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Media Release

On behalf of all nationalist Nepalis living within Nepal and overseas, the United Nationalist Nepalese wishes a very happy birthday to His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev. Though presently living as a private citizen of Nepal, His Majesty represents a link of cultural and institutional continuity with Nepal's heritage and with the origins of Nepali unity. As a living symbol of that unity, His Majesty maintains a continued relevance in Nepal as the nation struggles through one of the most painful and potentially divisive chapters of its history.

The failure of the Constituent Assembly to fulfill its mandate even after two extensions has frustrated the hopes of many Nepalis for meaningful change. The inability of UNMIN to facilitate the full rehabilitation of former Maoist combatants prior to the expiration of its mandate has cast doubt on the future of the peace process. Corruption scandals touching the highest echelons of political office have shaken the confidence of the nation in its own representative institutions. Moral and ideological bankruptcy mars the nation's political leadership as the major parties struggle to chart a credible path out of the current national malaise.

Through all of this His Majesty has helped to keep the flame of nationalism alive through his gracious and accommodating public statements, through his appearance at cultural and religious events, and through his generous patronage of such laudable humanitarian endeavors as the Himani Trust. Even divested of its political role, the Crown has an important and irreplaceable role to play as a steward of national unity. It is this spirit of self-effacing nationalism that the UNN salutes on the occasion of HM the King's sixty-fifth birthday.

The UNN calls on the people and the political leaders of Nepal to reconcile their political differences and work towards the fulfillment of the national aspiration for prosperity and peace. This organization entreats His Majesty, as the current representative of the institution that forged Nepal into one nation, to continue to serve the cause of national unity in whatever capacity he is able. Trusting always in the spirit of national self-determination which has ensured Nepal's survival as a nation, Nepali nationalists salute one of their own on the occasion of his birthday and wish him well.

Jai Nepal!

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