
Violence and Memory in the Andes: The Case of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Peru *

The main focus of my presentation will be the experience of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Peru, which worked for 26 months, from 2001 until 2003, in order to investigate the period of armed struggle and terrorism undergone by my country during the 1980s and the 1990s. It might be useful to mention that the decision to create a truth commission in Peru during those years, as well as the methods and purposes of this commission's work, were closely related to the field that is now widely known as 'transitional justice'. Working under the assumption that past wrongdoings cannot simply fall into oblivion, because victims always remember, and that the building of strong and sustainable democracies demands some action against impunity and a significant degree of satisfaction to the victims, many societies around the world have embarked for the past few decades in the recovering of truth and the delivering of justice, which includes criminal trials and reparations for the victims. Among the ideas related to the process of dealing with the past, the notion of reconciliation

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