

XXXIII

KULTURA ETA BAKEAREN JARDUALDUNALDIAK
JORNADAS DE CULTURA Y PAZ
CULTURE AND PEACE CONVENTION

COMISIONES DE LA VERDAD

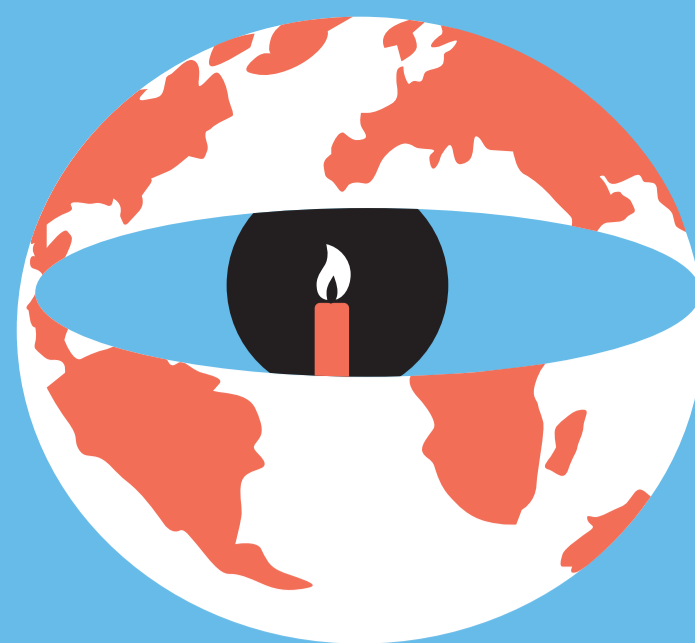
APRENDIZAJES ÉTICOS PARA LA RECONCILIACIÓN

EGIAREN BATZORDEAK

ADISKIDETZEKO IKASKUNTZA ETIKOAK

TRUTH COMMISSIONS

ETHICAL LESSONS FOR RECONCILIATION



GERNIKA-LUMO

2023



24-26

APRIL / ABRIL / APRIL

Presentation

Truth Commissions are temporary investigative mechanisms that shed light on what happened in countries that have experienced wars, dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and serious human rights abuses. There have been roughly 51 commissions in the world, all with diverse legacies. In this conference we will analyze the different commissions' experiences and we will invite experts to present the innovations of each commission and the ethical lessons learned during the processes of construction of coexistence and reconciliation.

24th

APRIL

Opening

Opened by

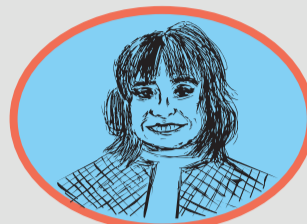
JOSÉ M. GORROÑO ETXEBARRIETA
Mayor of Gernika-Lumo



This year we have awarded the Truth Commissions for their great value in bringing light to the facts, and most importantly to the truth of the victims in these processes. Truth is the right of the victims to know and understand what and under what circumstances happened to them. It is the right to know the names of the perpetrators, authors and co-author of their violation as well as their military, political, trade union affiliation.

We open this space to thinking about the truth and its fundamental role in reconciliation processes. We are grateful for the participation of those Commissions present here, who bring us their experiences and the victims' moving voices.

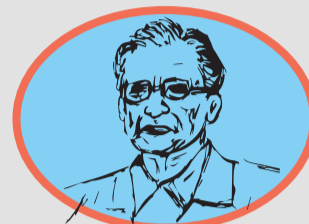
MARÍA OIANGUREN IDÍGORAS
Director Gernika Gogoratuz



The role of the Commissions focuses on three themes:

- 1) Epistemology. It is about clarifying the truth and its collective appropriation. Is it possible to think in common about what has happened to us as a society? Progress, barriers and challenges.
- 2) Ethics. Findings and recommendations. What are we learning in order to move towards coexistence in conditions of equality, dignity and plurality, taking diversity into account?
- 3) Memory. If Truth Commissions aspire to influence social understanding of the past in order to change the policies of the present and influence new coexistence contexts in the future, is it possible to move towards a comprehensive historical, political and economic understanding and overcome the social structures that sustain the dynamics of accumulation, expropriation and segregation?

