



RABI LAMICHHANE'S APPEAL FROM CUSTODY IN BHAIRAHAWA

2082 B.S., ASAR

(Unofficial Translation by Bipin Kumar Acharya)

Respected mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, *Namaste and Jaya Ghanti.*

As the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) celebrates its third anniversary, I send this appeal from custody in Bhairahawa, identified as 'Detainee Number 9725.' I hope this message reaches all of you through every possible means and medium.

The people of Chitwan elected me to the House of Representatives twice with record-breaking votes. It was you who gave nearly 1.2 million votes to the newly formed Rastriya Swatantra Party. The sheer number of votes for RSP alone was enough to alarm mainstream political forces. The results of the by-elections in Chitwan and Tanahun unsettled them even further.

Realizing that fair democratic processes could no longer stop RSP, and fearing the collapse of their corrupt havens, they began conspiring against me. The public has witnessed how meticulously legacy media and mainstream politicians collaborated in this conspiracy. They were deeply involved in the plot, and the entire state apparatus was misused against me. You all know very well that I cannot remain silent in the face of injustice. However, mainstream politicians orchestrated such a calculated ploy that I was unable to speak out. My legal team repeatedly reminded me that I was up against the most powerful and entrenched political cartel in the country, and that even a single emotional statement could be twisted to trap me in further legal battles. So, I was advised to remain silent. With cases pending in five district courts and four high courts, I had no option but to listen to their advice.

Over the past 36 years, since 1990, the entire country has witnessed how they have captured the executive, legislature, and judiciary, despite the principle of separation of powers enshrined in the constitution. In this politically orchestrated capture of state institutions, I find myself with no court left to appeal to, except the people's court.

But this silence hurt me more than anyone else; it felt like a thorn lodged within me. Despite the risk of facing numerous false cases, I decided to speak out. On March 31, 2025, I announced from the party office in Vanasthali that I would address a mass gathering on April 5 in Chitwan. Whether it was mere coincidence, the outcome was exactly as my legal advisors had warned. On April 4, the Tulsipur High Court ordered my detention. Now, the Supreme Court has also upheld the Tulsipur High Court's decision to send me into custody.

Yet, the conspiracies against me are far from over. Over the past 36 years, since 1990, the entire country has witnessed how they have captured the executive, legislature, and judiciary, despite the principle of separation of powers enshrined in the constitution. In this politically orchestrated capture of state institutions, I find myself with no court left to appeal to, except the people's court. The state is theirs. The offices and courts are theirs. Even the media is theirs. Every organ and structure of the state has become their recruitment center for setting their own agenda.

At times, it feels like they have caused me immense suffering. But upon deeper reflection, my pain seems minuscule compared to the damage they have inflicted on the country and its people over the past 36 years. There is little to grieve about being behind bars, given that they have already turned the entire country into a prison.

Respected fellow citizens,

From my prison cell, I often reflect on my life's journey. Today, I want to share that reflection with you—not as a politician, but as a son, a brother, and an ordinary citizen of Nepal. I never imagined that I would one day enter politics. I began my career in the media sector

while still a student. Later, in pursuit of a better life, I moved to the United States of America. There is nothing grand to claim or lie about. Even while living in the United States, I stayed connected with the Nepali community-without any ambition for political leadership. I was not unsuccessful, but my heart was never at peace. I kept telling myself I would return home.

I had a dream of setting a world record for the longest television talk show. I could have done that from some local television channel in the USA. But my heart kept asking: if you don't return to your own country for this opportunity, then when will you? So, I decided to come back to Nepal. Eventually, my name was recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records for conducting the longest television talk show.

I was always fascinated by the media, as it has the power to inform, connect, and inspire people. Until then, I still held some illusions about the prime ministers of Nepal. When I learned that KP Sharma Oli was soon becoming the Prime Minister, I called him directly. I reminded him of a brief meeting and short interview we had during his visit to New York. I conveyed to him that I wanted to discuss something important for him as Prime Minister and asked, "Could you spare thirty minutes?" I added, "I need your undivided attention. I will not discuss anything for my personal gains."

Since it was in his interest, Oli agreed. Not long after he assumed office, the program "Sidha Kura Pradhan Mantri Sanga" was launched [in 2016] and aired on Nepal Television. Lately, I have heard KP Oli's claim that he offered me a job at Nepal Television. But the truth is I never received a single rupee from Oli, the CPN-UML, or Nepal Television.

What I truly gained from that program was the chance to closely observe how prime ministers, ministers, and senior officials think about the people's suffering. I saw firsthand the indifference of those in power toward the country and its people. That was when I realized that just having straight talk with those in power would not move the country forward. If we want results, straight talk must happen with the people. This realization gave birth to the program 'Sidha Kura Janata Sanga'.

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To all my fellow Nepali brothers and sisters,

While producing "Sidha Kura Pradhanmantri Sanga," I used to be in air-conditioned offices alongside prime ministers, ministers, government secretaries, and project leads. If you watch those early episodes, you'll notice there was no outrage in my voice. I honestly admit that I had not understood the real pain and suffering of the people then. That is why I did not have much anger or outrage against the functioning of the government. Like other mainstream editors, I used to sound calm and composed.

