ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I am grateful to God for His amazing grace and for giving me this opportunity to gain knowledge and understand its virtues. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Uma Singh for her immense trust and consistent guidance and support throughout the course of my research which enabled me to complete this work successfully. Her inspiration would stand by me for life.

My field trip to Nepal from 13th June - 10th July in 2008 and 14th - 27th May in 2009 led to drastic overhaul of my understanding of the impact of the Maoist insurgency on Nepalese women, about which I previously had only learned through books and articles. I am very grateful to Amresh Singh, Deepak Bhatt and Hari Roka my Nepalese friends in JNU for arranging all the interviews with various political party members ahead of my arrival. My interaction and discussion with leaders of Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) (CPN-Maoist), Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist-Leninist) (CPN-UML), Student Activists, Media Person, Human Rights Lawyers, Academician, etc. gave an insight to the study. I am grateful to Hisila Yami (popularly known as Com. Parvati) of CPN (Maoist) and Member of Constituent Assembly (MCA) for giving me time and answer my questions on various impacts that ‘People’s War’ had on women despite her busy schedule. Thanks to Manushi Yami Bhattarai (Asmita) daughter of Baburam Bhattarai, a student activists of CPN (Maoist) for sharing the role of youth and students in the Nepali politics. I have greatly benefited from Amrita Thapa, General Secretary of All Nepalese Women Association (Revolutionary) [(ANWA (R)], Dhirendra Kumare Upadnadayay and Jwala Kumary Sah of CPN (Maoists) and MCA who gave an insight of the activities and involvement of (ANWA (R) in mobilising women at the time of ‘People’s War’. I also express my gratitude to Sita Bee-Kah (popularly known as Com. Samjhana) former Vice Commander of a Battalion in the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), CPN (Maoist) for answering my question on the roles of women combatants during PW. Thanks are due to Savitri Bhushal of CPN (UML) and a student activist Ram Kumari, Student Activists of CPN (UML) for answering my question during telephonic interview. Sapana Pradhan Malla, Co-ordinator of Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD) was patient enough to answer my question despite her busy schedule. The material/reports collected from FWLD formed the basis of my research on the status of Nepalese women in Nepali society. Thanks to Shobha Gautam, Director of Institute of Human Rights Communication Nepal (IHRICON) for providing materials on armed conflict and women in Nepal and also answer number of queries that I had. Thanks to Rita Manchanda of South Asian Forum for Human Rights (SAFHR) for providing me the space to work during my entire stay in Kathmandu. Thanks are also due to Laxmi Murthy and Kanak Mani Dixit of Himal South Asia for sparing their time for answering my questions. I thank Prof. Lok Raj Baral of Nepal Centre for Contemporary Studies (NCCS) for giving an insight to the problems and challenges of Nepali politics. I thank Prashant Jha, Journalist and Satish Jung Shahi of PANOS South Asia for providing me contacts of various prominent people during my stay in Kathmandu. Thanks to Sakeena Khan, documentation person in SAFHR and Sunita, documentation in charge of IHRICON for helping me search through old newspaper clippings on human rights violation and atrocities committed by the Maoists, police and the security forces at the time of ‘People’s War’.
I would also like to acknowledge the help of staff and librarians of Jawaharlal Nehru University Central Library, South Asian Foundation for Documentation and Information Centre, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace and Institute of Defence Strategic Analysis Library.

At the end of the day, no researchers work alone. It is the help, patience and encouragement of friends and family that often saves the researcher at difficult times. Mahesh helped me immensely to arrange my field trip. His family was kind enough to provide hospitality. My stay in Kathmandu was made comfortable because of their warmth. I thank Vinod for always been there to clear all my confusion, while Chon and Badap for not getting tired of listening to me when I am at my worst. I thank them all. I also thank office staffs - Asha Sharma, Usha Kapoor and Dhir Singh at CSCSEASWPS and Sanjoy Photostat for their help in times of need.

I am extremely grateful to my parents - Apfu-o and Ama, for their patience and unconditional love towards me. Without their prayer and support any endeavour in life is unimaginable. My brothers - Asilie, Azeu and Tutu and my sister Nganga for being my strength. And, last but not the least, Alok who has been constantly encouraged me to continue even when I was overwhelmed or bogged down, for his meticulous editing and his profound care.

Nehesamuo Sorhie
27th July 2009