CAMILO GONZÁLEZ POSSO
President of INDEPAZ.
Institute for Peace and Development, Colombia



At the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the bombing, Gernika presented the "Gernika for Peace and Reconciliation" recognition Award for the Peace Agreement in Colombia [...] and the Mayor José María Gorroño said: "Gernika displays itself against the forgetting of the past". He affirmed that memory represents its heritage. "A memory for the non-repetition of the events and reconciliation in defense of life, against war, against violence and in defense of human rights".

Today, we meet again in a meeting for truth, against war and for peace. In a dialogue with the Truth Commissions that bear witness to peoples rebelling against the forgetting of tragedy, which is the imposture that pretends to be history. In Gernika, then, diverse examples of the vindication of the truth are brought together to make peace possible. The Truth Commissions have had in common the ethics of life and the defense of human rights. And they have told us, without truth there is no future.

Truth Commissions

Presented and moderated by

CAMILO GONZÁLEZ POSSO



PABLO DÍAZ

Survivor of the teenage students group kidnapped and tortured by the Argentinean civil-military dictatorship (1976-1983). Witness in the "Comisión Nacional sobre la Desaparición de Personas en Argentina (CONADEP)" (National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons in Argentina), during the operative "La Noche de los Lápidos" (The Night of the Pencils).

- He was imprisoned for 5 years during the dictatorship in Argentina.
- He asks himself: "What is truth? And he answers: The truth is for the never again. The truth is the trial and condemnation of perpetrators.
- The human being is weak because it kills, it rapes. Horror is not quantitative.
- The disappeared person is a murdered person, but in our culture we need a funeral.
- He took part in the film "La noche de los lápices" because of his love for Claudia Falcone, who was arrested, tortured and then disappeared.



DANIEL NINA

Lawyer. Facilitator of Conflict Transformation processes. Professor at the University of Puerto Rico. Expert in the Truth Commission of South Africa. Writer.

- It is the most successful Truth Commission because it has overcome the narrative associated with racism. There was a change in public policies and educational narratives.
- The case of South Africa teaches you to coexist politically with the other (Ubuntu).
- There were successes, the Commission model promoted and controlled by the state, the formation of the Commission itself and its leaders (Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, etc.), the Constitution that includes different generations of human rights, the monuments of the past were not demolished and they coexist.
- Forgetting was a key to coexisting in the present by overcoming political and ideological differences, but social and economic differences have not been overcome and violence continues to be perpetrated.

PADRE JOVITO RÉGO DE JESÚS ARAÚJO



Former Commissioner of the Timor Leste Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation (CAVR). Member of the Board of Directors of the Chega National Centre. Public Institute of Memory.

- Following Indonesia's invasion and annexation (1975), a UN-sponsored referendum was held (1999) and 86% of the population said YES to independence.
- The CAVR's mandate was to seek truth, promote reconciliation, prevent abuses and care for victims.
- The Chega Report made 204 recommendations, none were implemented.
- Another bilateral Truth Commission was established, between Timor Leste and Indonesia.
- We cannot let impunity survive anywhere.
- There is still a long way to go.

Literary talk on memory and forgetfulness

LAURA RESTREPO
Colombian writer and journalist



CRISTINA ARANA
Director Kultur Etxea of Gernika-Lumo



And the participation of María Oianguren Idígoras

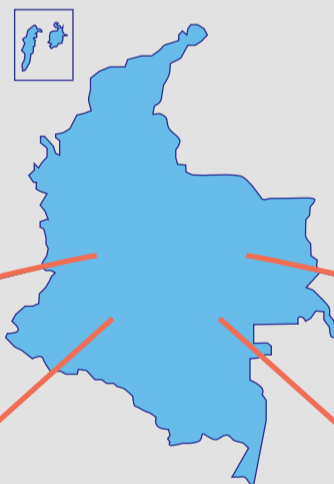
25th

APRIL

The Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repetition in Colombia

Presented and moderated by

MARÍA OIANGUREN IDÍGORAS



Medical doctor. University lecturer and researcher on violence and armed conflict and the impact on the life and health of individuals and communities. Advisor to international organizations in the areas of public health, culture, migration and human rights. Former Commissioner of the CEV.

Architect. Former director of the Museum "Casa de la Memoria", advisor to the Mayor's Office of Medellín; regional director of the National Victims Unit in Antioquia. Worked in the office of the High Commissioner and in the Secretariat of the National Peace Council. Former Commissioner of the CEV.

