



## Accountability Watch Committee (AWC) जवाफदेहिता निगरानी समिति

12<sup>th</sup> January 2020

### Press Statement

Accountability Watch Committee (AWC) expresses its serious concern regarding the consultation meeting with the victims' community organized on 13 January 2020 in all seven provincial headquarters convened by the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (MOLJPA) to amend the Enforced Disappearances Enquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Act, 2071 (2014). The date for the Consultation Meeting came to light during a closed group meeting organized by MOLJPA with the victim community on 9 January 2020.

The letter extended by the MOLJPA made public by Conflict Victims on 11 January 2020 does not clearly state the proposed bill for the amendment of the TRC Act. Hence, AWC is skeptical about whether this third amendment draft bill that is to be tabled in the parliament can be victim-centric and in accordance with international standards and decisions of the Nepal Supreme Court.

On one hand, such initiative is turning a blind eye to the decision made by Supreme Court on 2 January 2014 to 'form a task force comprising of victims, human rights organizations and experts' to amend the Act and make necessary laws on the basis of suggestions received from stakeholders after consultation, in accordance to the Interim Constitution, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, Nepal's international commitments as well as on the basis of established human rights norms and standards. On the other hand, conducting a three hour-long consultation as a mere formality in all seven provinces on the same day is reckoned by AWC as meaningless.

Disregarding consultations with the human rights community and other organizations that have incessantly advocated for Transitional Justice since the Monitoring of Ceasefire Agreement in 2006 till date is not only unfortunate but also, AWC concludes is a sign that the government is devious and not committed to complete the TJ process in a sincere manner.

Likewise, a statement made by the Spokesperson of the Government on 9 January 2020 stating that the office bearers of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission for Investigation of Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP) shall be appointed based on political consensus between the two chairpersons of Nepal Communist Party and the opposition leader reaffirms the fact that this consultation meeting was meant to be a mere formality. In light of this, AWC reiterates its demand to dismiss the Recommendation Committee which has been essentially irrelevant and highly politicized. AWC appeals to the concerned authorities to truthfully carry the process forward only after the amendment of the Act.

In the prevailing circumstances, the Transitional Justice process is evident to plunge into further complexities. AWC therefore strongly demands that the government should postpone the existing faulty process, to march ahead with an earnest work plan and to immediately cease the increasing political interference.

On Behalf of Accountability Watch Committee



(Charan Prasai, Coordinator)

**Collective Initiatives for Accountability**