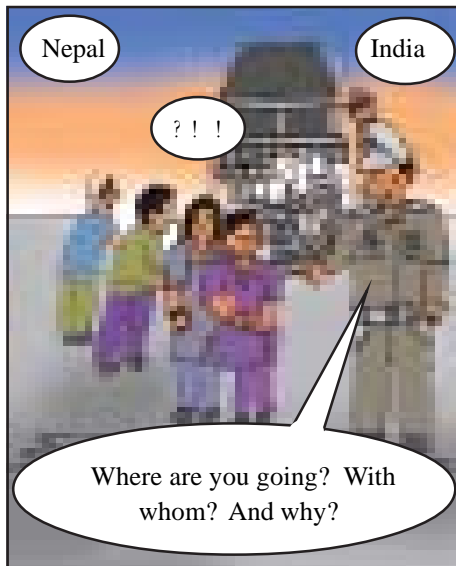


Krishne's uncle takes Krishna and two other unidentified girls to the Indian border.



At the border, a policeman interrogates Krishna's uncle and the two girls.

The police stops the girls at the border, suspecting them of being traffick victims.



Krishne and his uncle about to board the train bound for Calcutta

Krishne and his uncle board the train.



Krishne's uncle sells him for INRs. 30,000 in a bangle kiln.



Krishne's uncle hands him over to the factory owner.



The owner shows him the work place.



Krishne is not paid, even after working for 12 to 16 hours a day for two months. So, he decides to run away but gets caught by his master.



The security forces conduct search operation in Diley and Chameli's village at night sometime after the attack. The security personnel talk to each other.



During the search operation, the security force arrives at Chameli and Diley's village.



Security force knocks on Chameli and Diley's door.



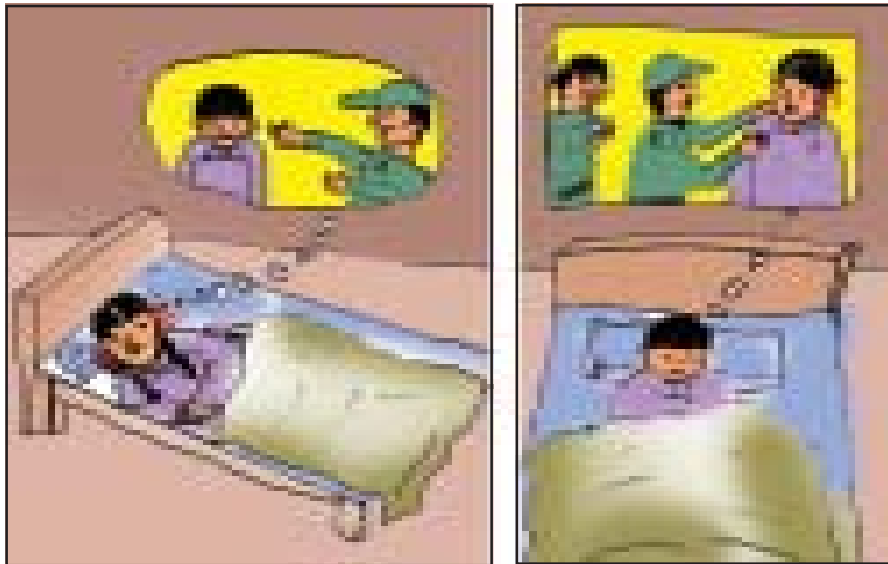
Security force enters the house and searches for any hidden rebel documents.



One of the security personnel attempts to sexually abuse Chameli but his colleague stops him.



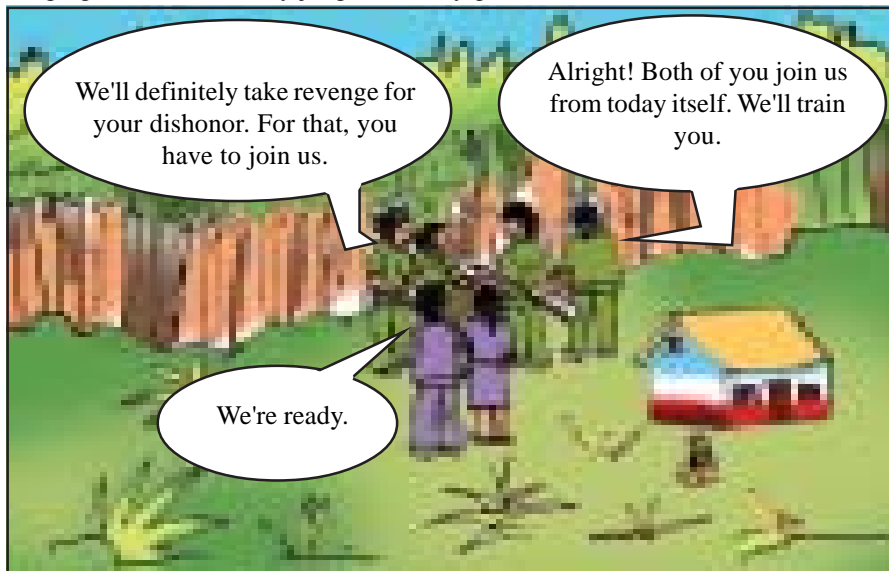
After the incident, Chameli along with other members of her family can't sleep that night.



