



## **Press Statement**

**17 July 2023**

### **On the Occasion of Day of the International Criminal Justice, Advocacy Forum-Nepal Urges Government to Ratify Rome Statute**

The world celebrates 17 July as the Day of International Criminal Justice in recognition of the adoption of the Rome Statute on 17 July 1998. On this occasion, Advocacy Forum-Nepal (AF) calls upon all the stakeholders to act together to end impunity for the crimes listed by the Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The Statute of the ICC, to which 123 states of the world are parties, has immensely contributed to the protection and promotion of human rights at the international level. It aims to prosecute the perpetrators of those four international crimes under the Court and provide justice to the victims at an international level.

On this occasion, AF urges the Government of Nepal to voluntarily submit to the jurisdiction of the Court by immediate ratification of the Rome Statute. The ratification is of utmost importance to end the entrenched impunity and protect and promote human rights in Nepal, especially in the context of the failure of the government to address past crimes by establishing a credible transitional justice process in Nepal.

UN-OHCHR's report on Nepal's conflict (1996-2006) has listed several instances of Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes committed during the conflict. The long pending amendment to the TRC Act, under consideration in Nepal's parliament, has not incorporated Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes committed during the conflict.

AF stresses that the ratification not only pledges Nepal's support to international justice and accountability but also deters the future commission of war crimes within the territory of Nepal.

Nepal has repeatedly committed to upholding human rights at national and international forums and submitting to the international legal regime will help in realizing the commitment. In this context, AF once again draws the attention of the Government to ratify the Rome Statute and ensure non-repetition of the past atrocities.

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