

EL SALVADOR:

COMMISSION ON THE TRUTH FOR EL SALVADOR (SPANISH: COMISIÓN DE LA VERDAD PARA EL SALVADOR)



WHAT IS THE TRC?

The Commission on the Truth for El Salvador (Spanish: Comisión de la Verdad para El Salvador) is a *Truth and Restorative Justice* commission established by the Government of El Salvador/FMLN (Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación), with the support of United Nations. It aimed to address atrocities which occurred during an internal conflict between the government and opposition groups, including executions and forced disappearances.

The TRC was initially created in 1995, with the final report of the TRC being completed in 1996.

WHY WAS IT CREATED?

The TRC largely focuses on the period of time within the armed conflict between the Salvadorian government and radical leftist movements, such as the FMLN. In order to quell the uprisings, the government founded a 'death squad', composed of U.S.-backed Salvadoran military forces.

The civil war resulting in such was a period of mass human rights violations, with over 60 percent of all complaints concerning executions, over 25 percent concerning enforced disappearances, and over 20 percent including complaints of torture. The primary perpetrators of such were cited as both the death squads and the Salvadorian government.

MANDATES OF THE TRC

The main goals of the TRC were:

- To investigate serious acts of violence occurring since 1980 and the nature and effects of the violence
- Ensuring that the public knows the truth surrounding said acts of violence, namely cause and consequence
- To create confidence in the positive changes which the peace process is promoting and to assist the transition to national reconciliation

OUTCOMES & LEGACIES

- The recommendations of the commission became legally binding, due to the nature of the mandate
- Recommendations for immediate dismissals of any officers or government officials who held roles as perpetrators
- Victim reparations, including memories and monetary compensation
- Recommendations for legal and judicial reform
- According to current studies, the civilian government and armed forces of El Salvador have yet to implement the commission's recommendations
- The passing of a new criminal code in 1996 resulting from pressure from the United Nations
- Victims have yet to receive any sort of reparations

STATISTICS

Number of Commissioners: **3**

Number of Women Commissioners: **N/A**

Total Number of Participants: **22 000**

Number of Cases Heard: **2000**

Total Years of Conflict: **approx. 11**

