



International Center for Transitional Justice

2002 / 2003 Annual Report



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Mission Statement

The International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) assists countries pursuing accountability for mass atrocity or human rights abuse. The Center works in societies emerging from repressive rule or armed conflict, as well as in established democracies where historical injustices or systemic abuse remain unresolved. It provides comparative information, legal and policy analysis, documentation, and strategic research to justice and truth-seeking institutions, nongovernmental organizations, governments, and others. The ICTJ assists in the development of strategies for transitional justice comprising five key elements: prosecuting perpetrators, documenting violations through nonjudicial means such as truth commissions, reforming abusive institutions, providing reparations to victims, and advancing reconciliation. The Center is committed to building local capacity and generally strengthening the emerging field of transitional justice, and works closely with organizations and experts around the world to do so.



Peruvians take part in a vigil to show solidarity with the victims who were to give their testimonies to the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) the following day. Main square of Pucallpa, Ucayali, Peru July 15, 2002.
| Photo by John Riley, courtesy of the TRC

What is Transitional Justice?

As a political transition unfolds after a period of violence or repression, a society is often confronted with a difficult legacy of human rights abuse. Countries as diverse as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Peru, Sierra Leone, and Timor-Leste are struggling to come to terms with crimes of the past. In order to promote justice, peace, and reconciliation, government officials and nongovernmental advocates are likely to consider both judicial and nonjudicial responses to human rights crimes. These may include:

- Prosecuting individual perpetrators
- Offering reparations to victims of state-sponsored violence
- Establishing truth-seeking initiatives to address past abuse
- Reforming institutions like the police and the courts
- Removing human rights abusers from positions of power

Increasingly, these approaches are used together in order to achieve a more comprehensive and far-reaching sense of justice.

From the Chairman

As I look back over the past year, what is most striking is the extent to which human rights and international law were violated not only by authoritarian governments and insurgent groups, but also by democratic governments acting in the name of national security. Any actions by any parties that undermine human rights and international justice ultimately make the world a much more insecure and volatile place. More than ever, it is imperative that all governments acknowledge human rights and respect for international law as universally applicable—to all regimes, all countries, and all people.

It is important that political leaders and other individuals in positions of authority in their communities be held accountable for their actions. The tendency of certain governments and groups to deflect scrutiny by pointing to the culpability of others will be undermined if they know that on the subject of human rights they cannot act with impunity. Perpetrators must fear that mechanisms exist for the truth to emerge and that they will be held accountable for their crimes, and that justice—as a top priority for the global community—will be equitably served.

The International Center for Transitional Justice is uniquely equipped and positioned in the world of human rights organizations to effectively assist countries pursuing accountability for human rights abuse and seeking truth and justice. ICTJ staff members, who possess extraordinary legal and comparative expertise, assist truth commissions, special courts, NGOs, governments, and other groups to develop the very strategies—prosecution, documentation, reform, reparations, and reconciliation—necessary for promoting universal accountability. The field of transitional justice is relatively new, yet the Center has made significant contributions, developing and expanding the field with its own focused efforts in conjunction with those of its many local partners and colleague organizations. What I find remarkable in this well-developed field of human rights is that the ICTJ is not replicating any other work being done, either in its substantive focus on transitional justice or its functional niche as a provider of expertise and technical assistance.

The ICTJ has made impressive progress over the past two years. Its unique focus and approach to transitional justice has drawn and sustained the attention and enthusiasm of international and national donors, human rights organizations, intergovernmental organizations, legal and academic communities, the media, and activists and practitioners. Following a very successful launch, this year has been one of both institutional and programmatic expansion, which has enabled the Center to respond to the considerable increase in requests for assistance from governments, civil society groups, and other institutions.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of our generous supporters and to salute the ICTJ staff for their untiring and expert dedication to transitional justice. Without you, none of this important work would have been possible, and only with your continued help and support will we be able to effectively address the great challenges facing us in the upcoming year.



VINCENT MAI
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

From the President

As the ICTJ embarks on its third year of operations, Iraq is the latest example of a complex postconflict country in transition. The ICTJ's approach to transitional justice in Iraq illustrates our principled methodology in every country in which we work. First, transitional justice strategies must be fair and impartial. Second, any effort to confront past human rights abuse must involve extensive and broad consultations with victims and representatives from all sectors of society. Third, an essential part of any endeavor must aim to strengthen national institutions, enabling the rule of law to flourish in the long term.

We receive requests for our counsel and services almost daily, and we are enormously encouraged by this enthusiastic response. The ICTJ is currently engaged in more than 20 countries, but we continue to view each as a unique case with its own history, culture, political circumstances, and specific needs. We have reminded ourselves, time and again, that our job is not to be prescriptive, but to listen and consult widely before proposing transitional justice mechanisms for consideration.

The situation in postconflict Iraq adds weight to our firm belief in a holistic strategy comprising various judicial and nonjudicial mechanisms: accountability, truth-seeking, reconciliation, institutional reform, and reparations. If peace is to be sustained, our aim should be not merely to achieve justice, but to build a just society.