After a sleepless night, Chameli and Diley talk to each other in the morning.



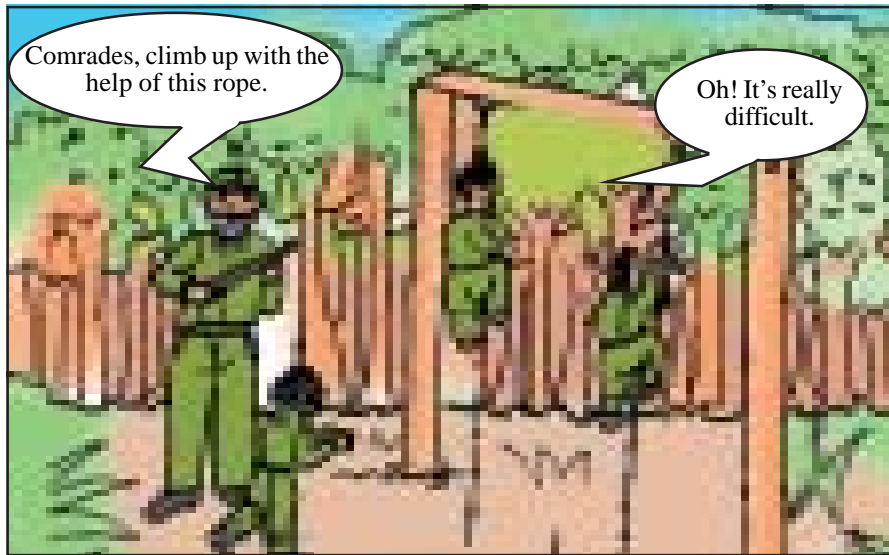
A week after the search operation, Chameli and Diley come to know about the rebels' congregation at the nearby jungle and they go over to meet them.



Chameli and Diley participate in the rebel training.



Chameli and Diley find it tough in the beginning. Despite this, they continue.



Chameli and Diley face a lot of hardship while undergoing training with grown up boys and girls.



While undergoing training Chameli and Diley miss their home, parents and school.

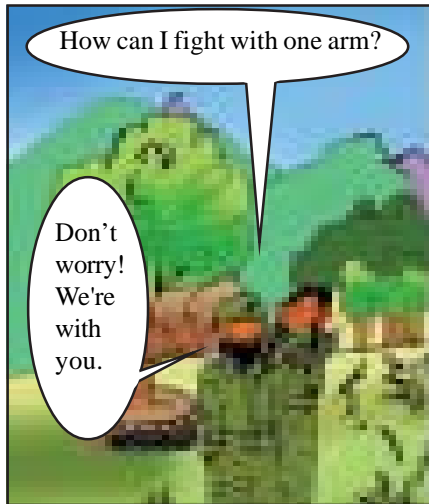


In the course of the training, a pressure cooker bomb suddenly blasts off their friend Bajra's arm badly damaging it from below the elbow.

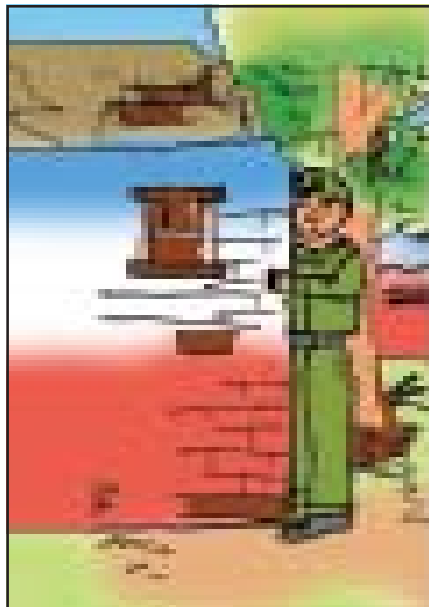


Bajra, who is as old as Chameli, becomes disabled forever after losing his arm.

