

TIMOR-LESTE:

COMMISSION FOR RECEPTION, TRUTH, AND RECONCILIATION (COMISSÃO DE ACOLHIMENTO, VERDADE E RECONCILIAÇÃO DE TIMOR-LESTE, CAVR)



WHAT IS THE TRC?

The Commission for Reception, Truth, and Reconciliation (Comissão de Acolhimento, Verdade e Reconciliação de Timor-Leste, CAVR) is a *Truth and Reconciliation* commission established by the Conselho Nacional da Resistencia Timorese (CNRT) Government. It aimed to reconcile the atrocities and political oppression bestowed upon Timorese citizens by both colonial Portugal and Indonesian governmental militant efforts.

The TRC was initially created in 2002 following granting of autonomy to Timor-Leste from Indonesia. The final report of the TRC was completed in 2005.

WHY WAS IT CREATED?

Similar to Indonesia and Timor-Leste's joint Commission of Truth and Friendship (CTF), the TRC largely focuses on the political violence and oppression historically bestowed upon Timor-Leste from both Portugal and Indonesia.

Timor-Leste first began a path towards independence following a revolution sparking the process of decolonization from Portugal in 1974. However, following an internal conflict between Timorese parties over who would gain governance, Indonesia invaded East Timor on December 7, 1975, and would establish an oppressive and violent occupation until 1999. During Indonesia's regime, many Timorese individuals experienced disproportionate levels of abuse, violence, and displacement- with higher levels in vulnerable sectors such as women and children.

MANDATES OF THE TRC

The main goals of the TRC were:

- Inquiring into and establishing the truth regarding human rights violations which took place in the context of the political conflicts in Timor-Leste
- Assisting in restoring the dignity of victims
- Formulating recommendations concerning reforms and initiatives designed to prevent the recurrence of human rights violations
- Recommending prosecutions, where appropriate, to the Office of the General Prosecutor as well as promoting reconciliation

OUTCOMES & LEGACIES

- Recommendations that families of victims be assisted in locating and re-burying loved ones
- Call for reform and recognition of policies falling into these categories, among others:
 - Protecting and promoting all rights for all
 - Protecting and promoting the rights of the vulnerable
 - Protecting and promoting rights through effective institutions
 - Security services that protect and promote human rights
 - Truth and justice
 - Reparations
- The approval of a Resolution on the implementation of the CAVR Report by the Parliamentary Committee for Constitutional Issues, Justice, Public Administration, Local Power, and Government Legislation in 2008
- The establishment of a secretariat by the government to distribute the TRC report, educating the general public, and upholding reforms and reconciliation measures
- The prosecution of certain key individual perpetrators
- Beginning measures towards establishing a reparations program

STATISTICS

Number of Commissioners: **7**

Number of Women Commissioners: **2**

Total Number of Participants: **7760**

Number of Cases Heard: **102 800**

Total Years of Conflict: **approx. 25**