It was only after "Sidha Kura Janata Sanga" that I truly encountered the realities of Nepal and Nepalis. I heard the desperate cries of a minor boy whose mother, Laxmi Pariyar, was forced to eat human excreta after being accused of practicing witchcraft. I reached the home of Radha Chaudhary, who was brutally beaten by villagers under the same accusation. Kabita Tamang, who was trafficked to the Gulf and forced to endure sexual violence from her employer, pleaded for help live on-air. Another young woman, who had witnessed her friend being raped in the next room, connected live from Iraq to share her trauma.

I was not confined to the studio. To seek justice for Ashtami Gurung, who took her own life in Abu Dhabi after being sexually harassed by her supervisor, I traveled all the way from Abu Dhabi to Aarughat in Gorkha. I reported from ground zero on the atrocious acts of Shyam Pardeshi, who had entrapped the entire village in a predatory lending scheme, widely known as "Meter Byaj." I confronted loan sharks who had forced villagers to send their daughters to spend nights with them in exchange for loan waivers. My journalism was directed toward the tears and cries of the common people.

My focus was to cover the stories of those affected by incomplete infrastructure projects, rampant corruption, procedural hurdles at government offices, and different forms of violence, discrimination, fraud, and crime. The agony of hundreds of Nepalis-defrauded abroad, fired from their jobs, hospitalized, or jailed-tormented my mind. I admit that my voice often sounded loud on television. Unlike many in the media, I did not return to the newsroom from elite dinners. I used to enter the studio after hearing the cries and pain of the robbed, the cheated, and the oppressed. In such a situation, how could my voice remain soft?

The situation in the country affected me so deeply that I couldn't stay silent anymore. At a time when hundreds of Nepalis were risking everything, walking through dangerous jungles for months, and paying millions of rupees to brokers to reach America, I did exactly the opposite. I returned my American passport to the US Embassy following due process.

At that time, hundreds of helpless citizens from Nepal and abroad used to approach me every day, either through phone calls or in person, just to share their problems and sufferings.

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News24 had limited resources, making it impossible to address so many issues. I was in search of better options. At the same time, the owners of Himalaya TV and AP1 TV, both with better resources, approached me.

We were in the process of an agreement. Around the same time, former DIG of Nepal Police, Chhabilal Joshi, connected me with GB Rai. They were planning to launch a high-investment, quality television channel. They requested me to work together. They offered me 15 percent equity shares.

A written agreement was made ensuring that I would not bear any financial liabilities. It was clearly stated that I would handle the news and programming, while GB Rai would handle the financial aspects of the television. The agreement was signed by GB Rai as the first party, myself as the second, and Chhabilal Joshi as a witness. This is how I became a part of Galaxy 4K Television. Before that, I had no personal, familial, business, or other connection with GB Rai, his family, or any businessperson affiliated with him.

Respected brothers and sisters,

At News24 TV, I was just leading a talk show. At Galaxy, I led the team. The studio expanded from a small space to a big one. The network of journalists grew even wider. The television screen became even brighter, reaching more people than ever. But I came to realize that no matter how big the television station is, in a country ruled by the inept and corrupt, all one can do is to shout; real change is barely possible. In Nepal, those in power are not bothered just because we raise our voices, explain, or show them the suffering of citizens. Even while working in television, I took the lead in building a settlement for 52 Musahar families in Saptari and a fully-equipped 15-bed hospital in the remote Kalikot district. I also helped rescue numerous Nepalis stranded abroad. During the Covid-19 pandemic, we managed to deliver oxygen and food to people in need. I could have taken pride in all of

this. But when I looked at the broader picture of the country, I genuinely felt that all these accomplishments were insignificant. If we truly want to do something for Nepal, we must uproot the very foundation of disorder and malpractices.

Following this realization, I decided to leave Galaxy TV. I decided to quit journalism and enter politics. I had two options: either join an established party or build a new party and challenge the established order. I explored both options in depth. Eventually, I reached the conclusion that instead of getting lost in the swamp of old parties, forming a new party was the better path. That was no less challenging. I requested many respected figures to lead the party.

Even after establishing the party, I knocked on many doors asking people to take up leadership or at least stand as candidates. Most of them declined the offer. Finally, I was left with no option but to lead the party. Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) emerged as the fourth-largest party by people's mandate. We secured nearly 12 percent of the vote under the proportional representation category.

Sometimes I hear, "What did the new forces even do?" I agree that there is still a long way to go. Yet there is no denying the fact that we have made a very significant and positive start. Instead, I have a counter-question: as the party president, did Rabi Lamichhane deceive voters by nominating colluding groups in politics or business, or criminals? The proportional representation system used to be perceived as a way for party leaders to amass power. Leaders used to nominate their own family members, relatives, and loyalists, or people from the business community, in exchange for money, used to be chosen as members of parliament. Is that what RSP did? Just like in the direct elections, we selected the most committed representatives of the people through proportional votes.

I ask with pride: Would they have ever brought someone like Bindabasini Kansakar, an acid attack survivor, into Parliament? Would Sumana Shrestha, who returned from abroad, get a place in their parties? Would the established parties give a chance to people like Manish Jha or Santosh Pariyar? They sidelined a globally renowned economist like Dr. Swarnim Wagle even when Nepal's economy was in crisis. Would they ever recognize leaders like Dr. Chanda Karki? Would they ever field vibrant young candidates like Toshima Karki and Sobita Gautam in direct elections? Would those who sold tickets to mafias ever provide opportunities to people like Hari Dhakal? Would they appoint capable young leaders like Biraj Bhakta Shrestha and Shishir Khanal to lead ministries?