In reflecting on the past 12 months, I'm struck by the nature of our work, which is varied, challenging, often deeply moving, and always fascinating. Whether it be giving evidence at the sentencing hearing for Biljana Plavsic at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia; talking with victims in the Aberdeen Amputee Camp in Freetown, Sierra Leone; or witnessing the first public hearing of the Ghana National Reconciliation Commission, one is appalled at the brutality that continues to exist in the human family, but also heartened by the advances in calling perpetrators to account and finding ways to begin the process of reconciliation and peace building.

In this report, you will read about the ICTJ's program work in much greater detail. With our reorganization, we have sought to consolidate and realign, giving greater attention to research, deepening our commitment to capacity building, expanding our Fellowship Program, and strengthening our emphasis on working with colleagues and partners in the growing professional field of transitional justice. We have also had to face the challenges of expansion—not only of staff and premises, but also of country program work, given the increasing demand for our services. In particular, developments in Iraq have served as a timely appeal for the Center to embark on a Middle East program. Although this initiative is challenging and urgent, we are proceeding cautiously, consulting every step of the way.

Without the generous support of our donors, the work of our dedicated and skilled staff, and the engagement of our Board of Directors, we could never attempt the very ambitious program of action on which we have embarked. We extend our warmest thanks to all.



ALEX BORAINÉ
PRESIDENT

The International Center for Transitional Justice

Over the past year, the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) has assisted many organizations and individuals who have made significant progress in furthering justice, truth, accountability, and the field of transitional justice as a whole.



New York City, December 2, 2002, briefing on truth commissions, featured (from left to right): Javier Ciurlizza, executive secretary of the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission; Ken Attafuah, executive secretary of the Ghanaian National Reconciliation Commission; Alex Boraine, president of the ICTJ; and Mary Robinson, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. | Photo courtesy of the International Peace Academy (see page 8 for more information)



Judges of the International Criminal Court leave Knights' Hall at the Parliament in The Hague after the inauguration session on March 11, 2003. The world's first permanent war crimes court took a major step forward with the inauguration of 18 judges—7 women and 11 men from across the globe. | Photo by Robert Vos/AFP/Getty Images

Old Parliament House, Accra, Ghana, January 2003. Banner publicizes Ghana's National Reconciliation Commission hearings, inaugurated in January 2003. | Photo by Sara Tollefson, courtesy of the Ghana Center for Democratic Development



Nebaj, Quiché, Guatemala 2001. Several people witness an exhumation conducted by the Office for Peace and Reconciliation, Quiché Diocese, Technical Forensic Team. | Photo by Mischa Prince

Andean peasants make a ritual offering to Mother Earth, "Pachamama," an ancient custom meant to compensate the Earth for victims' mentioning of the dead in testimonies given during the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) public hearings. Cusco, Peru, June 7, 2002. | Photo by John Riley, courtesy of the TRC



"The ICTJ has been involved since the initial process of forming the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Peru. This collaboration underscores the importance of the exchange of information and experiences in reaching our objectives. The ICTJ has provided us with support ranging from input on our methods of investigation to advising on questions relating to patterns of human rights violations, public hearings, cases for prosecution, institutional reform, and our proposal for a reparations program. The Center also facilitated our access to consultants from other truth commissions. But above all, we have received a great deal of moral support from the ICTJ. In the midst of this difficult work in which we touch human suffering every day, as well as sustain attacks by our 'enemies,' this has helped us to maintain our courage and continue with our task."

—Sofia Macher, Commissioner, Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission

"Sierra Leone is rapidly demonstrating how the co-existence of the Special Court—an international tribunal—and a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) can provide the most comprehensive benefits to a postconflict or postdictator state. My office recognized from the start the complementary value of the TRC, and for that reason we decided not to seek any testimony or evidence from the Commission. The ICTJ's analysis of the relationship between these institutions, and its survey of the views of ex-combatants carried out with PRIDE [see pages 18–19], continues to inform our thinking in this regard."

—David M. Crane, Chief Prosecutor, Special Court for Sierra Leone

Timor-Leste Community Reconciliation Hearing

The Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation (CAVR) in Timor-Leste facilitates Community Reconciliation Processes. These processes aim to assist reintegration of perpetrators of less serious offenses into society by encouraging them to come forward and confess their violations before a panel comprising community leaders and a CAVR regional commissioner. This panel hears from the perpetrator, victims, and other community members in an open hearing and determines the nature and scope of the community service, which, if performed satisfactorily, extinguishes the offender's criminal and civil liabilities.

Maliana, Timor-Leste, March 19, 2003.

