

# Joint Press Statement

31 August 2020

Kathmandu, Nepal

## Appeal for Justice for Ms. Ebru Timtik, A Human Rights Lawyer

We, the civil society organizations of Nepal are deeply saddened by the death of Ms. Ebru Timtik, 42, a human rights lawyer on 28 August 2020 during 238th days of hunger strike demanding fair trial for her and colleagues and independent judiciary. She was on the hunger strike since 2 January 2020 in the prison of Istanbul, Turkey demanding release of her and her colleagues who were falsely charged and sentenced under faulty judgement. She was arrested along with her 17 colleagues from the Progressive Lawyers' Association and were forcefully charged for being members of a banned party, Revolutionary Peoples' Liberation Front and sentenced for 13 years 6 month jail term. They were representing clients critical to the Turkish government and were arrested in September 2017.

It's sad to know that she is the fourth prisoner to die this year as the result of a hunger strike, following the deaths of Helin Bölek and Ibrahim Gökçek, two musicians from the Grup Yorum band, and Mustafa Koçak. We offer our heartfelt condolences to their families.

We urge the Turkish government to respect the human rights and maintain rule of law, fair trial and independence of judiciary. Likewise, we appeal to thoroughly investigate this case, take legal action against the authorities responsible for not taking timely action to save life of Ms. Ebru Timtik, release of other detainees who are falsely charged and detained under the faulty judiciary process, provide reparation to the family members of deceased and her colleagues detained in the jail of Istanbul, Turkey and provide protection for detainees and their family members.

### Endorsed By :

1. Accountability Watch Committee (AWC)	2. Advocacy Forum-Nepal (AF-Nepal)
3. Alliance for Social Dialogue (ASD)	4. Amnesty International-Nepal
5. Women for Human Rights (WHR)	6. Centre for Legal Studies (CLS)
7. Civil Rights Association Nepal (CIRAN)	8. Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP)
9. Conflict Victims' Common Platform (CVCP)	10. ) Conflict Victims' National Alliance (CVNA)
11. Conflict Victims' Society for Justice (CVSJ)	12. Conflict Victim Women National Network (CVWN)

13. Democratic Freedom and Human Rights Institute (DFHRI)	14. Discharged People's Liberation Army Nepal (D-PLAN)
15. Forum for Protection of People's Rights Nepal (PPR - Nepal)	16. Forum of Women Journalist and Communicators (Sancharika Samuha)
17. Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD)	18. Ganesh Ujjan Memorial Foundation
19. Human Rights Foundation (HURFON)	20. Human Rights and Justice Centre (HRJC)
21. <i>Human Rights for Justice</i>	22. <i>Human Rights Organizations Nepal (HURON)</i>
23. Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)	24. Alliance for Conflict Affected Women (Nispakshya)
25. International Institute for Human Rights, Environment and Development ( <i>INHURED International</i> )	26. Justice and Rights Institute Nepal (JURI- Nepal)
27. Law and Policy Forum for Social Justice ( <i>LAPSOJ</i> )	28. <i>Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre Nepal (LACC)</i>
29. <i>Maina Bal Bikash Samiti</i>	30. Martyrs' and Disappeared Warrior Children Academy
31. Nagarik Aawaz (NA)	32. National Alliance of Women Human Right Defenders (NAWHRD)
33. National Network of Disabled Conflict Victims	34. National Network of Families of Disappeared (NEFAD)
35. Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative	36. Nepal Law and Policy Centre
37. Peace Envisioners	38. Nepal Forum for Restorative Justice
39. Public Defender Society of Nepal (PDS - Nepal)	40. Sankalpa
41. Tarangini Foundation	42. Terai Human Rights Defenders Alliance (THRD Alliance)
43. The Story Kitchen - Nepal	44. Voice of Women Media (VOW Media)
45. Transcultural Psychosocial Organization Nepal (TPO)	46. Sumeer Shrestha, Women Human Rights Defender

47. NAWHRD , tarangini	48. Dr. Reju Adhikari Rajbhandari, Women Human Rights Defender
49. Jaya Luitel, Human Rights Defender	50. Conflict Victims Orphan Society
51. Society of Conflcict Victim Teachers Family	52. Gopal Krishna Siwakoti, PhD. President, INHURED International