We formed a new party within the framework of the current political system and constitution to challenge malpractices and irregularities entrenched in traditional political parties. Today, we cannot even imagine the House of Representatives without RSP. I still fail to understand why it is so difficult for the so-called intellectuals and analysts of this country to acknowledge the presence of talented RSP MPs in Parliament. It is not that Rabi Lamichhane cannot write long-form articles or analytical pieces about the state of the country. But I do not do so, because I have realized how limited their impacts can be. We do not need explanations of the existing malpractices and irregularities. We need to dismantle them. This country's problems cannot be fixed by pleading with the very people who have entrenched disorder and corruption in the system. They must be challenged and confronted head-on to establish new norms and the rule of law.

I am paying the price for challenging the mainstream parties. To undermine my resolve, the biggest perpetrators of corruption in the country's history are now conspiring to brand me a 'fraud'. But I have not wavered for a moment.

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A section of friends often asks me: “Why did the RSP join the government?” I have a counter-question: Were the approximately 1.2 million votes we received meant just to file petitions in Parliament or to make real interventions in the system? I had already been making appeals, raising concerns, and shouting from television studios. I had already done enough of that. I asked the people for their votes to intervene in the system for the greater good.

Now let me get to the heart of the matter. It was I, Rabi Lamichhane, as Home Minister who brought Bechan Jha out from the shadows. His arrest significantly altered the political landscape and led to a shift in the entire alliance. In an unusual display within a democratic setting, the two largest parties—the Nepali Congress and UML—collaborated. People often ask me, “Why, as the Home Minister, did you focus on Balkot? Why did you attempt to intimidate ‘Dai-Bhauju’ [NC president Sher Bahadur Deuba and leader Arzu Rana Deuba]?” However, I did nothing more than uphold the rule of law. My only demand was: Bring the guilty to justice. That alone was sufficient to unnerve them. As Home Minister, I did not target individuals; I simply followed due process. This is the principle I will continue to uphold in the future.

Rabi Lamichhane was not afraid of these people, nor will he be. They may temporarily close Bechan Jha’s file, but with the public’s mandate and support, we will reopen all corruption cases and ensure that the guilty are punished.

The top leaders of the Nepali Congress waited until midnight for my signature to form a new political alliance, continuously trying to convince me to accept the post. I declined. The very next day, they began calling me a “cooperative fraud”. I have to ask: can someone who turned down the Prime Minister’s offer truly be power-hungry? Or is he a rebel?

Regarding our government’s performance, none of the ministries led by the RSP faced any accusations of wrongdoing. Whether it was Sumana Shrestha, DP Aryal, Shishir Khanal, or Biraj Bhakta Shrestha, not one of our ministers betrayed the public’s trust. Each of them left their ministries having brought about positive changes. Is there any other party in Nepal that has left power without a single allegation of nepotism, favoritism, or corruption?

Some critics label me as power-hungry. To them, I respond that Rabi Lamichhane was the leader who declined the offer to become Prime Minister. Had I accepted or desired the position, who could have stopped me? The top leaders of the Nepali Congress waited until midnight for my signature to form a new political alliance, continuously trying to convince me to accept the post. I declined. The very next day, they began calling me a “cooperative fraud”. I have to ask: can someone who turned down the Prime Minister’s offer truly be power-hungry? Or is he a rebel?

Following the by-election results, the major parties—especially leaders of the Nepali Congress—began to fear us. The results clearly indicated a shift in public consciousness. When I was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister for the second time on March 6, 2024, the then main opposition party, Nepali Congress, demanded the formation of a parliamentary investigation committee regarding alleged misappropriation in cooperatives. Although then Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda) and current Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli were reluctant to form the committee, I personally took the initiative to convince the ruling coalition. Consequently, the committee was formed on May 28, 2024.

Respected Fathers and Mothers,

Now, I will explain in detail how political vendetta was carried out against me and how legal provisions were misused in the process.

Here's the clarified version of the text:

First: The report from the Special Parliamentary Investigation Committee, specifically on page 449, addresses the allegations against me. One of its conclusions states: "...There are no documents or evidence to prove Rabi Lamichhane's involvement in the process of transferring funds from the cooperative to Gorkha Media Network Pvt Ltd; there appears to be his involvement in the mobilization and expenditure of the amount once it is obtained by Gorkha Media". The same page further notes: "...since he was a partner in the company during the period when the funds were transferred from the cooperative [to Gorkha Media], he should be accountable only for actions done by the company and action should be taken against him as per prevailing laws".

This section of the report clearly establishes three facts:

- Funds were indeed transferred from the cooperative to Gorkha Media.
- There was no evidence connecting Rabi Lamichhane to the fund transfer process itself.
- Regarding the company's [Gorkha Media] use of these funds, any liability should be determined and acted upon according to the prevailing law.

The report specifically states that accountability should be determined "if involved in spending the amount". For company expenditures, the applicable law is the Company Act, 2063 BS (2006), not the Cooperative Act. Despite the report recommending action under the Company Act, the government chose to file false charges using clauses from the Cooperative Act. The Cooperative Act should not apply to my case. If this isn't political vendetta, then what is?