Upper left and lower right photos: Children from the community perform a traditional dance to welcome members of the Commission and the ICTJ to the community reconciliation ceremony. Upper right photo: A [lia nain], a community elder and keeper of traditional custom and law, spreads a mat for the ceremony. The [biti bo[bit]] is a symbol central to the traditional, non-state conflict resolution mechanism. Literally [stretching the mat], the [biti bo[bit]] ceremony symbolizes its open nature—all sit together around the mat until the problem is resolved and the mat can be rolled up. Lower left photo: [lia nain], community elders, stamp the process with the legitimacy of traditional custom and symbolically accept rehabilitated low-level offenders back into the community. | Photos by Federico Borello



"The ICTJ has been an important partner to the CAVR from the very beginning. Even as Timorese human rights activists explored the potential for a commission in Timor-Leste, the ICTJ was with us to share their experience. Our colleagues from the Center have helped us clarify what we aim to achieve in our work and develop the path to get there. They walk with us along the way as we work with the community in listening about and understanding our difficult past, seek to help in healing the wounds, and build the basis for new relationships based on respect for human rights, justice, and the rule of law. Our work is a constant challenge, and the support of the ICTJ is vital for us."

—Aniceto Guterres Lopes, Chairperson, Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation, Timor-Leste

Country Programs

No two transitional justice projects are identical; each new endeavor yields a fresh set of lessons and best practices. The ICTJ responds to requests from civil society groups, governments, and international organizations to provide comparative information, policy analysis, and legal and technical assistance to countries grappling with a legacy of widespread human rights abuse. Through in-country missions and ongoing communication with local counterparts, the Center provides advice and support to justice and truth-seeking institutions, reparations programs, and efforts to reform institutions responsible for human rights abuse.

Research

The field of transitional justice is varied and covers a range of disciplines, including law, public policy, forensics, economics, history, psychology, and the arts. The ICTJ works to develop a rich understanding of the field as a whole, and to identify issues that merit more in-depth research and analysis. Collaborating with colleagues in transitional societies and often commissioning outside studies, the Center targets its research to address the complex issues confronting policymakers and activists. Identifying and addressing the most important gaps in scholarship, it provides the benefit of comparative information to practitioners worldwide.

Outreach and Analysis

Recording the experiences, cross-country comparisons, and key lessons emerging from the range of transitional justice initiatives developing around the world is a priority for the ICTJ. The Center aims to make this information easily accessible to its professional colleagues and others, including policymakers in intergovernmental organizations, through focused seminars. The ICTJ collaborates closely with human rights organizations, universities, the United Nations, and others, believing that joint projects strengthen the field of transitional justice as a whole. Finally, the Documentation Center centralizes a broad range of scholarship and primary documentation on transitional justice.

Alliances and Capacity Development

The ICTJ is dedicated to strengthening and empowering organizations, institutions, policymakers, and activists involved in transitional justice. To that end, the Center, through its Transitional Justice Alliance, seeks to foster the exchange of ideas and information by building a global network of organizations and individuals dedicated to confronting the legacy of past human rights abuse. The Alliance is based on a series of “affinity groups” that bring together human rights professionals from multiple regions of the world to brainstorm and discuss shared concerns. The ICTJ manages and continues to expand the Transitional Justice Fellowship Program for human rights advocates. It also develops materials and holds training sessions and seminars for those designing and implementing transitional justice programs.



Police and forensic scientists remove the coffin of a Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) rebel from its tomb on March 12, 2001, to begin an investigation into whether rebels were executed by Peruvian government soldiers during a 1997 rescue of MRTA-held hostages at the home of the Japanese ambassador in Lima, Peru. | Photo courtesy of Getty Images

While the ICTJ's inaugural year was dedicated to laying the foundation for operations and starting many major programs, its second has been one of continued, careful expansion and consolidation. The Center engaged for the first time in some 10 countries and continued or significantly developed its involvement in a dozen others, working most intensely in Ghana, Peru, Sierra Leone, and Timor-Leste. The first 21 graduates of the Transitional Justice Fellowship Program returned to their home countries, ranging from Ghana to the Thai/Burma border, and many are leading local transitional justice initiatives. The program's second cohort was expanded to include participants from Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, and Mozambique. The Center completed the core research for a unique worldwide study of reparations programs (see pages 20–21), and began a number of other research projects. The ICTJ further developed its relationship with the United Nations, initiating a collaborative project with the UN Development Programme while continuing its cooperation with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.



Justice Richard Goldstone, former chief prosecutor of the UN International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda (left), and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former chairperson of the South Africa Truth and Reconciliation Commission (right), at the ICTJ's Washington, D.C., launch in April 2002. | Photo by Ron Sachs

The ICTJ's staff and Board of Directors have also continued to grow. Ian Martin, former Secretary General of Amnesty International and senior UN official who has served in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Eritrea, Haiti, Rwanda, and Timor-Leste, joined as Vice President in June 2002. The Center enlarged its overall staff by 25 percent to meet the needs of its expanding programs. Dr. Yash Pal Ghai, a Kenyan legal expert, joined the Board in April 2002. He has served as the Chairperson of the Kenya Constitution Review Commission since November 1999, on leave from the University of Hong Kong, where he is Sir Y.K. Pao Professor of Public Law. The ICTJ benefited from the contribution of more than 60 research interns this year, reflecting an increasing interest in both the field of transitional justice and the specific work of the Center.

The ICTJ's distinctive methodology focuses on building local capacities by equipping actors with the tools necessary to assess various options and make decisions about how to effectively address long legacies of human rights abuse. The Center relies heavily on local partnerships to ensure that its advice is sensitive to a society's particular issues and needs.

