

Maoists may take up arms again, says Prachanda

Chitwan, November 24 [2007]:

CPN-Maoist chairman Prachanda said today that the Maoist People's Liberation (PLA) army would fight for 40 years for people's liberation, if necessary.

Speaking on the occasion of the seventh anniversary of the founding of the PLA at the PLA's third division here, Prachanda said that as long they exist, the CPN-Maoist and the PLA will continue to work for the welfare of the people.

"We had decided that after the 10-year-long conflict and the 19-day April uprising, there should be no more bloodshed. However, if the government and the other parties do not understand certain ground realities, we would be forced to take up arms again," he said.

Prachanda said that this time the conflict would not end in 10 years, but would go on for 40 years.

"We have not yet decided to resort to an armed struggle. Instead, we are for peaceful solution to all issues. We are still in favour of sorting out differences through dialogue. However, if the situation does not work out in favour of the people, another mass uprising will ensue which will be spearheaded by the CPN-Maoist and PLA."

The programme, chaired by PLA deputy commander Pasang, was attended by the UN weapons inspection and control team chief John Eric Wilhensen. Senior Maoist leaders including Dr Baburam Bhattarai, Mohan Baidya 'Kiran', Ram Bahadur Thapa 'Badal', Diwakar and PLA deputy commander Ananta, were also present.