

Press Statement

12 September 2020

Citizens' Call to the Government to be Sensitive on Ganga Maya Adhikari's Health

As the main building of Bir Hospital has been designated as a dedicated hospital for the treatment of COVID-19 patients, it has come to our serious attention that *Satyagrahi* Ganga Maya Adhikari's health is at high risk, as she has not been transferred to another safer place, and is still being kept at the hospital with a high risk of contracting the coronavirus from infected patients.

Ganga Maya Adhikari and her husband late Nanda Prasad Adhikari started hunger strike as part of a *Satyagraha* since 5 February 2012, demanding no amnesty to those who were involved in the ruthless murder of their 16-year-old son Krishna Prasad Adhikari and bringing the guilty before a court of law.

Unfortunately, on 22 September 2014, the 334th day of the hunger strike, Nanda Prasad Adhikari passed away, while still waiting for justice. The fast-unto-death was postponed on its 359th day when the Government of Nepal promised to fulfill its commitments to address the demands of Ganga Maya Adhikari for justice and ensure health treatment and security throughout her life. However, her demands for justice have not been fulfilled by the Government, and she has been staging a fast-unto-death on many occasions in the Bir Hospital itself, where the Government has kept her.

As *Satyagrahi* Ganga Maya Adhikari is being kept at the Bir Hospital under Government's management, more recently the Government plans to designate the same hospital's main building as the COVID-19 hospital has become public. There is a high chance that she might contract the virus anytime soon in such a setting and equally high possibility of greater health risk to her life. Hence, we humbly request the Nepal Government and the Bir Hospital's management to immediately transfer Adhikari to a safer place with adequate health facilities, with her consent, to save her life.

The State cannot obstruct the exercise of constitutionally guaranteed rights such as the right to live with dignity, the right to health, and the right to justice citing the COVID-19 crisis. As *Satyagrahi* Ganga Maya Adhikari's persistent struggle for her right to justice, and the safety of her life is a subject of national and international human rights communities' legitimate concern, we would like to draw this to the serious attention of the authorities, urge them to be sensitive and request them to take necessary measures immediately.

Appealed by: Kedarnath Upadhyaya, Kalyan Shrestha, Sushila Karki, Daman Nath Dhungana, Kedar Bhakta Mathema, Shambhu Thapa, Dr. Birendra Mishra, Dr. Gauri Shankar Lal Das, Charan Prasai, Prof. Kapil Shrestha, Chandani Joshi, Dr. Bipin Adhikari, Bhakta Bishwakarma,

Lily Thapa, Sabitri Shrestha, Indra Prasad Aryal, Dinesh Tripathi, Om Prakash Aryal, Devi Sunuwar, Mahamunishwor Acharya, Babu Ram Giri, Ashik Ram Karki, Ganesh Mandal, Badri Prasad Bhusal, Suman Adhikari, Raju Prasad Chapagain, Rajan Kuikel, Anita Thapaliya, Om Prakash Sen Thakuri, Bikash Basnet.

On behalf of appellants:



Charan Prasai