The insurgents discuss ways to find out the activities of the security force.



One day, one of the rebel informants discovers the news of security force advancing towards the village.



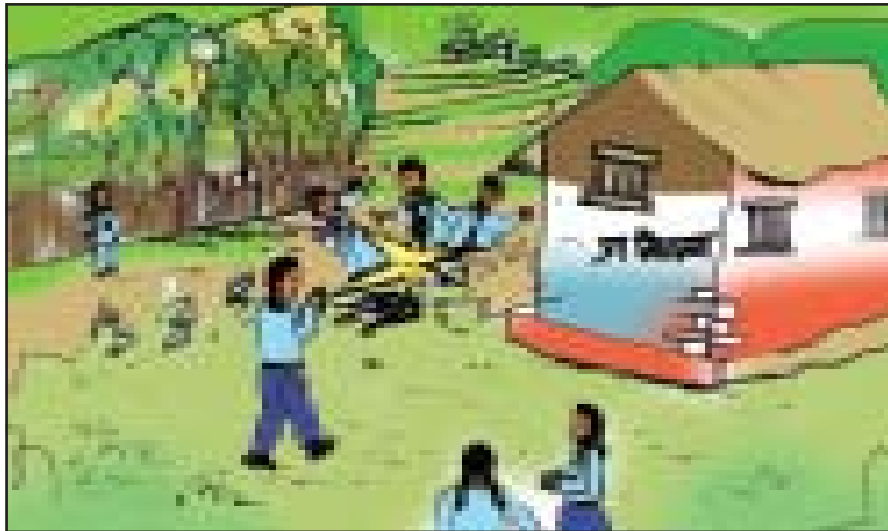
Panic grips the rebel group with the news of the arrival of the security force.



That night, expecting the arrival of the security force, the commander of the insurgent group orders the mining of the road near the primary school.



The security force takes a detour. The next day, three primary school kids fall prey while playing football. Chameli is shocked to witness this gory incident.



After this incident, Chameli questions herself.

Chameli describes the horrible scene to Diley the very evening.



Chameli and Diley are about to complete their training course. They stand in a line with others.

The commander orders Chameli's and Diley's platoons to go to the eastern and the western Terai regions respectively.



Chameli and Diley plea the commander to permit them to be in the same platoon.



They're compelled to part as per the orders of the commander.



No...

Chameli leaves for eastern Terai and Diley for west. They deeply miss their parents and home at the time of departure.



A month after Chameli's arrival, the commander makes plans to attack a police station remotely located from the district headquarters.



The insurgents hijack a private van for the attack.



The insurgents prepare for attack in a jungle nearby the police station.

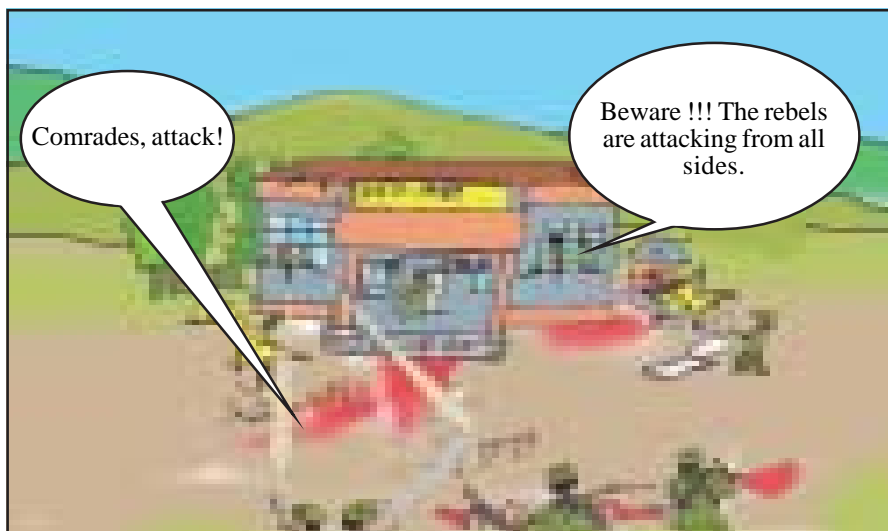
A rebel observes the police station through binoculars.



The Commander alerts all the soldiers to be ready for the attack.



