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Nepal: Nanda Prasad Adhikari's death shows state authorities' disregard for justice

The recent and tragic death of Nanda Prasad Adhikari, on hunger strike demanding justice for the death of his son, highlights again the Nepali authorities' failure to ensure accountability for grave conflict-era human rights abuses, Amnesty International Nepal said.

Nanda Prasad Adhikari, resident of Gorkha District, died on 22 September 2014 at Bir Hospital. He had staged a 333-day hunger strike until death along with his wife Ganga Maya Adhikari, who remains in a fragile condition, demanding an investigation into the killing of their son Krishna Prasad Adhikari in 2004.

"Nanda Prasad Adhikari's death is another tragic reminder of how victims of conflict-related abuses and their family members continue to struggle without justice. He rightfully demanded an investigation into his son's death, which the authorities have a duty to shine the light on," said Rameshwar Nepal, Director of Amnesty International Nepal.

"Nepal must urgently start independent and impartial investigations into the many and well-documented serious violations of human rights that took place during the conflict era."

The authorities have pointed victims to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), but a law establishing this body, currently under Supreme Court review, is seriously flawed, as Amnesty International has repeatedly highlighted together with other groups. The TRC law does not meet Nepal's obligations to provide remedies, including full and effective reparation, to victims, and provides for amnesties to those suspected of crimes under international law.