



Accountability Watch Committee (AWC)

जवाफदेहिता निगरानी समिति

Press Statement

Call for Immediate Peace and Accountability in the Middle East by Nepali Human Rights Defenders

22 October 2024

We, the human rights defenders of Nepal affiliated with the Accountability Watch Committee, (AWC) are deeply alarmed by the escalating conflict in Gaza, Lebanon and increasing tensions between Israel and Iran in the Middle East. The ongoing multifaceted violent conflicts between Israel, Hamas and Hezbollah have caused immense suffering and devastation, particularly for civilians. This violence must stop immediately.

A humanitarian disaster is unfolding in Gaza, with devastating consequences. Between October 7, 2023, and October 15, 2024, it is estimated that at least 42,344 Palestinians have been killed and 99,013 injured. Additionally, around 10,000 people are reportedly missing, many feared buried under rubble. Blockades have cut off essential aid, leaving the population without food, water, and medical care. More than half of Gaza's homes have been damaged or destroyed, and 17 out of 36 hospitals are only partially functional. Women and children are suffering the most from violence, malnutrition, and a collapsing healthcare system. The world must act now to halt these gross violations of human rights and humanitarian law, ensure access to aid, and deliver justice for all victims.

We strongly condemn the violence and attacks against civilians by both sides in the conflict. The disproportionate military responses by Israel must end immediately. Denial of humanitarian aid is absolutely unacceptable as it is a serious violation of international law. Killing and destruction must cease; the lives of civilians on both sides, as well as access to humanitarian assistance, must be protected.

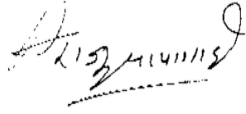
The international community, the United Nations, and all concerned parties must continue to demand a ceasefire. We emphasize that war and violence will never bring peace—only constructive dialogue, respect for human rights, and justice can achieve that. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has already warned of the grave risks of genocide against Palestinians and has called for necessary measures to prevent further harm. These warnings must be taken seriously, and those responsible for mass atrocities against civilians must be brought to justice.

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We also call on the Government of Nepal to urgently address the safety of Nepali workers in conflict areas, initiate steps for their safe return, and refrain from sending migrant workers to Israel or any other conflict zone in the Middle East. The Government of Nepal should intensify diplomatic efforts for the safe release of Bipin Joshi, who is being held hostage by Hamas, and stand with the international community for a lasting solution based on justice and equality.

On behalf of the Accountability Watch Committee



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