



27th April 2016

Statement on the arrest by Nepal's Commission for the Investigation of the Abuse of Authority of Journalist Kanak Mani Dixit

The Britain-Nepal Academic Council (BNAC) wishes to express its serious concern about the arrest of senior journalist Kanak Mani Dixit and the manner of operation of the Commission for the Investigation of the Abuse of Authority (CIAA), Nepal.

While we support any initiatives against corruption and abuse of authority, we are deeply concerned about the heavy-handedness of the CIAA and the manner in which it has conducted itself in relation to Mr Dixit, who is a highly regarded journalist and a leading civil society figure. If it is the case, as has been reported, that Mr Dixit is being denied access to his lawyer, that is highly regrettable. The CIAA is a crucial body for the future health of Nepal's institutions, but it should operate within the bounds of the law. It is essential that it be and be seen to be unbiased, transparent, and proportionate in its actions, and, above all, that it be free of all possible accusations of corruption itself.

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