

My name is Suresh Pokhrel. I am from Nepal. Due to the war between Communist party, the Maoists, and the Nepali Government, there is insecurity and instability. The late Panchayati Monarchy imprisoned me almost two and a half years in jail for advocating for a multi-party system and democracy. After the restoration of multiparty democracy in Nepal in 1990, the Maoists started spreading their power all over the country by torturing, kidnapping, and forcing donations from teachers, lawyers, businessmen, farmers, and everyone. The Maoists first formally reached out to me in 2002 asking me for a donation and proposal to be a judge for the Maoists People's Court. During this duration I used to work as a political science professor at Sukhna Multiple Campus in the morning and a High School teacher at Machchindra High School. I repeatedly refused the Maoists offer because I did not believe in their ideology and despised the atrocities they were committing.

One evening in 2003, I was returning from teaching at the High School and the Maoists stopped me. They beat me with bamboo sticks and stabbed me in my right palm. They also gave me the last offer for their proposal. I again refused to be their judge and they left me in the street bleeding. I realized I had to save my life and quit teaching without providing notice to either the school or the university. I moved to the capital city of Nepal, Kathmandu, in search of a peaceful life. But the situation was not favorable. The Maoists found me in Kathmandu and I came to know that they had been following me the whole time.

One evening in 2006, when I was returning from surrounding local town after attending a rally against the absolute power of the monarchy for multi party democracy, a cadre of Maoists detained me. One of them gave an order to kill me and all the rest ran towards me with bamboo sticks ready to beat me to death. I ran fast towards a small village called "Katuwal Tole" to save my life. I was beat up heavily on the way as some threw their sticks on me and others managed to beat me up. Upon making it to the village, the Maoist cadre stopped chasing me. I had wounds, lacerations, and swelling all over my body, especially my face. I was treated in Bin Hospital. After that it was really a very hard time for me. To save my life, I flew to the U.S. in 2006.

I applied for Asylum, but the file were pending for almost two and a half years. Finally, I was connected with CST in 2008. CST helped me find attorneys to close my asylum case. They also helped me financially and psychologically. When I was stressed, CST arranged a psychologist to get appropriate counseling. When I was unable to work, CST provided some food and clothing to help. Today, due to CST's help I was able to obtain a grant of asylum and have a Green Card. I would like to thank CST for various valuable help and to the U.S. for providing a safe shelter to save me and my family's lives as well.