

## **[Statement] Nepal: 14 years on, Nepal yet to bring justice to the victims of the armed conflict**

Kathmandu, 21 November 2020: It has been 14 years since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord which formally ended the armed conflict, which was characterized by blatant violations of human rights perpetrated by both state and non-state actors. However, Nepal has made no real progress in securing access to justice, truth and reparations for the victims of gross human rights violations and abuses during its 10-year conflict.

In January 2020, despite the [concerns](#) repeatedly expressed by civil society organizations on a politically biased process of appointment, [new commissioners for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission \(TRC\) and the Commission on Investigation of Enforced Disappearance of Persons \(CIEDP\) were nominated](#) and the tenure of both commissions was extended for the fourth time by [one more year](#) (i.e. until February 2021) regardless of the longstanding demands by the victims' groups and civil society for the government to first amend the transitional justice laws and ensure its compliance with international standards. Regardless of the appointment of the new commissioners and the extended mandate, the commissions have not completed any investigation and have been unable to provide truth and redress to the victims, who have been waiting over the past 14 years and whose trust in the authorities and in the overall process is progressively fading.

In October 2020, a day after Nepal was reelected for a second term as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the National Human Rights Commission published a list of 286 people, including former top government and security officials that were implicated in serious human rights violations over the last two decades and were never held accountable for their crimes. In the past twenty years, the Commission recommended action in 1195 cases of rights violations of which 940 were conflict related. The implementation of those recommendations is highly [unsatisfactory](#), as 87% of them remain either partially implemented or not implemented



## **HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE CENTRE**

at all. This only shows that the government is not serious in answering the plight for justice of victims of gross human rights violations perpetrated during the armed conflict and their families despite its repeated promises to do so. Much remains to be done for the government of Nepal to eventually address the gross human rights violations perpetrated during the conflict according to its international obligations.

It is essential to urge the government of Nepal to address these violations and impunity as well as to hold Nepal accountable as it begins its second term as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council after being reelected in October 2020.

The Human Rights and Justice Center (HRJC) calls on the government of Nepal to honour the commitments undertaken 14 years ago upon signature of the CPA and eventually amend the transitional justice laws, bringing them in line with international standards.

The HRJC also calls on invigorating the transitional justice process by making it transparent to ensure justice, truth and reparations to the victims.