Second: As many as 15 special parliamentary committees have been formed on various matters since 1997. The recommendations of the other 14 committees were received by the government, but no actions were taken based on any of those reports. The reports remained within parliamentary archives. But the recommendations against me became the first in history to be approved by the cabinet. The report was submitted to the Speaker on September 16, 2024. It was sent to the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers the same day. On September 18, 2024, the Council of Ministers decided to forward the report "Parliamentary Special Committee on Misuse of Cooperative Savings, 2081" to the concerned ministry for implementation. The government selectively and forcefully implemented clauses relating to me from a 1,200-page report. While doing so, recommendations were manipulated. The committee's original purpose of ensuring the return of depositors' savings was ignored.

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Third: The government orchestrated a series of predesigned and planned political conspiracies against me, coordinating across various state organs. On October 18, 2024, a district judge on leave was summoned, and an arrest warrant was issued against me. The case was required to be submitted to the court within 35 days, but this was not done. To extend my custody, organized crime charges were added, which permitted authorities to detain me for 60 days. As my release date neared, the government misused state mechanisms again. The state then filed a money laundering case against me, allowing my detention to be extended for another 90 days. Subsequently, I was suspended from the House of Representatives.

Fourth: While under arrest in Pokhara, I was transported to Kathmandu to record my statement. The following day, I was taken from Kathmandu to Chitwan. The stress and exhaustion from this travel caused my blood pressure to rise. Upon arrival in Chitwan, I had to take medication before continuing with the statement. Despite my physical unwellness and severe fatigue, I was interrogated throughout the entire day.

Around 11 PM, then Superintendent of Police (SP) Gautam Mishra informed me, “We have received orders to transfer you [from Chitwan]. You have to go”. This order originated from the then police chief, Basanta Bahadur Kunwar. I questioned who had given him the order: “Dai, Bhauju, and Ba?”.

I requested a health check, as I was extremely fatigued and unable to even stand. However, the officer at the Chitwan police office was pressured by the police chief, who reportedly said, “If you can’t even get one man out, shall I send someone else to do your job?”. With no alternative, I was forcibly put into a vehicle at midnight. As I have previously stated, the officers who came to escort me that night were under the influence of alcohol. I repeatedly asked for them to be tested and held accountable, but my requests were ignored. I also pleaded, “It’s midnight. Please inform my family that I’m being transferred to another place,” but they disregarded my plea. They also refused my request to contact my lawyer.

At midnight, I was driven along the Trishuli Highway without any notification to my family. I had no idea of my destination. That night, I was uncertain whether the state intended to transfer me to Pokhara or to forcibly disappear me. After I resisted, some commotion ensued. By the time we arrived in Pokhara at 3 AM, I was in a deeply disturbed mental state—a condition that cannot be measured or adequately described.

Fifth: While I was in Kaski police custody, I was taken to Kathmandu, Rupandehi, and Parsa in the name of investigation. What tricks did they not do to prove me a fraud? The allegation is singular: misappropriation of cooperative funds. But the charges are multiple: somewhere it’s cooperative fraud, elsewhere just fraud, somewhere else it’s organized crime, and in yet another place, it’s organized crime. In Kaski, I am charged with cooperative fraud, organized crime, and money laundering. With just over Rs 700,000 in my bank account, they filed a money laundering case against me, dragging in even my ancestral property. They even named my wife, Nikita, as a co-defendant.

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The people of this country deserve to know the fact that Rabi Lamichhane has become the first Nepali to be prosecuted under money laundering for a charge explicitly linked to cooperatives, directly from a district police office—a precedent set by these very authorities.

Sixth: What happened to the Congress and UML leaders who were themselves operators of various cooperatives [Please note that I was not even a member of any cooperatives]? What actions were taken against them? Congress MP Maya Rai [then Joint Secretary of Swarnalaxmi Cooperative], officially listed

as “absconding,” was allowed to walk into Parliament openly and mark her attendance. She was arrested only after public pressure mounted after her appearance in Parliament. Within a few days, she was released on a mere Rs 1 million bail by the court. Congress Vice President Dhanraj Gurung was let off with just a basic interrogation. Anjana, wife of UML leader Rishikesh Pokharel, was released on bail the same day she appeared in court. It is even more shocking that the state did not even appeal these decisions to higher courts. But what has been done in my case is open for all to see.

Seventh: First, the charge against me under the Cooperative Act is erroneous. Second, the timeline does not comply with the legal requirements. A case must be filed in court within 90 days of the complaint under the Cooperative Act. Be clear here. The government records claim that a complaint against me was filed at the Kaski District Police Office on February 5, 2024. If that were true, the investigation had to be completed and the case must have been filed at the district court by May 23, 2024. However, I was arrested on

October 18, 2024. The state kept me in custody for 84 days. On December 22, 2024, a case was filed at the Kaski District Court. This means the case was filed long after the legal deadline. Filing a case after the expiry of the legal deadline violates basic principles of both civil and criminal law. Despite provisions related to the limitation period in the specific law, the Cooperative Act, the state mechanism chose to prosecute me under the general law (Section 249 of the National Penal Code, 2017).

In investigation and prosecution, standing (locus standi), jurisdiction, and statute of limitations are extremely important matters. However, in the case against me, all three of these issues were completely disregarded. Furthermore, a case was initiated that, according to law, ought not to have proceeded and should not have been pursued at all. Eighth: On April 4, 2025, the High Court of Tulsipur issued an order in the evening, around 7:30 PM, to send me back to custody. Within minutes, police officers entered my bedroom to arrest me. During that process, officers overstepped their authority. One even asked me about my "last wish." The officers did not present an arrest warrant against me. Instead, they sat in my bedroom and wrote it on the spot. The warrant handed to me by the Kathmandu Valley Crime Investigation Office stated it was issued "as per court authorization," even though they had no such court approval. The arrest warrant issued the same day by the Kathmandu District Police Office stated that I was to be taken into custody "for investigation as per the court's implementation order."