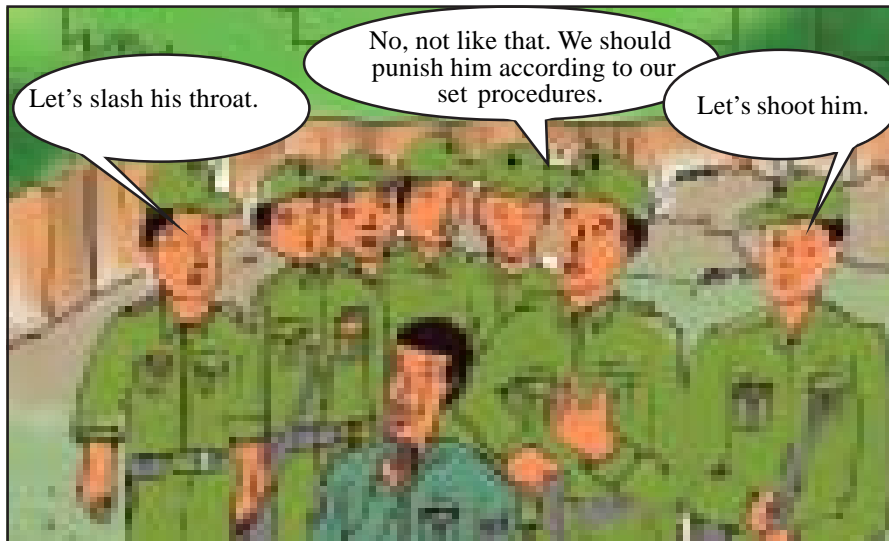
The commander orders the attack and the assault begins.



After nearly two hours of fighting the insurgents move towards the jungle carrying their injured and dead comrades.



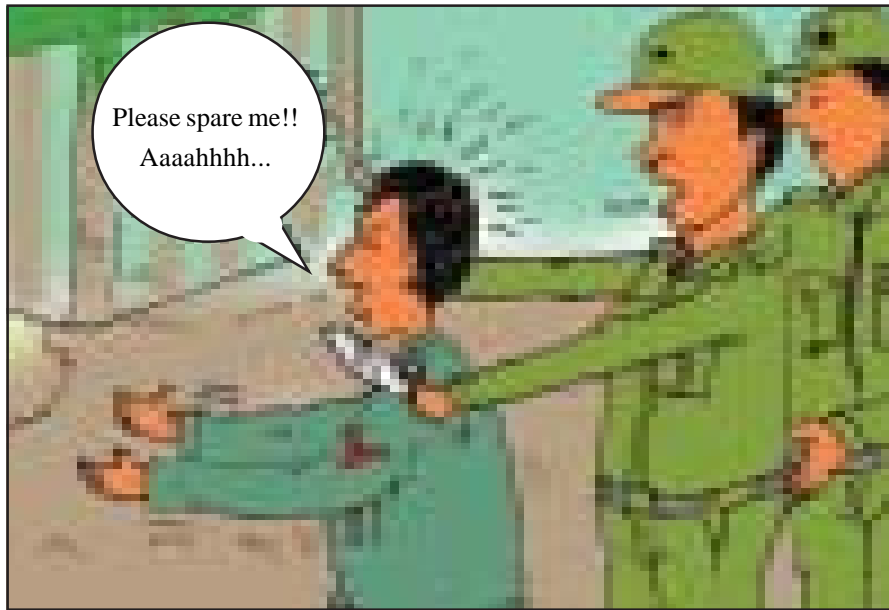
The rebels abduct a police officer. They discuss the punishment to be awarded to the officer.



Chameli proposes that the police officer be taken to the labor camp.



In the course of discussion, majority of the insurgents agree to slain him.



The cold-blooded murder creates hatred in Chameli's mind to disassociate with the insurgents.



The insurgents escort the two other security personnel kidnapped during the raid at the police station to a safer place, for a meeting with human rights defenders and journalists.

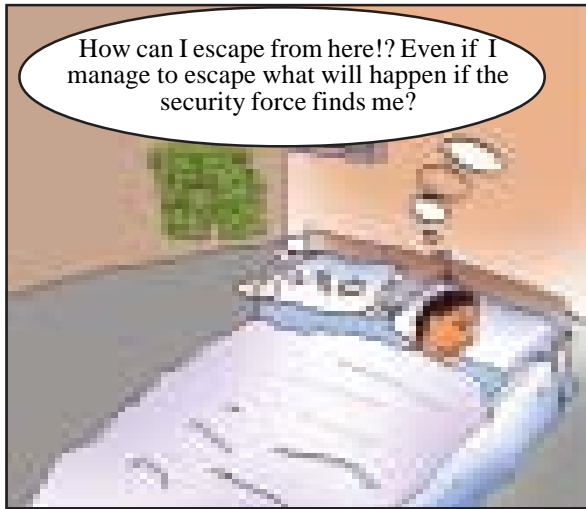


The insurgents release the abducted personnel in the custody of human rights defenders and journalists.



Chameli goes to sleep with serious thoughts of escaping the rebels.

Next morning Chameli is set to escape in her casual attire.



She manages to escape from the rebels with the excuse of going to the toilet.

Chameli comes out of the jungle. Suddenly she feels pain in her lower abdomen and for the first time she experiences her menstruation.



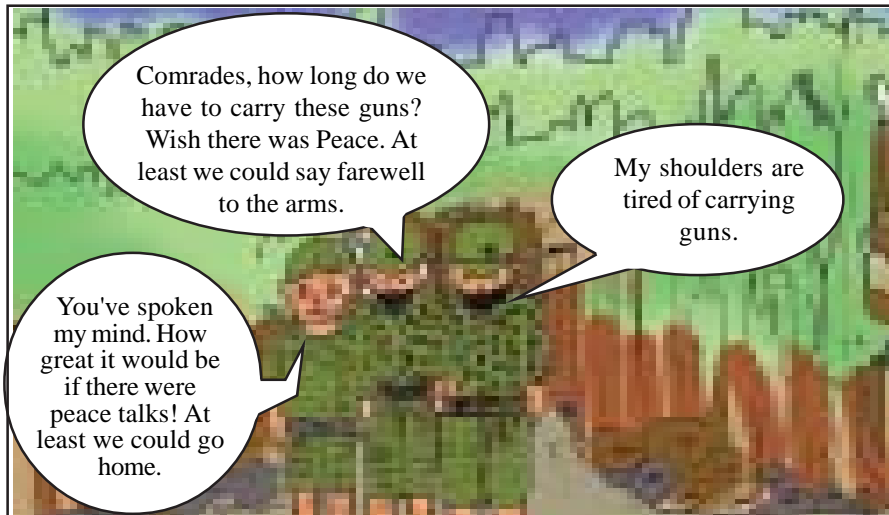
After she realises that she is having her periods, she goes to the nearby river to take a bath.



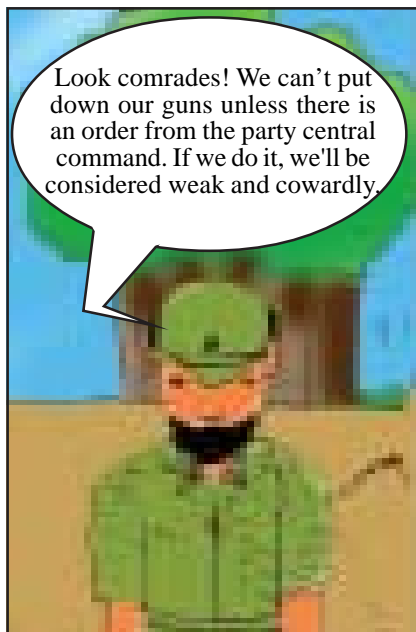
When the security force sees a girl taking bath at a lonely area, they suspect her to be a rebel and interrogates her. Panicking she takes to her heels. Suddenly there's a gun fire and she collapses there and then.



On the other side, after a month of arrival the rebels, including Diley, head towards the village to extort donation and garner support.



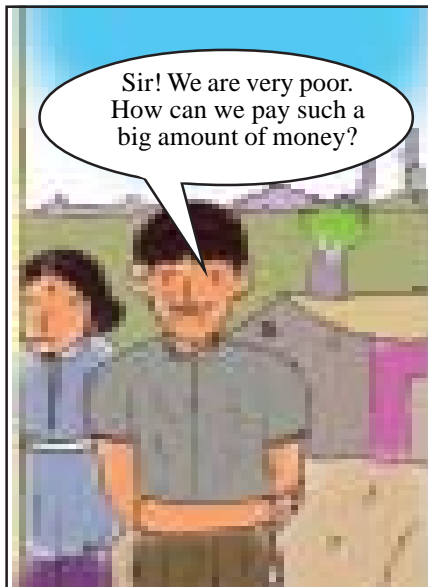
Commander talks to his chain of command. Diley and the rebel fighters reach the outskirts of the village.



