

His Excellency Mr. Volker Türk  
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

**Subject: Urgent Appeal from Conflict Victims of Nepal to Uphold the Core Principles  
of Transitional Justice**

Your Excellency,

We, the conflict victims of Nepal, extend our respects and hope this message finds you well. For nearly two decades, we have endured the politicisation of Nepal's transitional justice (TJ) process, which has systematically undermined our rights to truth, justice, and reparations. The political interests of the ruling parties—CPN (UML), Nepali Congress, and CPN (Maoist Centre), signatories to the 2006 Comprehensive Peace Accord—have consistently prevailed over the principle of victim-centrism, as detailed in our attached White Paper. This has resulted in the failure of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP) formed in 2015 and 2020. The same exclusionary, opaque, and politically driven mentality dominated the appointment process for the third round of commissions on 14 May 2025.

Despite our repeated pleas for meaningful consultation, victims and civil society were entirely excluded from this process. Consequently, we have categorically rejected these commissions and publicly declared our refusal to engage with them, as they lack legitimacy, independence, and victim trust. Our position is unequivocal: the process must be reset through a transparent, inclusive, and victim-led mechanism, as outlined in our attached document.

Yesterday, on 30 June 2025, we met with Mr. Rory Mungoven, who urged us to engage with these flawed commissions despite our evidence-based objections. His stance disregarded the core principles of victim-centred transitional justice and international human rights norms, effectively betraying the very foundations of justice we seek. This has deepened our anguish, re-traumatised our communities, and strengthened our resolve to demand a credible process. Your Excellency, we have waited nearly two decades for truth, justice, and recognition. Three generations of conflict victims have suffered not only the trauma of Nepal's decade-long armed conflict (1996–2006) but also ongoing denial, marginalisation, and humiliation by institutions meant to deliver justice. We firmly reject any TJ process that reduces victims to symbolic or instrumental roles, rather than recognising us as rights-holders whose voices,

dignity, and agency must be central. Transitional justice must not be a procedural formality; it must uphold truth-seeking, ensure accountability, provide effective reparations, and guarantee non-recurrence, with victims at its heart.

We urge OHCHR to reaffirm its commitment to a principled, rights-based approach to transitional justice, grounded in international norms and Nepal's Supreme Court rulings, which demand impartiality, independence, and victim participation. We respectfully request that OHCHR refrain from endorsing or promoting engagement with commissions that lack legitimacy, transparency, and victim trust, as such support risks entrenching impunity and undermining human rights. Instead, we seek your solidarity in advocating for a reset of the TJ process – one that is transparent, inclusive, and victim-led, capable of delivering genuine justice and institutional reform.

We call on OHCHR to stand with us by withholding recognition of the current commissions and supporting our demand for the resignation of the newly appointed commissioners, whose appointments stem from an illegitimate process. Their resignation is essential to restore public confidence and prevent further harm.

After twenty years of waiting, we refuse to remain silent observers of our own marginalisation. We are united, resolute, and prepared to fight for justice with unwavering determination for as long as it takes. We are confident that OHCHR, as a global custodian of human rights, will champion our just struggle and uphold the principles of dignity, truth, and accountability.

For a detailed rationale of our position, we respectfully refer you to the attached White Paper, endorsed by thirty-nine victim and survivor groups across Nepal.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Ram Bhandari  
Suman Adhikari  
(on behalf of ...)

1<sup>st</sup> July, 2025