I was arrested for a single case, yet different police offices have cited varying reasons for it. I was detained on April 4, 2025, but was not presented before the Rupandehi District Court until the morning of April 7. Only at that point did the court issue a detention order. Any custody prior to that should be considered entirely illegal. However, in a country controlled by a syndicate of illegal practices, what significance do an individual's fundamental rights truly hold? In a system where every state organ operates as a recruitment center for political interests, how can anyone be assured that a path to justice still exists?

Respected mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters,

The person whose petition was used as the basis to frame false charges against me has publicly said: "We did not file a petition to imprison Rabi Lamichhane. His name was not even mentioned in the application we submitted." When the petitioners themselves say that their request to return cooperative savings was misused by the police to target Rabi Lamichhane, shall I consider it a normal process that even the judiciary shut its eyes to this fact? If someone says publicly, "If my petition had been used to imprison Rabi Lamichhane, I wouldn't have been part of that sin," but no legal hearing is granted on that claim, is that rule of law or might is right?

During my tenure at Galaxy Television, the source of GB Rai's investment was clearly stated in the company's audit report that the money [invested in the company] came from the sale of land in Hetauda. Who in this country investigates the source of a business partner's property when it is written in an audit report? Neither does the law require it, nor does a business partner have the right to demand it. Within a month and a half of starting the TV station, Chhabilal Joshi left for the United States. GB Rai claimed to own companies in seven countries, and he rarely lived in Nepal. Still, the work couldn't stop. Salaries had to be paid. Financial operations had to continue. I was frequently out in the field. Our finance staff used to say, "Sir, please just sign the cheque." It was during the time of COVID's second wave. On top of that, the money was invested by GB, the responsibility was taken from GB, and the accountant was also appointed by GB. At that time, no questions had been raised anywhere about GB's finances. There was even a written agreement stating

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that Rabi Lamichhane would bear no financial liability in the company. In such a situation, when a major investor tells the managing director to sign a cheque, on what moral ground could I have refused to sign? Back then, how could I have imagined that some of those very checks would later become powerful weapons in a conspiracy against me?

Three years later, after reviewing numerous documents, investigators discovered that the money transferred from GB Rai's personal account to mine-as per our agreement-had actually originated from a cooperative. However, from a practical standpoint, how could I possibly have known the source of all the funds deposited into GB Rai's personal account? Is that something anyone could determine without explicit disclosure?

Those who shouted in Parliament holding up blank sheets of paper and claimed, "We have proof that Rabi Lamichhane has swindled billions," and "We have documents that show he personally requested money from cooperatives"-what have they actually presented so far? They spent months digging. But have they found a single loan application filed by Rabi Lamichhane at any cooperative? Have they discovered even one document with his signature? Was he ever a board member, employee, or even a general member of any cooperative? How can someone who isn't even connected as a member, employee, or board member be capable of defrauding a cooperative? And when courts are releasing actual board members of cooperatives on bail of just a few lakhs, how can someone like me-who had no formal role in any cooperative-be subjected to such harsh treatment? Can

we really say the law, rule of law, and justice are alive in this country?

I feel no pressure from the fear of defamation. This is not a democracy, where a balance of power among state organs should exist. Instead, it is a criminal syndicate, meticulously constructed over the past 36 years by a handful of powerful leaders, whose cronies are deeply embedded in every institution.

I no longer harbor the illusion that this state possesses any moral authority. Consequently, I feel no pressure from the fear of defamation. This is not a democracy, where a balance of power among state organs should exist. Instead, it is a criminal syndicate, meticulously constructed over the past 36 years by a handful of powerful leaders, whose cronies are deeply embedded in every institution. These same forces have corrupted even the constitutional bodies, reducing them to mere facets of the same monstrous entity.

Beyond other institutions, one only needs to read former Chief Justice Sushila Karki's book, *Nyaya (Justice)*, to grasp the true state of the judiciary. These leaders wield control over who becomes a judge, opening or closing that door at their whim. If they disapprove, they can obstruct parliamentary hearings and entirely prevent someone from becoming a judge or Chief Justice. How, then, can someone like me expect justice from a judge who, despite being technically neutral, operates under the career-threatening weight of political influence? The higher one ascends in the judiciary, the more pressure judges endure, constantly living under the shadow of two powerful bodies: the Judicial Council and the Parliamentary Hearing Committee. From this prison cell, I frequently ponder: Was it a mistake to expect so much from a justice system that itself endures injustice, pressure, and manipulation to survive?

Dear parents, brothers, sisters, and fellow citizens,

Why do courts begin to act unusually even before rulings are formally written against me? This deeply troubles me. How is it that decisions are leaked to selected media outlets before they are officially made public? Why are verdicts issued in just five to seven pages, only hours after hearings that concluded much earlier in the day? Why is a habeas corpus writ-which, by principle, requires a ruling within 24 hours-dragged on for a month in my case? In one instance, a verdict appeared on the court's website stating that the High Court had upheld the District Court's decision, only to be quickly removed and altered. And

how is it possible that, just minutes after a court order is issued in Bhairahawa, police from Kathmandu are already inside my bedroom, ready to arrest me?

