

HAITI:

THE HAITIAN NATIONAL TRUTH AND JUSTICE COMMISSION (COMMISSION NATIONALE DE VÉRITÉ ET DE JUSTICE, CNVJ)



WHAT IS THE TRC?

The The Haitian National Truth and Justice Commission (Commission Nationale de Vérité et de Justice, CNVJ) is a *Truth and Reconciliation* commission established by the Presidential Decree of elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, following the three year military coup d'etat overthrow of his rule, led by military officer General Raoul Cedras.

The CNVJ was first commissioned on April 1, 1995, following President Aristide's reinstatement with the aid of the United Nations and American military troops. The final report of the CNVJ was produced in February 1996.

WHY WAS IT CREATED?

Inspired by the final report of a Montreal tribunal titled "The International Tribunal on Rights in Haiti", the CNVJ was commissioned to address and investigate numerous human rights abuses and atrocities committed against civilians by General Raoul Cedras and the militant rule.

The CNVJ identified approximately 18 000 instances of human rights violations against victims, with a special focus on sexual violence that occurred against women, as well as the abuse of journalists and media.

Another large component focused on the April 1994 massacre in Raboteau, where military forces attacked the neighbourhood of Raboteau Gonaïves, resulting in several civilian casualties.

MANDATES OF THE TRC

The main goals of the TRC were:

- To investigate human rights abuses taken place during the three year period of the coup that overthrew President Aristide

OUTCOMES & LEGACIES

- The provision of a list of alleged perpetrators that called for further government investigation and prosecution, as well as a recommendation to establish an international tribunal for such
- The recommendation for a reparations commission
- Recommendations for legal/judiciary reform, and for the creation of laws against sexual violence and rape
- The use of the commission to vet new applicants to the civilian police force
- A few key trials held, convicting important perpetrators such as entire military high command and the heads of the paramilitary FRAPH (Front Révolutionnaire pour l'Avancement et le Progrès Haïtiens)

STATISTICS

Number of Commissioners: 7

Number of Women Commissioners: 2

Total Number of Participants: 19 308

Number of Cases Heard: 8650

Number of Petitions Received: 5450

