



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN NEPAL**



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OHCHR-Nepal hosts discussion on enforced disappearances

Today, OHCHR hosted an interactive discussion forum on how to address the legacy of enforced disappearances in Nepal. The framework of the discussion was the 15-month-old Supreme Court decision on enforced disappearance. The Court's decision, which was based on Nepal's obligations under the Constitution and international law, has not yet been implemented. One recurring theme during the discussion was the unmet needs of victims, particularly the families of the disappeared.

The objective of the forum was to promote public and official consideration of the proposed Commission of Inquiry on Disappearances as well as several other measures that should be taken to address the legacy of enforced disappearances, including reparations, criminalisation of enforced disappearance, institutional reform, and ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Featured speakers included the Honourable Radheshyam Adhikari, Member of the Constituent Assembly (NC); the Honourable Khim Lal Devkota, Member of the Constituent Assembly (CPN-M); the Honourable Gauri Pradhan, Commissioner, National Human Rights Commission; Mr Madhav Ghimire, Secretary, Ministry for Peace and Reconstruction; Ms Mandira Sharma, Member of the Accountability Watch Committee; and victims' representatives Ms Lakshmi Devi Kadka and Mr Jaya Kishor Labh.

Participants included other victims' representatives, CA members, NHRC officials, government officials, representatives of the security forces, lawyers, journalists, civil society members and members of the diplomatic community. The Chairperson was Mr Richard Bennett, OHCHR-Nepal Representative.

“The new Government has taken a welcome step by committing itself to the establishment of a Disappearances Commission in its Common Minimum Programme,” said Mr Bennett. “It is now essential for the Government to begin to fulfil this promise by moving swiftly to adopt the laws necessary to establish such a commission in accordance with international standards and in consultation with families of the disappeared and other interested parties.”

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