Doctor and PhD in Psychology with experience in psychosocial care for victims and advisor to truth commissions in Peru, Paraguay and Ecuador. He coordinated the REMHI report in Guatemala. Member of the Interdisciplinary Group of Experts of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for the Ayotzinapa case, Mexico. Former Commissioner of the CEV.

Jesuit priest, philosopher and economist. Founder of the Magdalena Medio Development and Peace Programme, Colombia's first peace laboratory, and he was director of CINEP (1987-1993). He is recognized for his work in peace-building, reconciliation and the dignification of victims. Former president of the CEV.

SAÚL FRANCO



LUCÍA GONZÁLEZ



CARLOS MARTÍN BERISTAIN



FRANCISCO DE ROUX



We had [...] an accumulation not of information but of experiences. About experiences, about pain, about the courage of Colombian men and women. This is the treasure, the basic material of the Commission's Final Report. It is the result of the listening of the testimonies of the victims that we collected and organized in words that we give back to our country.

An organic compilation, not a super-market list.

An organic set of proposals, not only to overcome the armed conflict, but also to try to achieve a peaceful society.

[...] the chapter on confrontation and resistance, which we call: "Suffering the war and restoring life", where we gather exactly that, what this war meant for life.

...we have a commitment to maintain this restorative justice. To maintain a truly co-responsible participation in the construction of the common welfare, of public resources, of respect and valuing of differences, in the deepening of democracy and in everything we can do in Colombia and in the world to prevent war from continuing to be a way out, a path. And to ask the world...

...from here we ask for to overcome the drug trafficking issue.

Drug trafficking is a brutal factor of persistence in Colombia, a factor that feeds all wars, that feeds armed groups on all sides, that crosses politics, that crosses the economy, that crosses us all, but that we cannot fight if the world does not help us.

[...] a social context for recognition, for hundreds of thousands of individual experiences, which people have had to keep in their hearts for years.

One of the Commission's strategies was to get closer to the victims. To the territories, to the communities, including the invisible territory of exile. To people who had to leave the country because of the armed conflict, and many people told us:

"We want a truth that explains why".

For only the explanation of "why" can bring with it the means by which we can keep history from repeating itself and so that non-repetition is not just a well-intentioned discourse, it has to be part of a political practice.

Please, no more war. Please, don't give Colombia one more peso for the war. Help us build the society we want. A society based on difference, with human beings who are passionate about each other. In those years, in Colombia, we woke up, or went to bed every day watching on television or listening to the radio, about massacres of 180 people, kidnappings, false positives... and we went through it as if it were a film, a soap opera, that had nothing to do with us. And then I would ask myself these profound questions:

How do we present ourselves to the world as human beings?

Who are we really? We admit that all this happened as a nation.

Closing

EDUARDO ÁVILA NAVARRETE
Ambassador of Colombia in Spain



I deeply regard, the victims in exile who are at the center of these talks [...] in the context of Total Peace, the government has a great commitment to the fulfillment and implementation of Peace, and to the recommendations of the Truth Commission. Another great proposal, worked on together with the victims in exile, is their participation, their ideas, for a transformation, and to bring about a change in Colombia.

With José María Gorroño Etxebarrieta and María Oianguren Idígoras

Cinema club Gernika

PEDRO DURANA UNTZILLA
Director and scriptwriter Member Zine-Club de Gernika



Film "La noche de los lápices". Director Héctor Olivera (1986).

The film recreates the real event known by "La noche de los lápices". On the 16th of September of 1976, during the first months of the last military dictatorship in Argentina, seven teenagers from the city of La Plata were kidnapped, tortured and murdered after protesting for a student public transport ticket.



Conference organized by:

Gernika Gogoratuz

Centro de Investigación por la Paz

indepaz
Instituto de estudios para el desarrollo y la paz

GERNIKA LUMO
gara sustirak

General coordination: María Oianguren Idígoras. Director: Gernika Gogoratuz.
Creation of infographic and illustrations: Emérito Cuéllar Ibáñez. Collaborator Gernika Gogoratuz.
Text organizer: Fernando Cruz Artunduaga. Professor at the University of Tolima.
Text source: Information collected during the two days of the conference.
Gernika-Lumo. April 2023