By promoting local involvement in developing prosecution, reform, reparations, and other strategies, the ICTJ has helped local partners design robust justice and truth-seeking bodies. Some of these institutions have already made real contributions in helping countries pursue accountability, seek truth, and promote justice, and others are poised to do so in the future:

- The ICTJ provided assistance to the National Reconciliation Commission (NRC) in Ghana, including extensive advice on public hearings and a specific recommendation to exclude an amnesty clause. The NRC has been successful in bringing to the foreground crimes committed during military rule and in catalyzing a public discussion on the need to pursue justice, which in turn has prompted policymakers to be more assertive in their demands that perpetrators be held accountable.
- In Peru, the ICTJ has worked with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) during every step of its institutional life, providing training, technical and legal assistance on the TRC's design, and ongoing advice and support through several consultants. At a time of great instability in Peru, the TRC has succeeded in placing human rights at the forefront of the national agenda and in focusing the attention of a nation traumatized by two decades of insurgent violence, acts of terror, and counterinsurgency tactics. As evidenced by the TRC's high local public approval rating, it is one of the more advanced, innovative, and respected truth commissions in the world.
- In Sierra Leone, the ICTJ has assisted in crafting a complementary relationship between the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Special Court. The simultaneous operation of the TRC and Special Court is a unique model that combines an emphasis on prosecution with a focus on seeking truth, so that each institution benefits the other. The Special Court is robust in its reach and operations, having prosecuted the head of the main rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front, as well as a high-profile member of government. The Court is also distinctive in that, with the help of the ICTJ, it is placing significant attention on its legacy, working to ensure that it leaves behind resources and expertise to advance the domestic judicial system in Sierra Leone.
- The ICTJ was intimately involved in the design of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation (CAVR) in Timor-Leste, and also provided training and advice to its members. The Commission represents a unique blend of a prosecutorial approach focused on addressing the most serious violations and crimes, and a community-based reconciliation approach offering perpetrators of less serious offenses an opportunity



Mary Robinson, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (left), and Javier Ciurlizza, executive secretary of the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (right), discuss truth commission strategies, successes, and challenges at a December 2002 briefing on truth commissions in New York City, organized by the ICTJ with the International Peace Academy (IPA) and Aspen Institute. | Photo courtesy of the IPA

Overview

to confess, perform community service, and prepare for their reintegration into society. In this way, the CAVR has facilitated social reconstruction in a deeply divided society through its promotion of accountability and its efforts to reintegrate low-level perpetrators.



ICTJ President Alex Boraine giving testimony at the sentencing hearing for Biljana Plavsic, former president of Republika Srpska, on December 17, 2002, at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). “When Plavsic became the first leadership figure in the former Yugoslavia to plead guilty and express remorse for widespread ethnic crimes, both the Prosecution and the Defense turned to the ICTJ to illuminate the potential reconciliatory impact of the plea. Dr. Boraine’s moving testimony was a significant contribution to the sentencing process and was cited by the Prosecution in its closing submission, the Defense in its closing submission, and the Trial Chamber in its judgment.”

—Alan Tieger, Senior Trial Attorney at the ICTY’s Office of the Prosecutor

| Video still courtesy of the ICTY, AV Department

The ICTJ’s relationship with the United Nations and its agencies was fostered at the highest level with a meeting between Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Alex Boraine. At the request of Mr. Annan, the Center agreed to host a seminar on transitional justice for the top management of the UN system in 2003. The ICTJ continues to collaborate with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Afghanistan, Peru, Sierra Leone, and Timor-Leste. The Center is also developing a partnership with the UN Development Programme on projects in Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste.

In April 2002, the ICTJ convened an international group of two dozen leaders in the field of transitional justice to help establish a global Transitional Justice Alliance, comprising a series of thematic “affinity groups” (see page 23). In December 2002, the Managing Truth Commissions Affinity Group brought together key staff and members of truth commissions in Ghana, Peru, and Timor-Leste, as well as those of former truth commissions in Argentina, Guatemala, and South Africa. This was the first time that the leadership of so many truth commissions was assembled together, and the participants noted that their exchanges were likely to lead to tangible improvements in the functioning of their commissions.

The ICTJ also undertook a number of important events that helped raise its visibility among key audiences. In April 2002, the Center held a launch in Washington, D.C., that featured Archbishop Desmond Tutu and initiated contact with U.S. legislators and their aides. During the fall, senior staff members participated in public programs on Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste at the Asia Society, with whom the Center also jointly initiated a transitional justice discussion series (starting with a focus on Burma). In September 2002, the ICTJ brought together members of the UN and nongovernmental communities in New York to meet with Robin Vincent, Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Mr. Vincent was able to share information about the Special Court and also receive input about key areas of technical assistance helpful to the Court’s effective functioning. In partnership with the International Peace Academy and the Aspen Institute’s Justice and Society Program, the ICTJ organized a joint lunchtime briefing on truth commissions in December 2002, featuring Mary Robinson, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the executive secretaries of the Ghanaian and Peruvian truth commissions.

