



Nepal: Is the Government Unable or Unwilling to Prevent and Investigate Torture?

Press Release

25 June 2013, Kathmandu

Advocacy Forum releases its Annual Torture Report, presenting its research into the continuing use of torture and ill-treatment against detainees held in police custody in Nepal

Today, Tuesday 25 June 2013, Advocacy Forum presents its latest Annual Torture Report, entitled "Nepal: Is the Government Unable or Unwilling to Prevent and Investigate Torture?" Launched to coincide with International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, this new report includes the findings of Advocacy Forum's research into the continuing use of torture against detainees in police detention centers over the last 12 months and asks why the Nepali State has so far failed to take the necessary steps to combat it.

Advocacy Forum has been working to prevent torture in Nepal. It monitors 57 detention centres in 20 districts of Nepal. This year AF reached out to 3,773 detainees, out of which 384 were women. Of them 930 were below the age of 18. This year, 22.3% of these detainees claimed that they were subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in detention. Juveniles were found particularly vulnerable, with 34.7% of them claiming they were subjected to torture or other ill-treatment. The report also highlights the major failures by the Government to legislate to criminalize torture and the inadequacy of the current mechanisms that are in place to monitor, investigate and prosecute perpetrators and protect victims.

In October 2012 the United National Committee Against Torture released a report after a six-year long confidential enquiry concluding that the Nepal Government is responsible of acquiescing in the systematic practice of torture. "This report adds further substance to the growing body of evidence that demonstrates that the Government is not only turning a blind eye to the use of torture, but is in fact helping to shield the perpetrators who continue to act with impunity," said Dr. Hari Bansh Tripathi, Director of Advocacy Forum.

The report will be a vital resource for any NGO, civil society group or individual who is interested in raising awareness about the widespread human rights violations that continue to blight Nepal. The report also sends a clear message to the Government that it must act, providing a number of key recommendations for positive steps that should be taken to eradicate torture in Nepal once and for all. "Nepal must step up to fulfil its promise to Nepali citizens and the international community to address the widespread problem of torture by enacting legislation criminalizing torture and bringing those found responsible to



वकालत मञ्च-नेपाल
ADVOCACY FORUM- NEPAL
Lawyers forum for human rights and rule of law

justice. Time has come to get our act together to end pervasive practices of torture and to reform the justice system,” said Mandira Sharma, President of Advocacy Forum.

The report makes key recommendations to the government, including the repeal of the Compensation Relating to Torture Act 2053 (1996) and its replacement with new anti-torture laws, the establishment of an effective and impartial authority for the prosecution of torture, which is independent from the government and open for victims to cooperate with without fear of reprisals and a robust vetting system for military and police personnel so that perpetrators of human rights abuses are not able to hold positions of authority.

.....
Advocate Kopila Adhikari
Coordinator
Advocacy Forum – Nepal
Gairidhara, Kathmandu, Nepal