



**Press statement**  
**For immediate release**  
**5 June 2020**  
**Kathmandu, Nepal**

**Ensure Independent and Impartial Investigation in Chitwan Incidents.**

Victims of Badarmude, Madi, Chitwan are still waiting for truth, justice and reparation. 15 years ago, (23 Jestha 2062) Maoist cadres blew up the bus carrying civilians, resulting in the death of 35 civilians and 3 off duty security personnel. It injured more than 70 people, many of them are still suffering from severe physical and psychological trauma. Victims have been waiting for truth, justice and reparation for last 15 years.

Although the then leader of the Nepal Communist Party Maoist, Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda) acknowledged the bus bombing as the “biggest mistake of the civil war”, he has not allowed any measures to be taken to prevent this from recurring.

Tomorrow (24 Jestha), also marks the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the brutal murder of 16-year-old Krishna Prasad Adhikari by Maoist cadres, also in Chitwan. Krishna Prasad Adhikari, son of Nanda Prasad Adhikari and Gangamaya Adhikari from Fujel, Gorkha district, was tortured and murdered by the then Maoists, in Chitwan, while he had come to visit his grandparents.

His father, Nanda Prasad Adhikari, died in hunger strike while seeking justice for his son in September 2014. His mother, Ganga Maya Adhikari, continues her hunger strike (on different dates) in Bir Hospital, Kathmandu for last 7 years demanding justice to her beloved son and husband.

Although after an order by the Supreme Court, an investigation was opened in Krishna Prasad Adhikari's case, however, it was not independent and credible. Advocacy Forum- Nepal (AF) has documented ample evidence to show the lack of due diligence in the investigation that could lead to prosecution and punishment of those involved in the case. It is alleged that the State agencies colluded to ensure impunity for the alleged perpetrators rather than to ensure justice for victims. Thus, AF calls for a reopening of a formal criminal investigation by a team of independent experts.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has been used as an excuse to argue that it will do such an investigation. For the last 6 years, the Commission has failed to do any investigation in any of the conflict-related cases. The TRC has been largely used to deny victims access to the regular justice system.



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AF reiterates that the TRC does not replace the justice system and that the Nepal State has obligations to investigate, prosecute and punish gross violations. This obligation stands irrespective of any truth-seeking process, a position reinforced not only by the Supreme Court of Nepal but also by the UN Human Rights Committee in a number of cases that were brought before it against Nepal.

While expressing our solidarity to all victims seeking justice in these cases, AF calls an impartial and independent investigation in both cases and to take appropriate measures to protect victims and witnesses.

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