The ICTJ website (www.ictj.org) continues to serve as a key source of information about the Center and the field of transitional justice in general. In 2002, the site received a total of 63,465 visitors and two million hits. The average number of visitors per day was 415, and the site averaged 6529 daily hits. In August 2002, the ICTJ launched a semimonthly, no-fee newsletter, *Transitional Justice in the News*, which chronicles transitional justice stories from around the world and reaches more than 1100 subscribers. (To subscribe, send an e-mail request to subscribe@ictj.org.) Meanwhile, ICTJ staff continue to be featured or published in media outlets like *BBC World Service*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *International Herald Tribune*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, the US Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), and *Wired Magazine*, as well as in national media outlets in many of the countries in which the Center works, including Ghana, Peru, and others. ■



“Thomas Keenan, a plucky professor at New York’s Bard College, is archiving the UN-led trial of former Serb leader Slobodan Milosevic at hague.bard.edu. The site, run by the Human Rights Project at Bard and the International Center for Transitional Justice, is the first to make a global trial globally accessible online.”

—Brad Wierasz, *Wired Magazine*, November 2002. Originally published in *Wired*.

The Bard College/ICTJ Milosevic Archive allows anyone with Internet access to watch the daily proceedings of the trial, at any time, in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, English, or Shqip (Albanian). The video feed is viewable in real time on the Internet—and on-demand at any time—through an ordinary web browser. The archive has received nearly 64,500 unique visitors, averaging 600 visitors per day.

Transitional Justice in the news

While relatively new, the field of transitional justice has undergone rapid global expansion and provided significant momentum to the international human rights effort. The following headlines, taken from major news sources, illustrate the diversity and frequency of transitional justice initiatives around the world.

“Post-war Iraq: war crimes trials?”

by Paul Reynolds, *BBC*, April 9, 2003

“War Court Judges for Sierra Leone Take Their Oaths”

New York Times, December 3, 2002

“Descendants of US slaves sue firms for unpaid work”

by Duncan Campbell, *The Guardian*, September 5, 2002

“Gypsies’ Suit Against I.B.M. Is Given Green Light by Swiss Court”

by Peter S. Green, *New York Times*, February 5, 2003

“Guatemala to pay war victims”

by Sara Silver, *Financial Times*, November 6, 2002

“Bosnian Serbs Told to Pay \$2 Million for Srebrenica Massacre”

by Daniel Simpson, *New York Times*, March 8, 2003

“US rebuffed on international court exemption”

by Matthew Engel, *The Guardian*, August 14, 2002

“Peru truth inquiry tails Fujimori”

by Charles Scanlon, *BBC*, September 9, 2002

“Rwanda Pastor and Son, a Doctor, Convicted of Genocide”

by Marlise Simons, *New York Times*, February 20, 2003

“International Criminal Court sworn in”

by Ian Black, *The Guardian*, March 12, 2003

“Ghanaians tell of torture”

by Kwaku Sakyi-Addo, *BBC*, February 5, 2003

“Argentina’s ‘dirty war’ files released”

BBC, August 21, 2002

“Justice for Iraq”

New York Times, April 25, 2003

“Bosnia’s ‘Iron Lady’ changes war crimes plea to guilty”

by Stephen Castle, *The Independent*, October 3, 2002

“Final report on South Africa’s grim past”

by Nicol Degli Innocenti, *Financial Times*, March 22, 2003

“U.N. Panel Backs Trials in Cambodia”

by Colum Lynch, *Washington Post*, November 21, 2002

“Mexico Digs at Last for Truth About 1968 Massacre”

by Tim Weiner, *New York Times*, February 7, 2003

“U.N. indicts 32 in East Timor war crimes”

by Michael Casey, *Associated Press*, February 4, 2003

Where We Work

Africa



Press gallery, Ghana National Reconciliation Commission (NRC), Accra, Ghana, February 2003. Members of the press take notes at an NRC hearing as part of the media's daily coverage of the truth commission. | Photo by Sara Tollefson, courtesy of the Ghana Center for Democratic Development

Ghana

In January 2002, President John Agyekum Kufuor signed into law a bill creating a National Reconciliation Commission (NRC) to examine decades of human rights abuse. The ICTJ worked with the Justice Ministry and civil society to provide advice on the establishment of the nine-member Commission. With the inauguration of the commissioners in May 2002, the focus shifted to the operational challenges of implementation.

Country Programs Director Paul van Zyl, Senior Associate Vasuki Nesiah, and Documentation Officer Eric Darko attended the NRC inauguration and held a workshop on a range of technical questions that commissioners would have to confront. In August, after the Commission had recruited its principal staff members, Outreach and Analysis Director Priscilla Hayner and Eric Darko conducted workshops on the challenges of reconciliation and truth-seeking, as well as on issues pertaining to public hearings, investigations, information management, and documentation. Thereafter, the ICTJ continued to support the Commission's preparations for public hearings, focusing on exposing the Commission to approaches that further accountability and acknowledgement for victims, catalyze a public dialogue, and shed light on Ghana's human rights history.

