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FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN NEPAL



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Comprehensive effort needed to stop torture and ill-treatment in Nepal

OHCHR-Nepal on Thursday marked the 21st anniversary of the coming into force of the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) with programmes at its regional offices in Pokhara, Dhangadhi and Nepalgunj. 26 June is commemorated as the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.

Comprehensive efforts are needed to stop torture and ill-treatment in Nepal. These include:

- Prosecuting acts of torture and ill-treatment to the extent possible using existing criminal laws while urgently taking steps to adopt specific legislation criminalizing torture and ill-treatment;
- Improving the Torture Compensation Act so that it ensures in practice a victim's right to the full range of reparations, which include restitution, rehabilitation and guarantees of non-repetition, as well as financial compensation;
- Urging the Government to implement recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on torture.

In Nepal, there is almost total impunity for those who commit acts of ill-treatment or torture. Perpetrators are almost never adequately punished, and a victim's right to remedy and reparation is rarely fulfilled. As the UN Committee Against Torture said in its most recent conclusions and recommendations, it is imperative that the Government adopt legislation ensuring that torture is a crime punishable in accordance with the gravity of the offence.

“Concerted action and continuing political will is needed to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to stop ill-treatment and torture, and to dismantle the culture of impunity that exists in Nepal,” said OHCHR-Nepal Deputy Representative Jyoti Sanghera.

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