



Press Statement

Make Sure that the Hope of Conflict Victims Is Not Undermined Again!

March 19, 2024

Kathmandu: The Accountability Watch Committee (AWC) has found that the recent judicial verdicts pertaining to the transitional justice process have further strengthened the legitimacy of the ongoing relentless struggle of the conflict victims for truth, justice, and reparations.

AWC welcomes a number of those recently handed down verdicts of the Supreme Court of Nepal (079–WO–1457, 079–WO–1082, 072–MS–0024 and 072–WO–0450) that have made critical observations on the unjust and unnecessarily delayed transitional justice process, thereby holding the government accountable for its failure.

The Committee also calls on the Government of Nepal, federal parliament, ruling parties, other parliamentary parties including the main opposition party, to complete the remaining tasks of the peace process in line with the letter and spirit of the established judicial precedents.

AWC thinks that the continuous judicial guardianship of the conflict victims' right to live with human dignity alongside the right to truth, justice, and reparations has ignited the hope of the victims for opening the door to justice within the country in the future.

The Committee urges to ensure that the hope of the conflict victims would not be undermined again and the commitment number four of the Eight Point Understanding signed by the ruling parties is fully respected. If that is not the case and the process is again delayed without proper reason, the situation will warrant the enforcement of the victims' right to truth, justice, and reparations under the regular criminal justice process as signalled by the Supreme Court in Dinesh Tripathi vs Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" (2072-MS-0024) and a few other rulings in the past.

Hence, AWC strongly demands initiating the process of selecting the commissioners of transitional justice commissions only after passing the amendment bill pending in the Parliament with adequate accommodation of the serious concerns raised by the victims and Civil Society groups (e.g. compliance with the definition of serious violations of human rights with international legal standards, independent, transparent, and credible process of selecting commissioners among others).

The Accountability Watch Committee alerts the parties concerned to the fact that if the process of selecting the commissioners is initiated without first passing the amendment bill after fixing the flaws, it would further complicate the transitional justice process.

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