



Joint Press Statement

6 June 2023

Ensure protection for the victims and prosecution of the perpetrators

18 Years of Denial of Justice for Badarmude Victims

Today marks 18 years of the Badarmude attack, where the then-Maoist cadres ambushed and bombed a bus carrying people, killing 35 civilians and 3 off-duty security personnel. Additionally, more than 70 individuals were injured in this attack, and 6 of them subsequently lost their lives.

For 18 years, the victims have been denied justice, and their pain and anguish have been unheeded by the State. The State has been remiss in its duty to investigate the case and prosecute the perpetrators of this heinous crime. The Government has also failed to provide reparations and fulfil the medical needs of many victims who have sustained various degrees of injuries and disability as a result of the blast while commemorating the attack.

The victims continue to suffer physically, psychologically, and financially despite all the changes the country went through in the past 18 years. While the Transitional Justice (TJ) process has gained momentum with the registration of the Bill to amend the Disappeared Persons Investigation, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act, 2014 in the Parliament, the Bill requires a substantive amendment to provide the legal foundation for victims such as those who survived the Badarmude attack and the relatives of those who died to receive effective remedies under the TJ process. Thus, it is pivotal that the Bill is amended in a manner that promotes a fair, transparent, and victim-centric justice process, to ensure the right to truth and redress of the victims, as opposed to the protection of the perpetrators of the Badarmude attack and other such incidents during the armed conflict.

While commemorating the anniversary of the incident, Accountability Watch Committee (AWC) and Advocacy Forum-Nepal (AF) join victims and their family members, demanding an impartial and independent investigation and prosecution of those involved in the incident and urging the Government of Nepal:

- To ensure the protection of victims and witnesses of the attack and ensure a fair trial holding the perpetrators to account can begin at the earliest.
- To fulfill long-standing commitments to provide medical care and support, facilities, and employment opportunities to the victims of the Badarmude attack.
- To ensure that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission conducts a prompt investigation of the human rights violations and abuses committed during the armed conflict, including at Badarmude.
- To amend the problematic provisions of the Bill that deprive the victims of justice and provide amnesty to the perpetrators of heinous crimes, as per the directives of the Supreme Court and the recommendations from the consultation meetings with the victims' groups.

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