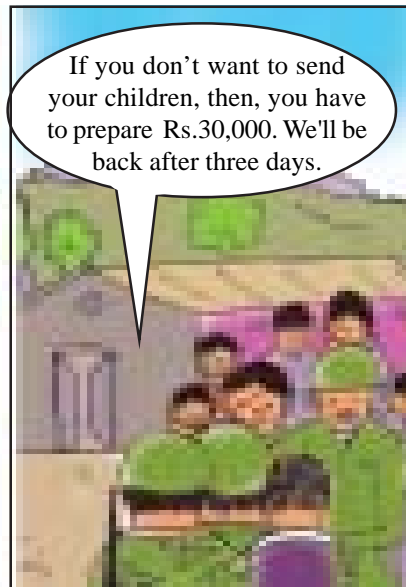
The commander orders all the family members to come out of the house.



The elderly in the family expresses his inability to pay such a big amount.



The rebels press for money.



Diley is not at all happy with the extortion and forced conscription.



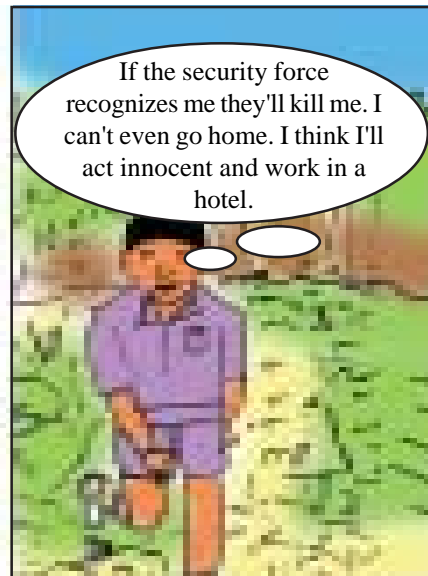
Diley pretends to be ill and sits depressed and refuses the command.



The commander orders Diley to proceed to the battlefield.



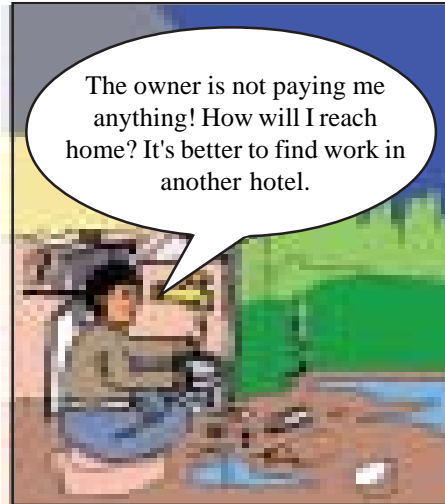
Diley leaves the group next day as per the orders of the commander.



Diley works in a hotel in mid-west region.



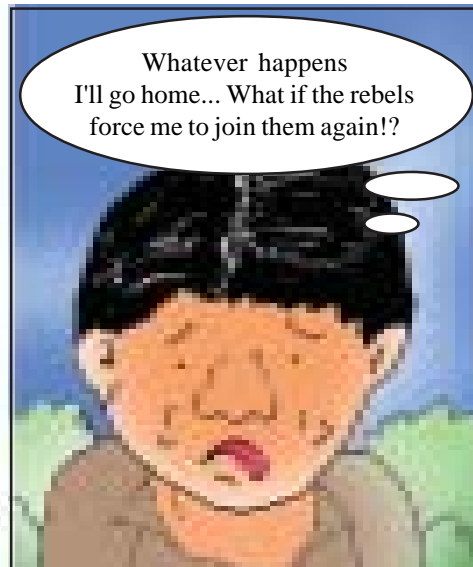
Diley decides to work in another hotel as the owner doesn't pay him. He is provided with meagre food and is scolded often.



Diley engrossed in his thoughts.



Diley is deeply worried about his possible arrest by the security force.



Diley shares his feelings with his friends working in other hotels.

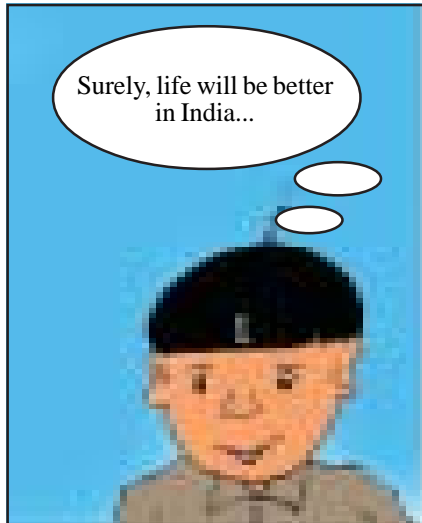


Diley keeps on pondering about what to do in such a state of fear and terror. Ultimately, he likes the idea of going over to India as suggested by his friend, Hari.