A court verdict and order must be followed by due legal and judicial process. The process is completely ignored in my case. How did the police dare to prepare the most basic arrest documents right on my bedside? Who gave them that power? And how, and why, did they ask me: "Do you have any last wish?" I am genuinely perplexed. More than fear for myself, I am deeply worried about the fate of this country. How did the court staff who were supposed to first read out the order in front of my wife, Nikita, who was sitting there alone, end up on every media platform within moments? Nikita, being the petitioner in the case, had the first and foremost right to hear the court's decision.

Now, the ultimate purpose of my life is not just personal justice. It is about liberating the entire country from the grip of a criminal syndicate run by a handful of political leaders. I repeat from this prison cell today-this state must be completely restructured. What I have been facing is not democracy. It is a well-planned conspiracy orchestrated by people like Oli and Thapa and shielded by the legal manipulations of Lekhak and Badal. The rule of law has long been destroyed by them. They have kept an axe poised over every constitutional body, aiming at turning institutions into tools of threat and control. In this corrupt syndicate, no one is safe except a few top leaders and their inner circle of ruling elites.

Now, I must tell the nation: I will continue to seek justice within the system. But I have lost faith in the process. My trust has faded. That said, I have not lost all hope in the judiciary. I still hold some hope that the courts will eventually recognize the injustice done to me. No matter how painful it is, where else can I turn if not to the courts? But I have also decided to take this battle to the court of the people through a signature campaign. From today, I will seek the voice of the people. If you believe I am a victim of political revenge, stand with me. Show your support by joining the signature campaign.

Let me clarify once more: none of the allegations or charges against me relate to cooperative fraud. Every claim made against me pertains to company-level activities, such as operating a bank account, signing cheques, or holding company shares. All these activities fall under company operations.

However, under the guise of implementing the "Special Investigation Report on Cooperative Fund Misuse, 2081," I have been subjected to charges in numerous courts and endured various forms of torment. That very report explicitly states in Nepali that "Rabi Lamichhane had no role in securing funds from any cooperative [to Gorkha Media]". Despite this, a false charge sheet was filed against me as an act of political vendetta.

All the cases against me were registered only after the current government took power and Ramesh Lekhak became Home Minister. Most of the current plaintiffs were pressured by the police, through threats and false promises, into signing pre-written documents. One thing is clear: they forced people to file complaints against me. The situation will be entirely different when it is their turn; people will voluntarily compile a list of their crimes and lodge complaints. Even if these leaders were allowed to choose just one of their many crimes for prosecution, they would still spend the rest of their lives in jail, and their properties would be seized and returned to the state.

I am confident that the situation the people of Nepal long to witness will soon be fully realized. Even if I am denied the opportunity to sign that historic document with my own

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hands, I am certain I will hear the resounding news of its completion. Whether I live or die, or am even killed, the nation will one day bear witness to that pivotal moment. The first chime of the bell of change has already echoed through Singha Durbar, the administrative heart of our country. Soon, that bell will not merely ring; it will peal with such force that it will shake the very foundations of corruption and cronyism to their core.

It is imperative that you all know this: almost every office bearer, branch head, and staff member of the Supreme Cooperative in Butwal-the very case in which I am incarcerated-has been released on bail. Dipesh Pun, the former secretary of the cooperative, secured release with a mere bail of Rs 400,000. Bhabishwar Aryal, who headed the IT department for several GB Rai-associated cooperatives, walked free after paying Rs 1.84 million. Durga Pandey Chapagain, the manager of the Bhairahawa branch, was released on Rs 1.8 million bail. Other staff members, including Nabin Achhami (Rs 1 million), Deepak Neupane (Rs 445,000), Nita Thapa and Roshani Gurung (Rs 200,000 each), Ashish Ranabhat (Rs 50,000), and Manohar Mohammad (Rs 34,000), also gained their freedom. Former executive board member Mazhar Mohammad was released on a bail of just 100,000 rupees. Yet, the only individual who remains behind bars is Rabi Lamichhane. Those directly involved in the cooperative's operations are free on bail, while I, who had no direct connection or involvement whatsoever in its functioning, languish in prison. Still, I am expected to remain silent, paralyzed by the fear of contempt of court. What travesty of justice is this?

I am not writing this solely for myself. The personal damage and injustice I endure pale in comparison to the devastation they have inflicted upon this country's economy and politics. The harm they have wrought upon the nation is far more profound than many realize.

Even if every other cooperative victim in this nation eventually recovers their funds, the depositors of GB Rai's cooperatives may never see a single rupee. Why? Because this case has been deliberately manipulated to ensnare me. Initially, GB Rai faced charges of cooperative fraud, mirroring countless similar cases. However, they later appended charges of organized crime and money laundering, in an attempt to target me directly. These politicians are actively creating a situation where GB Rai is permanently barred from resolving this issue. Even if he were to return from Malaysia with millions of dollars, they would ensure no financial settlement could ever occur. They have erected legal barriers designed to shut every avenue of reconciliation. But from this jail cell, I make an unwavering promise to every depositor: Rabi Lamichhane will shatter this nexus. I will pry open the very door they have slammed shut. You will reclaim your hard-earned savings. And those responsible for

this cruel injustice-those who sacrificed thousands of innocent depositors simply to bring down one man-will one day be held accountable.

