

Press Release

*16th International Day for the Right to Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and
for the Dignity of Victims*

Immediately Prioritize the Right of Victims of Gross Human Rights Violations in Nepal and Ensure their Right to Truth, Justice, and Accountability

24 March 2026

On the International Day for the Right to Truth, we, the undersigned human rights organizations, and rights group express our solidarity with the victims of human rights violations during Nepal's decade-long armed conflict (1996–2006), the first- and second-people's movement, the victims of the Madhesh Movement, Victims of the Indigenous Peoples' Movement, the victims of the Gen-Z People's Movement and many other incidents of human rights violations, and call to ensure their right to truth, justice, and reparation.

This year, we are also marking twenty years since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in November 2006 that victims of conflict are waiting for the truth. However, the victims of the conflict and their families continue to be denied fundamental information about the fate and whereabouts of their loved ones. This denial now extends to the victims of the recent Gen-Z People's movement as the government delays releasing the Karki Commission Report and act on its recommendations. The continuous failure of the Government of Nepal to uphold these human rights perpetuates impunity, weakens public confidence in the government, and undermines the rule of law.

Successive governments in Nepal have not only delayed but politically instrumentalized and weakened the transitional justice process. To create only a façade of progress on transitional justice, two commissions, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP), were established without respecting the several decisions of the Supreme Court. In 2015, the Supreme Court ordered an amendment to the 2014 law, declaring several sections to be in violation of Nepal's international human rights obligations and victims' rights. As predicted, these commissions failed to deliver on their mandates not once but twice in the past.

Instead of listening to victims and civil society, who repeatedly called for amendments to the legal framework and for an appointment process based on merit and expertise, political parties once again divided the seats among themselves and appointed commissioners to these two transitional justice commissions in May 2025. More than 47 victims' organisations, including major human rights organisations, both national and international, have expressed their serious concerns around

lack of transparent and credible appointments of the commissioners. More than 334 victims have filed a petition in the Supreme Court demanding the nullification of the appointment that undermines victims' substantive right to truth, justice and reparation. Despite these concerns, the commissioners continue to remain in office, wasting taxpayers' money. We believe this is also a form of corruption, which has flourished in Nepal.

In the recent elections, the people of Nepal, including victims of serious human rights violations, expressed clear rejection of corruption and of institutions being captured by individuals appointed for their political loyalty rather than their expertise or commitment to justice. The Gen-Z activists, did not only protest on September 8 and 9, calling for the establishment of good governance and an end to corruption in the country, but are still on the street demanding the release of the report of the inquiry commission established after the protest (report known as Karki Commission Report). These issues are deeply intertwined with the State's failure to provide truth, justice, and reparation to victims. On a day dedicated to truth, we strongly demand the new Government, the parliament, the TRC and CIEDP Commissions, NHRC, civil societies, and the international community:

- Not to condone corruption and the lack of good governance by continuing the tenure of the present commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Commission on Enforced Disappearances, who were appointed through a non-transparent and non-inclusive process,
- Amend the TRC law to fully comply with international human rights standards, reject impunity for international crimes, and create a process that places victims at the centre,
- Emphasize the need to include a dedicated provision addressing conflict-related sexual and Gender Based Violence, ensuring recognition, justice, protection, and comprehensive reparations for survivors, and guaranteeing that such grave violations are not subject to amnesty.
- Begin an open and transparent process of appointment of the TRC and CIEDP Commissioners only after amending the law in a way that fully complies with the international human rights standards, including the rejection of amnesty for international crimes,
- Request the current commissioners to respect the calls of victims and civil society organizations and resign to pave the way for a credible process,
- Immediately release the report and the subsequent recommendations of the Gauri Bahadur Karki led investigation commission
- Immediately release the reports and their subsequent recommendations of Mallik, Rayamajhi, and Lal Commission
- We also call on the international community, including the UN, to refrain from supporting current TJ processes that risk granting amnesty for war crimes and crimes against humanity, as well as any commission that does not command the confidence of victims and CSOs in the country,
- Support victims, activists, and CSOs in their call for truth, justice and reparation.

Signatories

Accountability Watch Committee

Advocacy Forum Nepal

Amnesty International Nepal

Center for Human Rights and Victims of Violations

Collective Campaign for Peace

Conflict Victim Women National Network

Forum for Women, Law and Development

Gen Z Civic Forum

Gen Z Movement Alliance

Human Rights and Justice Centre

Human Rights Organization of Nepal

Informal Sector Service Centre

Justice and Rights Institute Nepal

Law and Policy Forum for Social Justice

Legal Aid and Consultancy Center

Mission Smile Nepal

Mukti Nepal

Nagarik Aawaz

National Network of Disabled Conflict Victims

Tarangini Foundation

The Story Kitchen

Transcultural Psychosocial Organization Nepal

Women for Human Rights

Women's Rehabilitation Centre