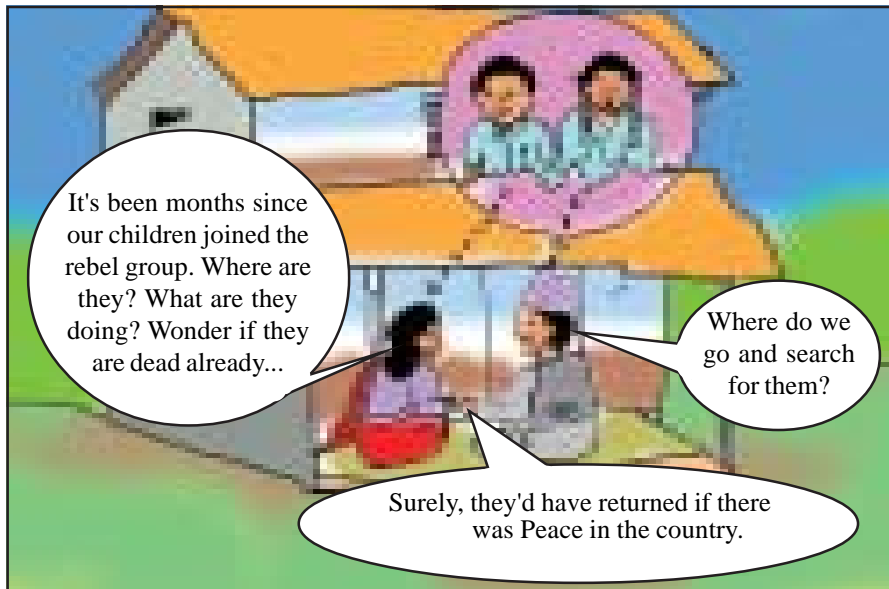


Ultimately, Diley decides to go to India.

Diley goes to India. He, then, never returns to Nepal.



On the other hand, Chameli and Diley's parents are worried that their children have joined the rebels.



Fed up with the continuing violence, Chameli and Diley's parents talk to the neighbours and villagers for the restoration of Peace.



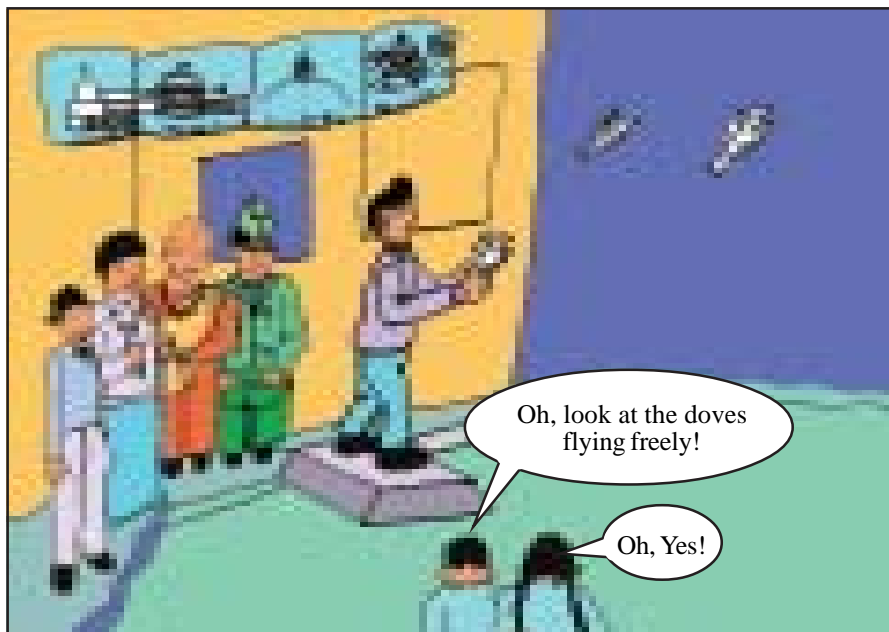
Sick of the killings, violence and bloodshed, people in the villages and towns display banners and erect hoardings with peace messages.



To create pressure on the warring factions: human rights defenders, journalists, entrepreneurs, students including people from different strata of life, organize peace rallies and dialogues.