I am not writing this solely for myself. The personal damage and injustice I endure pale in comparison to the devastation they have inflicted upon this country's economy and politics. The harm they have wrought upon the nation is far more profound than many realize. Our top political leaders have become morally bankrupt. Most party cadres, reduced to acting as Jholes (lackeys) and servants, no longer view politics as a public service but as a lucrative business. To sustain the exorbitant cost of clinging to power and maintaining their political careers, these leaders have become prisoners of a corrupt nexus. An unholy alliance of power-hungry politicians and profit-driven businessmen now operates cartels across multiple sectors.

They could not uncover a single piece of concrete evidence against me. Believe me, if their assets were scrutinized with the same intensity as mine, almost all of them would be jailed. This desperation drives their relentless effort to control every state organ, solely to protect themselves. The Constitutional Council and Judicial Council have already been weaponized to manipulate the judiciary, the anti-corruption commission, the election commission, and other constitutional bodies. For the past three decades, the civil service and police have been captured by extreme partisan politics and its pervasive influence.

Regulators like the Nepal Rastra Bank, the Insurance Board, and the Securities Board have been surrendered to corrupt intermediaries. This crisis extends beyond individual lives; the future of entire generations has been irrevocably compromised by the intricate networks of collusion these politicians have forged.

Regardless of whether I live or die, I stand by unwavering commitments. Certain constitutional provisions have been deliberately rigged to allow corrupt politicians to perpetually commit political and economic crimes. Therefore, this constitution demands a complete overhaul, not mere amendments. An exhaustive investigation into the assets of all high-ranking officials is imperative. Every cabinet decision made since 1990 must undergo thorough scrutiny. To liberate our nation from relentless political instability, we must adopt a directly elected executive system. Provincial Assemblies must be abolished. The National Assembly should be reimagined as a council of experts, not a dumping ground for politicians, who lost elections, and the favored few of top leaders. All constitutional bodies, now political playgrounds and recruitment centers for traditional forces, must be restructured immediately. We must purge politics as usual, usher in a second generation of economic reform, and make bold advancements in employment, investment, and entrepreneurship. For this, the country must now brace for a peaceful revolution, whether waged through the streets or at the ballot box.

Those deeply compromised by signing various treaties and orchestrating controversial scams now walk freely through Singha Durbar. Not a single case has ever been filed against them. Individuals involved in human smuggling, under the guise of fake Bhutanese refugees or visit visas, now occupy parliamentary seats, spouting poetry and verse as if they were paragons of morality. They harbor no fear of investigation. Leaders directly implicated in colossal scams, such as the Lalita Niwas land grab and the Giri Bandhu Tea Estate scandal, now brazenly preach slogans like “Happy Nepali”. They operate above the law. Yet here I stand, Rabi Lamichhane, imprisoned like the nation’s most heinous criminal. The true criminals, however, remain entrenched in power.

It seems that everyone in power has conspired to sacrifice me. Some target me to safeguard their political careers, while others exploit my situation to form or maintain their governments. Some even seek to secure positions in the Supreme Court or High Court through my downfall. How many times must one individual be blamed to serve the ambitions of those in power? How much more suffering must I endure to satiate their insatiable hunger for control? They have stripped me of everything, leaving only my body and my breath. Yet, even in this state, I possess the one thing they fear most: the truth. They assert that justice can only prevail if I remain behind bars. But times have changed. Today, every institution, from the media to the judiciary, stands under the watchful eyes of the people. Sooner or later, they will all be held accountable. The day will come when the truth is undeniable, and every mask will fall.

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Dear Elders, brothers and sisters,

For over three decades, the entrenched misrule, systemic corruption, and cronyism of these leaders have not only fractured families and shattered communities but have also utterly eroded the very fabric of national unity. The unbearable suffering they have inflicted has pushed our people to the brink. Now, patience has worn thin. Change is surging. A potent wave of anger is sweeping across the country, striking at the heart of traditional political leaders whose power has long been built on corruption and cronyism. This is their fear: the terror of losing control, the dread of accountability. These criminals do not fear

Rabi Lamichhane; they are terrified of being exposed by the sheer weight of their own crimes. What truly unsettles them is the profound love, unwavering faith, and deep trust you, the people of this country, have placed in Rabi Lamichhane. They have come to a stark realization: either Rabi Lamichhane remains behind bars, or they will. They will attempt to silence me by imprisoning me. They will strive to diminish my resolve and crush my spirit. But I have no doubt that your support will ultimately prevail. They will be held accountable for thirty-six years of deception, exploitation, and betrayal of this nation.

I am prepared to face any ordeal that comes my way. Let me declare it unequivocally to those two-faced leaders who feign the roles of the nation's fathers, elder brothers, and in-laws: Rabi Lamichhane is ready to face any trial, no matter its severity. And even if I am silenced within this dark cell, I hold an unshakeable faith that the people of this country will one day demand justice. Those who brought Nepal to its knees will be made to answer for their decades of wrongdoing.

Already, those who filed complaints against me, or whose grievances were later misused by state authorities, have slowly begun to speak the truth. To those who still remain silent, I make this heartfelt request: look into the eyes of your parents, into the eyes of the children you raised, and honestly ask yourselves—did you truly file a complaint because Rabi Lamichhane deceived you? Did you deposit your savings in a cooperative because

Even if I am killed, I believe the people will ensure that justice prevails. People will bring those who have perpetuated a vicious cycle of injustice to book. That day is not far. I know I am already paying a price for speaking the truth. I do not know what more I will have to endure for making this appeal public. To be honest, I no longer care about the consequences.

