

**European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation**

**European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and  
Democratisation**

**The Role of Victims' Organisations in Transition from  
Conflict: Families of the Disappeared in Nepal**

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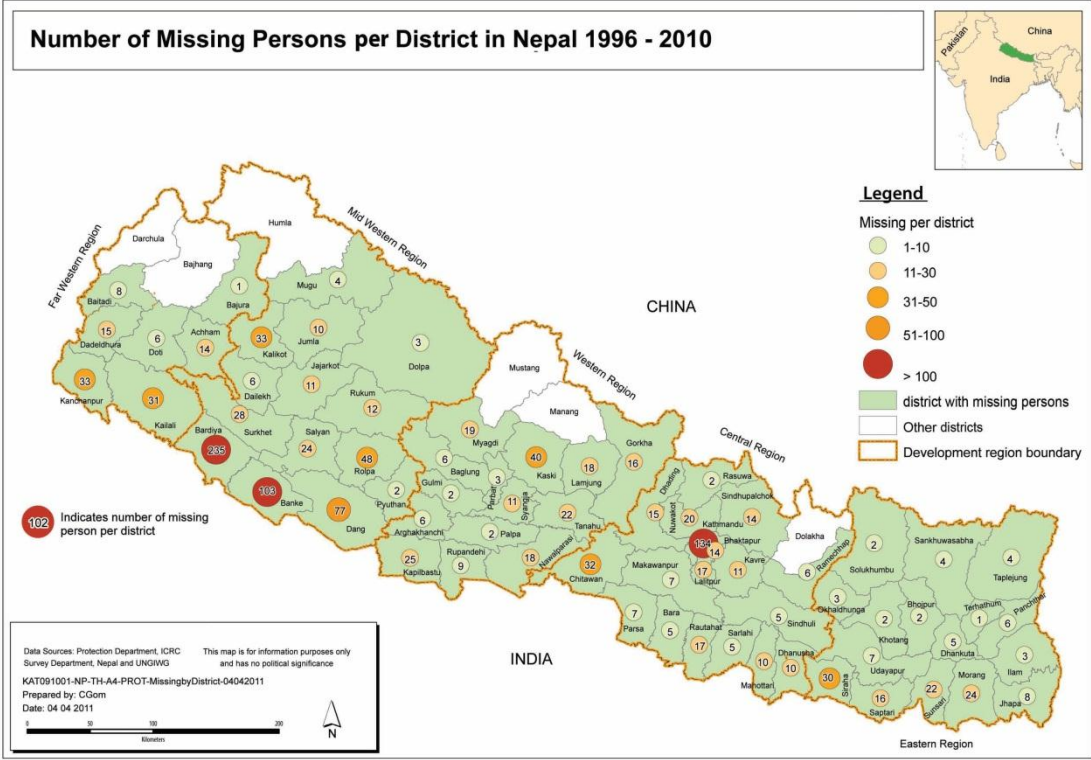
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## **Abstract**

Nepal's armed conflict (1996-2006) may be over, but victims and their families continue to suffer the effects of past violations. While unaddressed grievances live on, the post-conflict agenda has been dominated by national and international human rights agencies that lead the discussion through their own agendas. Limited progress has been made at the political level, but peace and reconciliation remains elusive at the local level; hundreds of families are still waiting to learn the truth about their loved ones. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended Nepal's conflict contains commitments to create both a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a Commission for Disappearances; however, in the five years since the conflict neither has been created. Lack of consultation with victims' communities has left campaigning and advocacy fragmented and useful only as tools to serve elite interests. Victims' organisations, such as the CVC, represent the most effective way for victims to contribute to Nepal's transitional justice process. The primary challenge for those trying to advance a transitional justice agenda is to ensure that advocacy represents an agenda rooted in the experience of those who need truth, justice, livelihood support and sustain peace, not a prescriptive global agenda divorced from victims' realities.



