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Media figures call for release of Himal Editor Kanak Mani Dixit



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Prominent editors and media figures as (/taxonomy/term/2291) well as (/taxonomy/term/2291) intellectuals, activists and scholars from India (/taxonomy/term/2367), Nepal, Bangladesh (/taxonomy/term/2420), Australia, the UK (/taxonomy/term/1766), US (/taxonomy/term/1702) and Sri Lanka have called for the release of Himal editor and prominent Nepali journalist Kanak Mani Dixit who was arrested on April 22 in Katmandu by anti-graft officials.

The following is the text of the statement:

It is with deep concern that we have learned of the arrest (/taxonomy/term/1733) of Kanak Mani Dixit, the widely respected founder-editor of Himal Media and a courageous voice for transparency, freedom of expression and democratic rights (/taxonomy/term/1990) in Nepal and across South Asia. The charges are related to alleged corruption but Kanak Dixit says it is part of a vendetta pursued against (/taxonomy/term/1929) him by people in Government.

We have known Kanak Dixit as (/taxonomy/term/2291) a true professional, human rights (/taxonomy/term/1990) defender and energetic journalist whose credentials are built on robust research and tremendous courage. Himal Media, a pioneer in South Asia journalism, has published Himal South Asia, Nepali Times and Himal Khabar Patrika (in the Nepali language). He has written extensively for international media including leading newspapers in India (/taxonomy/term/2367) and is chairman of Sajha Yatayat, a state (/taxonomy/term/2332) run transportation company, which he has been turning around from a loss-making entity.

Kanak Dixit's detention comes at a time of increased pressure on free media across South Asia. We call upon all national and international media organisations, individual journalists and editors, defenders of media under pressure, on those who believe in the freedom of expression, to seek Kanak Dixit's immediate release and a fair and transparent trial, free of bias.

We call upon the Government of Nepal to issue a transparent and unequivocal statement on his detention for we are deeply concerned about his safety and rights (/taxonomy/term/1990). We condemn all forms of pressure tactics on editors like him and other courageous media figures such as (/taxonomy/term/2291) Mahfuz Anam of the Daily Star in Dhaka, who is facing 80 cases of sedition and libel in Bangladeshi courts, as (/taxonomy/term/2291) well as (/taxonomy/term/2291) other media persons who are committed to the rule of law and justice.

Sanjoy Narayan, Editor, The Hindustan Times, New Delhi (/taxonomy/term/1868)

Rajdeep Sardesai, Chief Editor, India (/taxonomy/term/2367) Today TV

(/taxonomy/term/1970) Group, New Delhi (/taxonomy/term/1868)

Siddharth Varadarajan, Founder Editor, The Wire, New Delhi (/taxonomy/term/1868)

Karan Thapar, President (/taxonomy/term/2432) ITV and TV (/taxonomy/term/1970) anchor

TN Ninan, Chairman, Business Standard Pvt Ltd, New Delhi (/taxonomy/term/1868)

Swaminathan S Anklesaria Aiyar, Consulting Editor, The Times of India

(/taxonomy/term/2367) Group

James Astill, Political (/taxonomy/term/1692) Editor, The Economist

Maja Daruwala, Director, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, New Delhi

(/taxonomy/term/1868)

Sevanti Ninan, editor, The Hoot, New Delhi (/taxonomy/term/1868)

Salil Tripathi, Journalist (/taxonomy/term/2160) and Author, London

Imtiaz Ahmed, Executive Director, RCSS, Colombo

Mahfuz Anam, Editor, The Daily Star, Dhaka

Sara Hossein, Lawyer, Bangladesh (/taxonomy/term/2420) Supreme Court

Zafar Sobhan, Editor, Dhaka Tribune

Afsan Chowdhury, Senior Journalist (/taxonomy/term/2160) and Academic,

Bangladesh (/taxonomy/term/2420)

Dr. Naila Zaman Khan, Professor of Child Neurology and Development

(/taxonomy/term/2310), Bangladesh (/taxonomy/term/2420)

Shahidullah Khan, Publisher Daily New Age, Bangladesh (/taxonomy/term/2420)

Lubna Mariam, Cultural activist, Bangladesh (/taxonomy/term/2420)

Kalpana Sharma, independent journalist, Mumbai

Sanjib Baruah, Professor of Political (/taxonomy/term/1692) Studies, Bard College,

New York, US (/taxonomy/term/1702)

Bina D'Costa, Australian National (/taxonomy/term/1874) University

Pradip Phanjoubam, Editor, Imphal (/taxonomy/term/72) Free Press

Patricia Mukhim, Editor, The Shillong Times

Seema Mustafa, Editor, The Citizen, New Delhi (/taxonomy/term/1868)

Akum Longchari, Founder-Editor, Morung Express, Dimapur (/taxonomy/term/126)

Subir Bhowmick, Senior Editor, BD24news, Kolkata

T. Monalisa Chankija, Editor, The Nagaland (/taxonomy/term/1597) Page, Dimapur

(/taxonomy/term/126)

Teesta (/taxonomy/term/2316) Setlevad, lawyer, Mumbai

Sandhya Srinivasan, Infoexchange News & Features, Mumbai

Lalita Panicker, Senior Associate Editor, The Hindustan Times, New Delhi

(/taxonomy/term/1868)

Laxmi (/taxonomy/term/1726) Murthy, Consulting Editor, Himal Southasian

Seema Guha, senior journalist (freelance), New Delhi (/taxonomy/term/1868)

Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty, The Wire, New Delhi (/taxonomy/term/1868)

Teresa Rehman, Managing Editor, The Thumb Print

Aruni Kashyap, Writer and Asst Professor of English, Ashoka University,
Haryana

Nalaka Gunwardene, Columnist, Sri Lanka

Dr. Xonzoi Barbora, TISS, Guwahati

Dr. Sanjeeb Kakoty, Associate Professor, Rajiv Gandhi (/taxonomy/term/1710)

Institute of Management Shillong

Catherine Masud, Film (/taxonomy/term/88)-maker, US (/taxonomy/term/1702)-Bangladesh

(/taxonomy/term/2420)

Rubana Haq, Writer and Business, Bangladesh (/taxonomy/term/2420)

Dr. Anjuman Ara Begum, Forum-Asia, Katmandu

Sanjoy Hazarika, independent columnist, New Delhi (/taxonomy/term/1868)

Kamayani Bali Mahabal, Blogger and human rights (/taxonomy/term/1990) activist,
Mumbai

Geeta Seshu, Journalist (/taxonomy/term/2160), Mumbai

Anusheh Anadil, Musician and Cultural activist, Bangladesh (/taxonomy/term/2420)

Babul (/taxonomy/term/2158) Gogoi, Assam Times, Guwahati



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