At the invitation of the Justice Minister, ICTJ President Alex Boraine delivered a speech at the first public hearings in January 2003. The Center also brought NRC Executive Secretary Dr. Ken Attafuaah and Commissioner Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu to New York in December 2002 for the Managing Truth Commissions Affinity Group meeting, focused on building the expertise of executive secretaries of ongoing commissions (see page 23).

In January 2003, the ICTJ and the Ghana Center for Democratic Development held workshops in Accra and Kumasi with members of civil society and NRC staff to discuss approaches to victim support and advocacy. The workshops covered a range of issues, including collective trauma and counseling, reparations, memorials, public education, and coalition building in a diverse victim community.

Kenya

After more than two decades under Daniel arap Moi, democratic elections in December 2002 brought great change to Kenya with the election of President Mwai Kibaki. No immunities were provided to the outgoing members of government, thus leaving open the possibility of accountability for the abuses and corruption that were commonplace in Kenya for years. An early focus of the new government was to reform the judiciary, and in

particular to investigate judges who were accused of corruption and other illicit practices. The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs expressed early support for a truth commission, and in April 2003 established a Task Force to consult with the public and propose terms of reference for a possible commission.

One of the key questions under discussion was whether a Kenyan truth commission should cover corruption and economic crimes as well as human rights abuse. The ICTJ wrote a paper outlining the advantages and disadvantages of combining both subjects into one inquiry, based on the experiences of other countries, and concluded that a number of factors argue for separating the subjects into two inquiries.

Priscilla Hayner and an ICTJ consultant traveled to Kenya in January 2003. The Center later submitted a memo outlining options around vetting with descriptions of programs that have been attempted elsewhere.



Young amputee mother stands with her two children at the Aberdeen Amputee Camp in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on March 30, 2003. The war in Sierra Leone was characterized by systematic forced amputations carried out on civilians of all ages. Over time, the camp has housed most of the surviving amputee population; however, the reintegration of amputees into society remains a real challenge.

| Photo by Marieke Wierda

Sierra Leone

To read about the ICTJ's work in Sierra Leone, see the Profile on pages 18–19.

South Africa

South Africa emerged from more than four decades of apartheid in 1994 with the election of Nelson Mandela as president. After 18 months of intense debate and preparation, the South African Parliament passed the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act in 1995, which mandated the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Two of the ICTJ's founding members played central roles in the TRC: Alex Boraine served as its deputy chairperson and Paul van Zyl was executive secretary. In March 2003, the TRC submitted its final report to the South African government.

ICTJ staff provided assistance to the TRC as it worked to complete its final report and recommendations, the most important of which involved reparations and possible criminal proceedings against accused perpetrators. In June 2002, the ICTJ worked with two local NGOs—the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation and the Legal Resources Centre—to sponsor a workshop in Johannesburg exploring strategies to pursue reparations and prosecutions in the post-TRC context.

Americas

Guatemala

After 36 years of violence in Guatemala, a UN-brokered peace agreement was signed in 1996. The human rights situation improved and steps were taken to decrease military influence in national affairs. In November 1999, Alfonso Portillo of the Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG) won the national elections. Despite criticism of Portillo's association with one of the country's bloodiest dictators, Efraín Ríos Montt, the populace generally supported his programs, which focused mostly on economic development. On March 13, 2003, the Guatemalan government and human rights organizations, faced with a worsening public corruption problem and violent harassment of human rights defenders, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Organization of American States to establish a commission to investigate post-1994 corruption and human rights abuse. In the meantime, the prosecution of persons responsible for human rights crimes continues before domestic courts.

The ICTJ, in conjunction with the Center for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH), a Guatemalan NGO, is assisting the national prosecuting authorities in developing their technical capacities in investigating and prosecuting massive crimes. Given the central role of victims' lawyers under Guatemalan criminal procedure, the Center has worked to strengthen CALDH's legal team. Senior Associate Paul Seils traveled to Guatemala in April 2002 to conduct a workshop with CALDH lawyers responsible for managing cases brought by victim groups for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the civil war. He also met with officials from the attorney general's office to discuss the progress on these cases and to develop ideas for further technical assistance.

In addition, Paul Seils and Research Director Pablo de Greiff met with Guatemalan NGO representatives in Washington, D.C., to discuss reparations. In October 2002, Mr. Seils returned to Guatemala City to share advice and suggestions gathered at the Washington meeting on proposed legislation for the national reparations program.



Captain Byron Lima Oliva (left), and his father, Colonel Disrael Lima Estrada (right), prepare to hear a verdict in the murder trial of human rights activist and Catholic Bishop Juan Gerardi on June 8, 2001, in the Guatemalan Supreme Court. Both men were sentenced to 30 years in prison for the 1998 murder of the bishop, which occurred shortly after he presented a report blaming the Guatemalan military for human rights abuses committed during the 36-year civil war.

| Photo by Andrea Nieto/Getty Images

Mexico

The election of President Vicente Fox in 2000 presented Mexico with the first real opportunity for change in more than 70 years. Although the record of the Fox administration has been mixed, he has taken some significant steps toward addressing human rights concerns, including appointing a special prosecutor in early 2002.