Source: International Committee of The Red Cross, ICRC Kathmandu, April 2011

## **Acronyms**

AF	Advocacy Forum
AI	Amnesty International
AWC	Accountability Watch Committee
CA	Constitutional Assembly
CDO	Chief District Officer
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
CPN-M	Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)
CSJ	Committee for Social Justice
CVC	Conflict Victims Committee
CVSJ	Conflict Victims Society for Justice
DC	Disappearance Commission
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HRW	Human Rights Watch
ICG	International Crisis Group
ICJ	International Commission on Jurists
ICTJ	International Centre for Transitional Justice
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
INSEC	Informal Sector Service centre
LPC	Local Peace Committee
MoPR	Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction

MVA	Maoist Victims Association
NEFAD	National Network of Families of the Disappeared and Missing, Nepal
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights
PGSD	Pressure Group of Searching for the Disappeared
PSTD	Post-traumatic Stress Disorder
SC	Supreme Court
SOCAJ	Solidarity Campaign for Justice
SoFAD	Society of Families of those Disappeared by the State
TJ	Transitional Justice
TRC	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
UN	United Nations

## Contents

Chapter 1	Introduction .....	11
1.1	Political and Social Context.....	11
1.1.1	Disappearances in Nepal .....	21
1.1.2	Who is a victim; who represents victims?.....	23
1.2	Objectives of the Study.....	25
1.3	Personal Motivation .....	26
Chapter 2	Transitional Justice: the Need to Focus on Victims .....	28
2.1	The Transitional Justice Process and Victims in Nepal.....	28
2.2	Victims and Conflict Transformation .....	32
2.3	Research Question .....	33
2.4	Methodology .....	35
2.4.1	Semi-structured Interviews.....	35
2.4.2	Focus Group Discussions .....	36
2.4.3	Participant observation .....	36
2.4.4	Secondary sources .....	37
Chapter 3	The Role of Victims' Organisations in Nepal.....	38
3.1	Victims' Organisations: Scope, Agenda and Activities.....	38

3.1.1	A Victims' Agenda .....	41
3.1.2	Understanding post-conflict transition .....	42
3.1.3	Victims' Organisations and Advocacy .....	44
3.1.4	Diverting the Victims' Agenda: Politicisation and Manipulation .....	45
3.1.5	Victims' Orientation .....	47
3.1.6	Expectations of Families towards a Disappeared Commission.....	49
3.1.7	Challenges of Victims' Organisations.....	52
Chapter 4 Victims' Organisations: a Case Study of the Conflict Victims' Committee (CVC) 55		
4.1	The selection of the case study .....	55
4.2	Origin and objectives .....	55
4.3	Partnership and challenges.....	56
4.4	CVC as a Change Agent .....	60
4.4.1	From suffering to activism .....	60
4.4.2	The Effects of Victimhood .....	61
4.4.3	Victims' organisation and the psychosocial needs of victims.....	63
4.4.4	Deepening solidarity through organisation.....	65
4.5	Voices of the Disappeared Families: Findings and Discussion .....	66



4.5.1	Victims’ needs and priorities .....	66
4.5.2	Truth and Justice.....	67
4.5.3	Responses to Today’s Transition.....	68
4.5.4	Reparations .....	69
4.5.5	Peace and reconciliation .....	70
4.5.6	Victims’ Role and Participation .....	72
4.5.7	Relations with Other Actors .....	74
4.5.8	Challenges and Perspectives in Victims’ Campaign .....	75
4.6	NGOs’ Behaviour and Victims.....	77
4.7	Victims’ Organisations and Internal Discussion .....	79
Chapter 5	Conclusion and Recommendations .....	81
5.1	Gaps in the Current Process .....	83
5.2	Ways Forward for Victims’ Organisations in Nepal .....	84
5.3	Recommendations.....	86
5.3.1	Government .....	86
5.3.2	Civil Society/NGOs.....	86
5.3.3	Donors & International Organisations.....	87

5.3.4	Researchers.....	87
5.3.5	Victims' Groups .....	88
	Bibliography .....	89
	Annex 1 .....	98