

Press Statement

Badarmude Bomb Blast: Till When Shall the Victims Wait for Justice?

6 June 2024

Nineteen years ago on this day, lives of local people in Badarmude and nearby villages of Madi, Chitwan were shattered by a powerful bomb blast planted by the then insurgent Maoists. A bus carrying civilians was targeted by Maoists on 23 Jestha 2062 (6 June 2005), taking the lives of 35 civilians and three off-duty security personnel. The families of the victims killed in that unfortunate incident are still awaiting justice and they have been forced to bear with state apathy and impunity.

After the explosion, the Chairman of the Nepal Communist Party (Maoist) Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" issued a press statement expressing compunction over the incident. He promised to institute an inquiry into the matter and decisively deal with the culprits. But even after becoming prime minister for three times, Dahal has not done anything to fulfil his promises.

A Truth and Reconciliation Commission was created in 2015 to probe abuses, including the Badarmude incident, committed during the armed conflict and render justice to victims. Since it was based on a faulty Act that sought to provide immunity to the perpetrators, conflict victims and civil society organizations successfully challenged it. The commission lost face and could not resolve even one case in the nine years of its existence.

Advocacy Forum-Nepal (AF) asserts that the incident at Badarmude was a grave breach of both national and international human rights law. It was contrary to the most basic standard of humanitarian law - the rule that under no circumstances must a civilian be made the casualty of war. AF condemns the fact that despite repeated public commitments and announcements neither the Government nor the transitional justice mechanisms have made any genuine efforts to provide the victims with justice.

Standing in solidarity with the victims and their families, AF demands an impartial and independent investigation into the incident and the prosecution of those involved in the heinous crime. We also urge the government to provide reparation to victims and ensure security to the family members of victims fighting for justice.



Bikash Basnet

Director

Advocacy Forum-Nepal