



# वकालत मञ्च-नेपाल ADVOCACY FORUM- NEPAL

*Lawyers forum for human rights and rule of law*

## Press Statement

### Prosecute Those Responsible for the Extra-Judicial Execution of Kumar Poudel

19 June 2024

Five years have passed since Kumar Poudel, who was in charge of the Biplab-led Communist Party of Nepal in Sarlahi district, was killed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 (5 Asar 2076) after being taken into custody by Nepal Police officers in the Lalbandi Municipality-1, Lakhendehi forest. Advocacy Forum-Nepal (AF) reiterates its demand for an immediate and independent investigation into the killing of Poudel, prosecution of those responsible for the incident and ensure justice for the victim and his family.

The fact finding reports of AF and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) concluded that Poudel's death was indeed an extra-judicial execution. [The NHRC recommended](#) immediate suspension of the police officials involved in the execution and further recommended filing criminal charges against these individuals. AF strongly urges the Government to immediately implement the recommendations of the NHRC.

After multiple unsuccessful attempts to lodge a First Information Report (FIR) pinpointing the perpetrators with the District Police Office (DPO) in Sarlahi, the victim's family filed a writ petition with the Supreme Court on 12 December 2020. The Supreme Court on 27 September 2021 issued a mandamus order to DPO Sarlahi to register the case and carry out a prompt investigation. Accordingly, the DPO registered the complaint on 6 October 2021 after its authentication in the presence of the District Attorney. But the police have neither summoned anyone implicated for questioning nor issued any arrest warrants against those named in the complaint. During this time, the victim's family has faced ongoing threats and intimidation in their pursuit of justice, adding to their grief.

Poudel's case highlights dysfunctionality of Nepal's justice delivery system. AF draws the attention of the Government towards the lack of accountability and persistent impunity that has too long been entrenched in the justice system of Nepal.

AF demands the police to conduct impartial investigation into the case, arrest those responsible and prosecute the guilty. The organisation urges the government to provide security for the victim's family and ensure justice for them.

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