

The keynote speech delivered by the Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission, Nepal Anup Raj Sharma at the reception and inaugural ceremony for the 2018 Memorial events in Kathmandu on the occasion of the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the holocaust



Good Afternoon His Excellency Ambassador of the federal Republic of Germany to Nepal, His Excellence Benny Omer the Ambassador of Israel, Her Excellency Ambassador of European Union Veronica Cody, UN Resident Coordinator in Nepal Valerie Julliand, Representative from the Department of Foreign Affairs, All the delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am very much delighted getting opportunity to deliver the keynote speech at the reception and inaugural ceremony for the 2018 Memorial events in Kathmandu on this occasion of the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the holocaust.

Today is a day to evoke, echo and look forward. We are here to honor the victims and survivors of the Holocaust - a crime against humanity. We are together to mourn the loss of numerous people and of so much property. I would like to express my condolences to the victims of the Holocaust and hoped that the youth will raise their voices against inhumanity, racism and inequality to stop such actions in the future. In this moment, I would like to remember that generation of Germany who were obliged to stare at the painful murder of the parents and relatives. In the days to come too, I wish, nobody will be the eyewitness of such repulsive events in any corner of the world.

Holocaust is a very profound issue of philanthropy. Eighty Five years have been passed since the holocaust started in Germany. The Holocaust was the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. The Nazis, who came to power in Germany in January 1933, believed that Germans were "racially superior" and that the Jews, deemed "inferior," were an alien threat to the so-called German racial community. The Nazis massacred six million Jews. Two out of every three Jews in Europe were murdered in the genocide. Millions more innocent people were imprisoned and executed by the Nazis without humanity. I would like to remember those people on this occasion.

Following the liberation of the concentration camps in 1945, Holocaust survivors set forth on their newest journey the quest for a new life, home, and family. Often they suppressed the trauma they sustained during the Holocaust, pushing it to the backs of their minds, distancing themselves from the terror and the grief to embrace their new lives. Despite their best efforts to "move on," however, for many this shroud of wellness eventually gave way to a host of

emotional and psychological difficulties. Their inability to mourn or to acknowledge their own suffering led them to exhibit a variety of symptoms.

The World gives birth to the very ambitious people too. Ambition is not a bad thing. But ambition sometimes leads to the conflicting interests. While fulfilling the ambition of persons some kinds of conflicts have been happening time and again. So that discrimination is executed on the ground of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, furthermore, on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs. Even today, this has not been stopped and does not seem to be stopped. I would like to recall on this occasion.

After the Holocaust, the world seemed eager to find a more cooperative path. The founding of the United Nations was one expression of that moment. The UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Genocide Convention enshrined a commitment to equality and human rights. As the UN Charter's preamble stresses to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and International Criminal Court has been established and the genocide is criminalized now. But there are many cases in Africa Rwanda, Burundi, in Asia Cambodia, Sri Lanka, in Europe Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, in South America Colombia witnessed the mass killings some on political, racial and religious pretext.

Yet, even today, there are those who want to forget the past. But our succeeding generations should not forget those events. Some people want to erase the Holocaust from history. The events are not the matter to be forgotten. So today on this occasion I would like to remember the 6 million Jewish men, women and children whose lives and dreams were taken from this Earth. I remember the millions of other innocent victims the Nazis so brutally targeted and so brutally killed. I remember the hatred and evil that sought to extinguish human life, dignity, and freedom.

In Nepal, the ten years long armed conflict going since February 13, 1996 formally ended with the Comprehensive Peace Accord between the Government of Nepal and the then CPN Maoists on 21 November, 2006. The violations and abuses of human rights like killing, beating, harming, torture, inhuman and degrading punishments, assault, enforced disappearance, abduction, threat, internally displacement, dispossession of property, the act of participating of children in military/militia activities, the act of involving persons in armed conflict occurred during the conflict period. I would like to remember the military, militia and the civilian men, women and children whose lives and dreams shattered during armed conflict.

For providing justice, after formation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Commission on Investigation of the Enforced Disappeared Persons in 2071, we have received information that both of the commissions are collecting complaints and investigation of complaints is progressing. The investigation process will be completed soon and the victims will get justice.

From the events in the past and some cases in the present too has amplified the value of peace keeping operation, United Nations like international organizations, Regional Organizations and National Human Rights Institutions. So every nation has emphasized the role of Human Rights law as well as the Humanitarian laws. It should be necessitate that the fate and future of the succeeding generations is ensured. Finally I would like to remember all the German People deprived of the scourge of war, all the people of the world.

We seek a world of hope, tolerance and social justice where people live with dignity and equality. I would like to thank once again to the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Kathmandu for inviting me as a chief guest on this occasion.

Thank you very Much for your kind attention!

Anup Raj Sharma

Chairperson

National Human Rights Commission, Nepal

23rd January, 2018