



# वकालत मञ्च-नेपाल ADVOCACY FORUM- NEPAL

*Lawyers forum for human rights and rule of law*

Press Release

## GANGAMAYA IS DYING FOR JUSTICE, URGENT INTERVENTION NEEDED TO SAVE HER LIFE

3<sup>rd</sup> Jul 2018

Advocacy Forum – Nepal would like to draw your attention and request you for urgent intervention to save life of Ganga Maya Adhikari, a mother, whose son was brutally murdered by then Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) in 2004. Family's quest for justice resulted in their displacement, denial, threats, intimidation and subsequent death. When no Government agency helped them to get justice for the murder of their beloved son, the couple went for hunger strike. Nanda Prasad Adhikari, husband of Ganga Maya died in September 2014 in his 333 days of hunger strike. Their demand is nothing big. They have asked to implement the decision of the Supreme Court of 21 December 2015 that requires the Government to arrest one of the main accused of the case and proceed with the trials on the case. The Public Prosecutor of Chitwan District has already filed murder charge against 12 people in the district court of Chitwan. These alleged perpetrators cannot be arrested simply because they are the cadre of then Maoist party, now the party in the Government.

Ganga Maya's son, Krishna Prasad Adhikari, a 18 year old boy was brutally killed on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2004 by the Maoists cadres in Chitwan district. For further information please visit: <http://advocacyforum.org/emblematic-cases/2013/09/krishna-adhikari.php>

Ganga Maya along with her husband Nanda Prasad Adhikari, had started first fast-on-to-death strike in January 2013. The hunger strike ended in 47 days after the government assured them to provide justice by agreeing to arrest and prosecute to those involved in the case. But as the accused was released on bail immediately after the arrest, Adhikari couple again resumed their strike and that ended Nanda's life on his 333 days of fast-onto-death in September 2014.<sup>1</sup> His body is kept in TU Teaching Hospital still waiting for cremation. Even after losing her husband, Ganga Maya had continued her hunger strike for a total of 360 days until the government signed a five-point deal<sup>2</sup> with her in October 2015. However, the lies of the government continued as neither any accused was arrested nor the trial progressed.

Ganga Maya is in the custody of the government. The state is under obligation to conduct prompt, fair and effective investigation into the case under both the national and international laws. If she dies in the custody of the state, the responsible person of the government will be individually liable for it. Likewise, the political parties also should be responsible as they have colluded to protect perpetrators than victims and promote impunity and shield themselves from accountability, obstructing justice. The Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli, Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa 'Badal' and the Co-Chair of the Nepal Communist Party Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sarbendra Khanal have to act to save the life of Ganga Maya and respect the orders of the Supreme Court. Furthermore, the Government has been defying court orders seriously undermining the rule of law. Ganga Maya was hospitalized because of her health condition but decided to take fast onto death on 29<sup>th</sup> of May, the Republican Day when she saw Balkrishna Dhungel, one of the murder convicts, got released from the presidential pardon also because of his affiliation with the political party in the Government.<sup>3</sup> 'I have no strength to witness this level of state protection to murderers and have no justice, I want to die as I do not see any hope of getting justice to my son' she told to the journalists organizing a press conference in the cabin of the Bir Hospital. Her health condition is deteriorating day by day and immediate intervention is needed to save her life.

Before she dies and we spent few words of 'Rest in Peace' 'you are the fighter, etc...' your immediate intervention could save her life. For your reference, note the telephone numbers and email address of the Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs and his Personal Secretary, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Office of Attorney General, Inspector General of Nepal Police, Human Rights Unit of Nepal Police:

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2. Mr. Ram Bahadur Thapa "Badal"  
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<sup>1</sup> Detailed information is available here: <http://advocacyforum.org/news/2014/09/nanda-prasad-adhikari.php>

<sup>2</sup> Five point agreements include: Arrest of accused, prosecution of accused, provide security to the victim's family members, return house and property etc.

<sup>3</sup> National media's report available here: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/republic-day-pardon-recommended-for-balkrishna-dhungel/>

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