



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

### Letter by Swastika Mali, daughter of a disappeared

I am the daughter of a victim of enforced disappearance and it has been 20 years since my father disappeared. The pain of that loss has never left me. For years, we have waited, hoping for news, hoping for justice. But the government has done nothing: no proper investigation, no attempt to confirm his legal existence, and no effort to help our family find answers. Every day feels as if we are invisible, our grief ignored, and our voices unheard. Twenty years of unanswered questions, pain, and injustice yet still hoping my father would return. Those years took more than a father from a child or a son from his parents. They stole childhood of us, happiness, and the very pillar of our family. A conflict that meant to bring peace couldn't even bring my father back. In the fight for justice, many parents whose children were disappeared have passed away without fulfilling their wish to see them one last time. But the hopes for truth have not died with them, they have been passed down to the next generation, who continue the fight.

While family members continue seeking justice, they go through immense trauma and severe socio-economic hardships. On top of this, dealing with society is also hard. The government has simply distributed a card or an official document stating that my father disappeared during the conflict. What is the use of the card if I still have to face accusations because of my father's disappearance and prove his innocence just to get citizenship? What does the document help if the families are compelled to get a death certificate of their loved ones whose fate remained unknown, just to fulfill basic needs?

Through this letter, I wish to reaffirm to the Government of Nepal that we, the families of the missing, continue to demand the right to know the truth about our loved ones and to receive the reparations we are owed. We, the families, seek either the return of our loved ones or at least the truth about their fate. I call on the government to stand with us and deliver justice without delay until every missing person is accounted for, because every day of waiting only deepens our pain.

Sincerely,

**Swastika Mali**

Representative of the Enforced Disappearance Family, Nepal