Alliances and Capacity Development Director Louis Bickford and other staff members worked with the Programa de Derechos Humanos, or Human Rights Program (PDH), at the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City to help inform discussion and debate on transitional justice themes. In May 2002, the ICTJ and PDH organized a seminar on “The Special Prosecutor in Comparative Perspective,” bringing together Special Prosecutor Ignacio Carrillo Prieto with a group of international experts and former prosecutors from Argentina, Belgium, Colombia, and Peru. The PDH and the ICTJ hosted a broader public event on the same topic, with a keynote speech by Alex Boraine.

In September 2002, the ICTJ and the PDH organized a delegation of Mexican human rights activists to visit Peru and meet with their counterparts. Working with the nongovernmental Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights (CMDPDH) in November 2002, the ICTJ organized a three-day training seminar on countering impunity with leaders and representatives from NGOs and victim groups. About a third of the participants came from underrepresented regions of the country.

Where We Work



The night before the beginning of the public hearings of the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Trujillo on September 25, 2002, community members participated in a native dance and candlelight vigil, and shared their thoughts on the hearings by writing on a poster affixed to the wall behind which the hearings were to take place. Among the many messages is “Nunca Mas” (“Never Again”). | Photo by Louis Bickford

Nicaragua

In 1979, the Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional (FSLN) took power in Nicaragua after 40 years of authoritarian rule. During the first two years of FSLN rule, the human rights situation improved, but then deteriorated during more than six years of civil war between the government and the U.S.-backed Contras. In 1990, following peace negotiations and then elections, Violeta Chamorro took office as president. Although she established a Tripartite Commission to investigate some violent uprisings, the mainstay of the peace was a tacit agreement to reconcile without looking back. Current President Enrique Bolaños won the November 2001 elections on an anticorruption platform.

Responding to an initiative by President Bolaños, in May 2002, British aid officials asked the ICTJ to help assess whether a Nicaraguan truth commission should be established. Paul van Zyl and Senior Associate Lisa Magarrell conducted interviews with government and civil society representatives. The consultation pointed to the need for Nicaragua to adopt a range of measures to promote impartiality, professionalism, and independence in state institutions, particularly the judiciary, but also noted the existence of a high degree of disagreement and suspicion regarding past conflicts. The consultation concluded that conditions conducive to the establishment of an effective and credible truth commission did not exist. Before establishing any truth-seeking initiative, a broad process of prior consultation would be required, leading to a bona fide commitment to uncover the truth and pursue justice.

Peru

Since Alberto Fujimori fled the country in late 2000, Peru has been attempting to address two decades of human rights and humanitarian law violations committed by both the government and armed opposition groups. Led by Lisa Magarrell, the Peru program has focused on providing support to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), reparations initiatives, and criminal justice strategies. Some of the program's greatest strengths have been its partnership with the Peruvian NGO Asociación

Pro Derechos Humanos (Association for Human Rights, APRODEH) and the trust established with TRC commissioners and staff.

Staff members have undertaken numerous missions to Peru, providing technical advice and comparative information on a range of issues. The Center has also brought more than a dozen regional and other specialized experts to the TRC and APRODEH, and collaborated with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on two projects.

In December 2002, at the request of APRODEH and the Ministry of Justice, Paul Seils and local experts conducted a training workshop for police, judges, and prosecutors on strategic and technical questions related to the investigation and prosecution of crimes arising out of past human rights violations. The ICTJ has also advised the TRC on a number of specific legal issues to assist their analysis of these violations.

In April 2002, the ICTJ and APRODEH launched a research project on the issue of reparations. Pablo de Greiff and Lisa Magarrell worked with a team of Peruvian and international consultants who conducted comparative research and an in-depth study of the Peruvian context. Their report was presented to government officials, the TRC, NGOs, and victim groups in October, and helped generate a degree of consensus on reparations among key stakeholders.

United States—Greensboro, North Carolina

On November 3, 1979, members of the Ku Klux Klan and the Nazi Party opened fire on a racially mixed gathering of political activists and labor organizers in Greensboro. The police failed to intervene as 5 protesters were killed and 10 wounded. Despite videotaped evidence and eyewitnesses, state and federal murder trials resulted in acquittals. The City of Greensboro has consistently denied any responsibility for the violence.

The Greensboro Truth and Community Reconciliation Project (GTCRP) is setting up a truth-seeking and educational inquiry that will examine the events of November 3 and their aftermath. The project, which has been commended by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, is the first U.S.-based project to expressly draw on the experience of truth commissions and may offer a useful model to other communities in the U.S. dealing with a history of injustice and intolerance.

Lisa Magarrell has provided extensive consultation to the GTCRP since late 2001, including the production of a detailed paper on selecting commissioners and a practical guide to the issues the project needed to address in establishing a truth commission. Those involved in the project used both documents extensively and cited them frequently as key resources. Ms. Magarrell and Priscilla Hayner have served as advisers at meetings of the project's National Advisory Committee and have facilitated contacts for the project with others in the transitional justice field and with interested media.

By March 2003, the GTCRP had advanced significantly in the design of a truth commission process and in organizing local support. The GTCRP hopes to set up the truth commission by late 2003 through a participatory selection process.

