

Nepal: Conflict-related human rights violations need to be investigated without any further delay, says UN Human rights Office

KATHMANDU/GENEVA (4 September 2013) - The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) expressed concern Wednesday over the deteriorating health of a couple on hunger strike for more than a month to demand justice for their son killed in Nepal during the armed conflict.

“We find it deeply disturbing that the parents of Krishna Prasad Adhikari see this hunger strike as their only recourse to persuade the authorities to investigate their son’s murder which occurred some nine years ago,” said OHCHR Spokesperson, Rupert Colville.

“Our Office welcomes reports that police have now opened an investigation into the case. However, we have been informed that the couple are refusing to end their fast until tangible steps show this investigation to be credible,” said Colville.

“We urge the Nepali authorities, at the highest level of government, to ensure that this case, as well many other pending cases, are promptly, thoroughly, independently and impartially investigated and that perpetrators from all sides to the conflict are held accountable in full compliance with both Nepali and international law,” Colville said.

International human rights treaties, to which Nepal is a party, oblige states to investigate and prosecute gross violations of human rights and to provide victims and their families with a remedy.

“Victims have been waiting for the creation of a truth and reconciliation commission for many years. This should now be established without any further delay and in accordance with international standards,” Colville said.

“The lack of political commitment to investigate and prosecute serious crimes committed by all parties to the conflict is weakening the foundation for lasting peace in Nepal, and has led to desperate protests such as that by Mr Adhikari’s parents,” said Colville.

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