

Lets Work for Impunity Free New Nepal !



ढुण्डहीनताविरुद्ध नागरिक कार्यदल

Citizen's Task Force to Combat Impunity

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**Preparatory meeting for organizatining Public Hearing on ICC
2065 Asar 30 (14th July, 2008)**

RATIFICATION OF ROME STATUTE

(Meeting held at ICJ office, Ramshahpath, Kathmandu on 14th July, 2008 for organization of Public Hearing)

PRELIMINARY

On 24 July, 2006 the House of Representatives endorsed the proposal to accede to the Rome Statute. It is now already two years since the government took the undertaking of ratifying the Rome Statute. But the situation is hardly encouraging as there haven't been any significant steps towards this and continuous pressure of civil society organization is not able to yield any results. In this context the **Citizen's Task Force to Combat Impunity** has taken upon it to voluntarily organize a public hearing on 18th July, 2008 inviting the Chief Secretary of Government of Nepal, Secretary of Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs and Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs in front of the Public at Maitighar Mandala and question them to get information on the progress of ratification and the reasons for such a delay.

INTRODUCTION

The Rome Statute came into force in 2002 and now over 100 countries have either ratified or acceded to it. The Rome Statute enabled establishment of International Criminal Court (ICC) for trying and prosecuting individuals accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. This will perpetrate and strengthen criminal justice system throughout the world and will ensure that right violators and criminals are punished.

MANDATE

We at the **Citizen's Task Force to Combat Impunity** are celebrating the month of July as International Criminal Court (ICC) Month. Though we'll continuously raise our voice for ratification of Rome Statue in the future, we believe conducting such public hearing this month is very appropriate.

OBJECTIVE

Today's meeting was called to gather the media and human rights organization in one table to inform them on public hearing to be organized to put pressure on the Government of Nepal to ratify the Rome Statute. In the meeting the persons attending were explained in principle why ratification of Rome Statute is so important and were informed that Government of Nepal had already made prior commitment to ratify the Rome Statute. Despite this commitment, the lack of enthusiasm of Government of Nepal to start the ratification process is now generating apprehensions among the human rights organizations in Nepal. Therefore the **Citizen's Task Force to Combat Impunity** has taken this initiative to ask for reasons for the delay and to pressurize the government to jumpstart the ratification process.

The intention behind the meeting was also to ask for suggestions from the media and human rights organizations on ways to successfully conduct the public hearing.

In the meeting **Citizen's Task Force to Combat Impunity** wanted the assistance of the media to publicize the event.

IN THE END

After incorporating the suggestions from the media and human rights organization following conclusions were made to make the event successful:

- A notification in the *Upatyakama Aaja* column of *Gorkhapatra Dainik*.
- As a publicity measure small posters on Public Hearing to be put up on the walls at the major intersections of the valley.
- Put up notices on the notice boards of school, colleges and universities.
- Inform the human rights organizations and affiliated associations about the event either via telephone, fax or e-mail.
- Once again on the day before the event on Thursday, the media and press to be informed about the event. On the same day to request FM stations to speak on the event.
- The setting up the stage to done properly with tents as precautionary measure against the rain and chairs about 200 for the public, attending the hearing.

For further information please contact:

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- 3. Advocate Govinda Sharma Bandi,** Cell: 9851061167
- 4. Ms. Bidhya Chapagain (INSEC),** Cell: 9851037035

This public hearing is being conducted with the joint effort of following organizations:

1. Organizations affiliated to the Citizen Task Force to Combat Impunity

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| 1 Human Rights and Democratic Forum (FOHRID) | 19 Campaign for Human Development and Peace (HUDEP) |
| 2 Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC) | 20 IHRICON |
| 3 National Coalition for ICC | 21 Legal Aid and Counseling Centre (LACC) |
| 4 Forum for Human Rights Protection | 22 LANCAW-Nepal |
| 5 Centre for Victims of Torture (CVICT) | 23 Disabled Human Rights Centre (DHRC) |
| 6 Child Labour Concern Centre (CWIN) | 24 Elders Nepal |
| 7 Joint Forum for Human Rights | 25 Conflict Study Centre |
| 8 AJAR Nepal | 26 Environment and Justice Society (ENJUS) |
| 9 National Human Rights Foundation (HURFON) | 27 Campaign for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law |
| 10 Women Foundation | 28 Rural Self-reliance Service Centre |
| 11 Advocacy Forum | 29 National Land Rights Concern Group |
| 12 Women Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) | 30 Civil Society for Peace and Development |
| 13 Shakti Samuha | 31 Centre for Legal Study |
| 14 Youth Action Samuha | 32 AI Nepal |
| 15 Blue Diamond Society (BDS) | 33 Kanooni Rajya Prabardhan Samaj |
| 16 COCAP | 34 Development Forum |
| 17 Today's Youth | |
| 18 ICPD | |

2. Organizations expressing solidarity to the Citizen Task Force to Combat Impunity

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| 1. Human Rights Home (HRH) | 10. Drinking Water and Sanitation User's Federation |
| 2. Pro-Public | 11. Law Associates |
| 3. Nepal Chepang Association | 12. Swatantra Jeevan Kendra |
| 4. Social Development Forum | 13. Nepalese Society of Victimology (NESOV) |
| 5. National Dalit Federation – Nepal | 14. National Human Rights Concern Center (NHRCC) |
| 6. GAESO | 15. Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD) |
| 7. International Law Forum – Nepal | 16. Civil Peace Committee |
| 8. Ex-Army Council | 17. K & K College |
| 9. Human and National Resources Development Forum | |