

**04-06-2020**

**The Hague, The Netherlands.**

**To,  
The office of UN High Commissioner on Human Rights  
United Nations  
Geneva.**

**Sub: Urgent Action needed to release Bhutanese Political Prisoners.**

**Your Excellency,**

**My name is Mr. Ram Bahadur Chhetri popularly known as Ram Karki, a Human Rights Activist and at present the coordinator of Global Campaign for the release of Political Prisoners in Bhutan based in The Hague, The Netherlands.**

**We are a global campaign which has been constantly campaigning from various 8 countries (where the Bhutanese refugees were resettled) for the release of all the political prisoners who are languishing since decades in various prisoners in Bhutan from various 8 countries where the Bhutanese refugees were resettled.**

**On this special occasion of UN Human Rights report 2019 presentation today, I would like to seek your support and solidarity for the safe release of political prisoners in Bhutan. Your Excellency might be well informed about the human rights and democratic movement that took place during early 1990s in Bhutan which resulted in eviction of more than one-sixth of the country's population. Hundreds of human rights activists were arrested during the course of many years aftermath the peaceful demonstrations of 1991.**

**Bhutanese Refugee camps were established in early 1991 in eastern Nepal where till 2009 more than hundred and twenty thousands Bhutanese refugees were taking shelters under the care of UNHCR. When In spite of 15th rounds of Nepal Bhutan bilateral talks to resolve the Bhutanese Refugee crisis failed, 8 core group countries resettled more than 110000 bhutanese refugee till today and around 8000 of them are still living in refugee camps in eastern Nepal hoping to return one day back to their own country with honour and dignity.**

**Your Excellency, in spite of Bhutan declaring itself as a multi party democracy with a constitutional monarchy during 2007 and after holding 3 general elections since then, it has failed to release those political prisoners whom they have arrested for their involvement in the peaceful struggle for Human Rights and Justice in the country. Most of Political prisoners in Bhutan were sentenced to life for going against the country's pre democratic system and now the democracy has prevailed in the country and we feel that there is no reason why they should continue suffering their lives in the prisons.**

**Families of those political prisoners who were living in the refugee camps are now mostly re-settled in various parts of the world and ICRC stopped the family visit program for them. The wishes of Elderly parents to at least see the faces of their imprisoned sons before their death is vanishing day by day, likewise the just born children of those prisoners are longing to see the real face of their father and likewise their wives's hope of getting opportunity to live with their husbands has been getting thinner and thinner day by day.**

**Thus taking this auspicious occasion I appeal your high office to kindly persuade the king of Bhutan to kindly grant clemency to all the political prisoners and let them live rest of their precious lives with their families in peace.**

**Once again I request your high office to kindly take up this matter as serious and do everything possible to resolve this grave humanitarian issue. I look forward to hear a positive response from your high office in the days to come soon.**

**Note: I have attached the following copies for your kind action and further information:-**

- 1. Details of available prisoners list.**
- 2. Appeal to Bhutan king from the prisoner's families.**
- 3. Appeal to Bhutan King on behalf of 514 signatories.**
- 4. 514 signatures of the supporters of this campaign.**
- 5. <https://www.facebook.com/gcrppib/>**

**With Kind Regards,**

**Ram Bahadur Chhetri**

**Coordinator**

**Global Campaign for the release of Political Prisoners in Bhutan**

**<https://www.facebook.com/gcrppib/>**

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