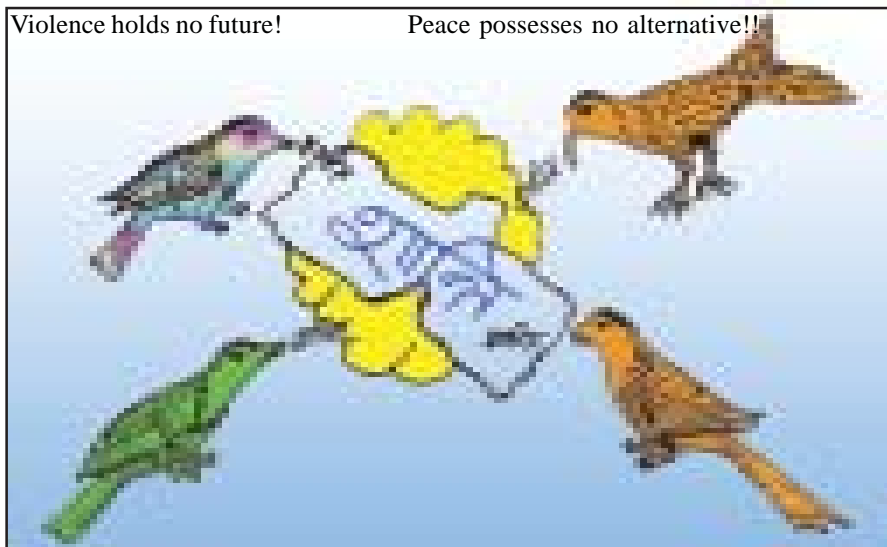
Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and other religious groups jointly light peace lamps, organize meetings and release doves with prayers and wishes for peace.



Political parties also organize rallies and mass meetings to bolster the voice for Peace.



Not only the humans, even the birds weary of gun fire and bomb blasts seem to be praying for peace in the country.



## *Farewell to Firearms*

First Edition : 2005

Copies : 750

Story, Dialogue, Creation, Illustration, Color Co-ordination :  
A combined attempt by 57 children from diverse backgrounds

Concept : Anjana Shakya

Dialogue Editing : Dr. Gopal Krishna Siwakoti  
Prapti Sherchan

Translation : S.K. Pradhan

Publication Co-ordination : Purna Shakya

Producer : HimRights  
(Himalayan Human Rights Monitors)

Co-producer : Watch List, New York

Copyright : HimRights

May, 2005

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## **Saying Goodbye to Guns...**

This comic, "*Farewell to Firearms*" being presented herewith is not a creation of any prominent artist who might have worked through months to produce it. The concept of the comic, illustrations, articulation, impression and the dialogues are the *domino effect* of the children's creative thinking. We have merely facilitated the production of this comic by providing technical and material backstopping. The ownership of the comic, therefore, entirely belongs to the children as their original creation.

Thousands of people have lost their lives due to the decade-long internal armed conflict in Nepal. The incidences of disappearance are ever on the increase. Thousands have been displaced. The loss of physical infrastructures is beyond statistical calculation. It is indeed unfortunate that the country, which is renowned as a refugee-hosting nation, should turn into a refugee producing state. Even if children's rights have been considered as non-derogable, the enduring armed conflict has put these rights in great peril. Attempts have been made through this comic to convey the message by children themselves to the parties in conflict about the pains, plights, sufferings, vulnerability and risks the children have to face as a result. This pictorial report with the message "Violence holds no future: Peace possesses no alternative" is brought to you through direct and meaningful participation of children from diverse backgrounds.

Fifty-seven children have relentlessly contributed to the production of this comic. This includes eight children from the shelter home of CWIN, two from CWISH, seven from Rukum, five from Concern-Nepal, three from Bara, three from Rautahat, three from Makwanpur, twelve from the district child clubs of Banke and shelter home run by Sahara, three from Research and Cooperation Organization of Kathmandu and eleven from different schools in Kathmandu and Lalitpur. Their experiences and aspirations have been truly reproduced in the form of a single story in this comic. We would request the readers to consider this book as a noble creation of young artists.

We would like to express our most heartfelt gratitude and thanks to all those children who worked very hard for twelve long days to prepare the manuscripts for this comic book. We would also take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to our co-producer-Watch List. Our thanks also goes to Mr. Ramesh Kumar Poudel who trained the children as an expert on the theme of the comic along with other contributors namely, Mr. Badri Prasad Siwakoti, Ms. Sushma Chhetri, the art trainers and the HimRights family. Similarly, we are thankful to all those institutions, organizations, clubs and schools who helped in securing children's participation in this endeavor.

We believe this comic illustrates the plight of the children affected by the armed conflict. We hope that this will also serve as an eye opener to both the parties involved in the armed conflict. The underlying core message of this publication is farewell to arms and armed conflict. Let us respect this virtuous message. Let us be responsive. Let us create a society fit for children.

**Children are zones of peace! Let us endorse the ideal  
“children's first”!! Say “YES” for children!!!**

Dr. Gopal Krishna Siwakoti  
*General Secretary*

Anjana Shakya  
*Chiarperson*