I was on its board? I do not know how many of you believe in the law of Karma, the principle of virtue and sin. But even those who do not follow any religion must, at some point, confront their own conscience. Whether your complaint was filed under pressure, fear, misinformation, or personal interest, I implore you to place your hand on your heart and answer truthfully: Is Rabi Lamichhane truly a “fraud”?

To those reading this, I urge you to share my message with parents and elders who may not be able to read this appeal. Let them know that your Rabi Lamichhane is not afraid of being jailed. He has not lost hope. He has not surrendered his spirit. Even from behind prison walls, he possesses the moral strength and courage to shake the very foundations of traitors. Let the conscience of the people be the ultimate judge: Did I commit organized crime, or is the entire state system being misused to perpetrate an organized crime against me? I am a man who has already endured grave injustice as a detainee. How much more cruelty can be inflicted upon me? There is little

left to bear. At this critical juncture, I call on all of you to support the signature campaign against the political vendetta designed to silence me. Remember this: the handcuffs they placed on me are merely the beginning. They are a seed of resistance. It will not be long before this seed grows, blossoms, and spreads across the land. The criminals who have ruined this country cannot hide forever behind their conspiracies. Their time to face justice will come soon. They cannot escape forever.

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Thank you.
Jaya Ghanti!
Asar, 2082 (Bhairahawa Custody)
Nepal

Scan to support the signature campaign financially:



Here are the questions I'm often asked:

1. **How can you claim that you do not know where the money came from in a company where you were the Managing Director and a shareholder?**

I never said so. This is a narrative manufactured by the legacy media. What I actually said was that I do not know where GB Rai got the money from. In the official records of Gorkha Media, the amount is listed as a short-term loan provided by GB Rai. The same is mentioned in the official audit report of the company as well.

2. **When you are in a responsible position at Gorkha Media Network, should you not be accountable for the money that comes into the company?**

I should be. I have said clearly that I am responsible and accountable for the money spent and managed after it came to the company. That is why I have been saying that any actions should have been taken under the Company Act. But how can I be held responsible for the transactions and activities that took place within the cooperatives?

3. **The money has been deposited to your account directly from the cooperative, right?**

Not a single penny from any cooperative has ever been deposited into my personal account. I am not, nor have I ever been, a member, shareholder, borrower, or employee of any cooperative.

4. **A joint account in the names of you and two other shareholders was created in the company prior to your appointment as Managing Director and before you became a shareholder. Is that true?**

An account at Gorkha Media was established based on an understanding between GB Rai and Chhabilal Joshi. Its purpose was to facilitate my transition from News24 Television to work collaboratively with them. This was not a different type of account, and no transactions occurred before this agreement. Furthermore, I have absolutely no dealings or financial ties with any cooperative.

5. **Cheques bearing your signature were found even after you had left the company. What is your take on this claim?**

Not all cheques are cashed on the same day they are signed. It is common for some cheques to be post-dated by two to four months. In my own case, my two months' salary was pending. When I left the company, I had also taken a cheque. I cashed it once I was informed that there were funds in the account. This is a common practice in the private sector.

6. **So it turns out that payments were made to the cooperative through cheques bearing your signature, right?**

According to the written agreement [among three shareholders], I was not allowed to interfere in any financial matters. My responsibilities were limited to news and programming. However, since Chhabilal Joshi was out of the country and GB Rai was frequently traveling, I was sometimes required to sign documents. For practical reasons, there were occasions when I signed blank cheques in advance. I was not in a moral position to question a person who brought in all the investment. I was not in the position to ask which check was given to whom and for what purpose. Since there was no dispute or complaint at the time, there was no point to raise such questions.

7. **Should not someone like you have known that cooperatives are not allowed to invest in the private sector?**

At no point during my tenure did the board decide or agree to take a loan from any cooperative. No cooperative ever sent any notice or information about dues or installments either. All financial dealings, including bringing in investments and making payments against bills, were done under the direct oversight of GB Rai and executed by people he trusted. I was only a signatory for operational convenience. I was not an investor.

8. There are vehicles registered in your name and that you have a loan under your name in the cooperative's system. Is that true?

I haven't taken any loan from anywhere. There are no vehicles registered in my name either. The loans they're claiming, I took, were likely created by the cooperative itself using my name. Turns out, hundreds of fake accounts were opened like this, and not just mine. The GCS system they use is entirely for internal purposes. It allows them to make entries under any name without that person's presence, involvement, or signature. It is like writing something in your own diary and then claiming it's official. I was never present, never applied for a loan, never signed anything. It is all fake.

9. Citing Chhabilal Joshi's testimony, media reported that the plan to bring in funds from cooperatives and start the TV station originated from you and GB Rai. What is the truth?

That claim is false; Chhabilal Joshi made no such statement. It was solely a fabrication of the media.

10. Someone like you should know the source of investment, shouldn't you?

The company's official records mention that GB Rai invested in the TV station by selling land he owned in Hetauda. During investigations, it was found that he had actually funneled money through various cooperatives. When there were no complaints or reports from cooperatives, how could I have access to their accounts? How could I have access to GB's personal accounts? These things came to light after investigation only in recent months.

11. Did the government's investigation find my involvement in any cooperative? Am I even a member of any cooperative? Did I ever apply for a loan? Is my signature anywhere on any documents?

No. That is why I say this is political vendetta. This is a fabricated case against me by the entire state mechanism.

