



Press Statement

30 August 2023

Ensure truth, justice and reparations for the families of the victims of enforced disappearance

On the occasion of the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances (30 August), Advocacy Forum-Nepal (AF) appeals the Government of Nepal to ensure the right to truth, justice and reparations of the families of the victims of enforced disappearances.

Nepal's conflict victims demand disclosure of the fate of the enforced disappeared during the 10-year armed conflict. The 2006 Comprehensive Peace Agreement pledged to reveal the victims of disappearances within 60 days, unmet even after 17 years.

The Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) were formed in 2015 amidst controversies. However, the CIEDP has not clarified the fate of any enforced disappeared person to date. The fulfilment of victims' demand for knowing the truth of their loved ones and getting justice has been long overdue and the government, with its delaying tactics, has so far remained apathetic to the plights of the families of the "disappeared" victims.

Since the Investigation of Enforced Disappeared Persons, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act (TRC Act) contains several problematic provisions that effectively deprive conflict victims of justice, the victims and civil society organizations have demanded the government to amend the Act in line with the Supreme Court of Nepal's rulings and the country's international obligations. A Bill for the Amendment of the TRC Act is under consideration in the Federal Parliament but it has failed to incorporate the concerns of the victims.

In different occasions, victims have urged the government to reinstate the definition of enforced disappearance in the Amendment Bill in line with the recommendations made by the victims and stakeholders in various consultation meetings with the government authorities.

AF urges the government to amend the definition of enforced disappearances to bring it in line with Nepal's international obligations and the Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. The organisation calls for the fulfilment of the immediate needs of the victims and requests for genuine efforts of the government and political parties to amend the transitional justice law in line with the demands of victims and civil society. It also urges the international community to continue to raise the voice for victims' right to truth and justice.

Bikash Basnet

Director

In solidarity with victims and their family members in Nepal and throughout the world, The International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED) and The Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD)