



Victim's Letter on the Occasion of the International Day of the Disappeared 2025

Letter by Chandrakala Upreti, wife of the Disappeared

Context, International Day for the Victims of Enforced Disappearances; My only opinion is that it is the duty of the state to provide the truth regarding my husband as soon as possible. There are many like me who have felt abandoned for years. Ask the ones who have been devoid of breath or the bodies of their loved ones.

The wife of the disappeared is afflicted with additional pain. There is no answer to whether I'm single, widowed, or still married while I knock on the doors of the government for basic amenities and service. I have been in pain even to this day. It has been 18 years since the comprehensive peace agreement was signed, the Supreme Court of Nepal has decided on the matter, laws have been made, but still our voices continue to remain unheard, which continues to afflict pain on the families of the disappeared. The newly formed commission has increased the pain of the victim's family. Marking 30 August, several events are organized by several organizations. My opinion and voice matter only on this very day, but what about other times? What has the state done to heal my pain and sorrow? What has it done to ensure my right to life and my right to a dignified living? Where are my human rights?

My husband was taken into custody for interrogation on 09 December 2003 by the then Royal Nepal Army. He hasn't returned since. My life, including my son's and daughter's lives, has been pushed into darkness by the state since that day.

I am wandering around day and night in the hope that one day I will find the truth about my husband. The state's utter ignorance while we wander in hope of truth and justice has deepened the suffering of families of the disappeared like mine. With this letter, all I seek is an 'Answer'.

Yours Ever-hopeful of Justice,
Chandrakala Upreti
Wife of the Disappeared
Banke, Lumbini Province, Nepal