“The ICTJ staff has been invaluable to the Greensboro Truth and Community Reconciliation Project (GTCRP) by helping us navigate through new and uncharted waters as we undertake the first truth and reconciliation project of its kind in the United States. The Center has brought to the project a superior level of expertise and a global perspective, enhanced by a keen sensitivity to our particular needs in Greensboro. The City of Greensboro will owe a debt of gratitude to the ICTJ for helping us to become a better, more responsible, and compassionate city.”

—Rev. Nelson N. Johnson, Pastor, Faith Community Church and Local Task Force Member, GTCRP

Asia

Afghanistan

Since the Bonn Agreement of December 2001, the ICTJ has sought to ensure that accountability for massive human rights violations in Afghanistan is addressed in a constructive and realistic manner. In particular, the Center has focused on strengthening the voice of Afghan civil society and encouraging a sophisticated approach to accountability in the context of scarce resources and a precarious peace.

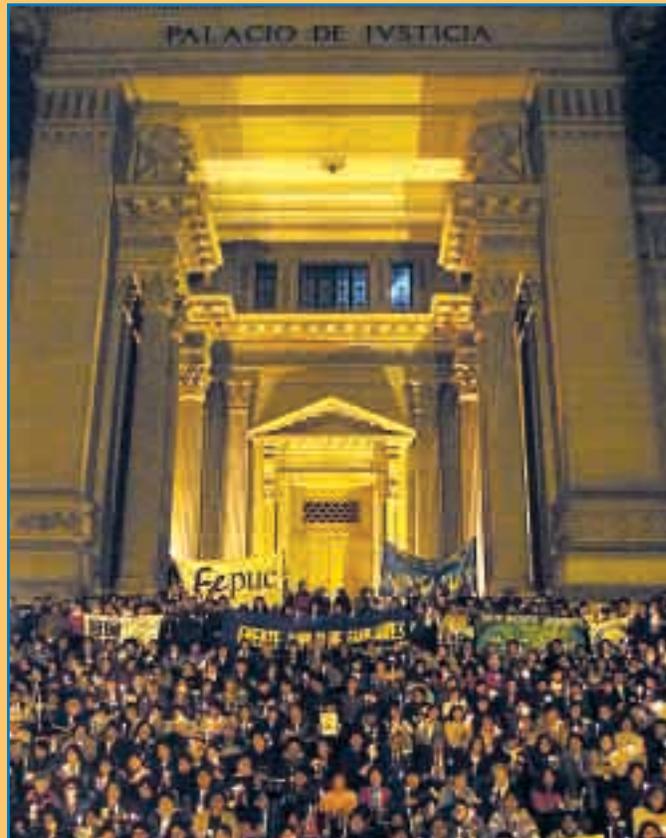
The ICTJ drafted a paper on transitional justice prior to the first meeting of a National Working Group on the Development of a National Strategy on Human Rights Monitoring, Investigations, and Transitional Justice in May 2002. The report stressed the importance of an extensive consultative process in addressing past crimes, and was largely incorporated into the initial work plan of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC).

Following a December 2002 assessment mission, ICTJ staff were invited to return to Kabul to conduct workshops on transitional justice with members of the AIHRC and civil society. In March 2003, Paul Seils and Senior Associate Marieke Wierda traveled to Kabul for a four-day workshop with the AIHRC on these issues. The ICTJ partnered with the International Human Rights Law Group to conduct a similar workshop with civil society groups from throughout the country.

Burma

In late 2000, confidence-building talks began between the military junta and the leader of the nonviolent movement for human rights and democracy, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, with hopes of a negotiated return to democracy. The talks stimulated renewed activity within the pro-democracy movement, which has been examining a range of transitional justice options in the event of a future transfer of power.

Despite recent setbacks, the ICTJ continues to consult with pro-democracy groups, including the exiled National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) and the National Council of the Union of Burma (NCUB), to examine ways in which transitional justice strategies might be effective in the long term. Louis Bickford and Paul van Zyl have also



On June 20, 2002, the night before the public hearings were to begin in Lima, a large group gathers in front of the Palace of Justice to show their support for efforts to achieve justice and reconciliation. The vigil was organized by the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the National Human Rights Coordinating Group to show solidarity with the victims of the violence.

| Photo by John Riley, courtesy of the TRC

been developing an analysis of transitional options in comparative perspective, examining cases such as Chile and South Africa, to discuss with key actors both inside and outside Burma.

The ICTJ has twice taught workshops on transitional justice for human rights activists at the Thai/Burma border as part of the “Training the Trainers” program of the nongovernmental Burma Lawyers’ Council.

Indonesia

Indonesia has begun a political transition following 32 years of dictatorship by General Soeharto, under whom the armed forces and other groups engaged in widespread human rights abuse. Although the first elected president, Abdurrahman Wahid, set up a Human Rights Court in 1999, there has been little progress toward officially addressing Indonesia’s legacy of abuse. Megawati Sukarnoputri assumed the presidency in July 2001 after the legislature removed Wahid from power. Under her watch, the Human Rights Court prosecuted persons allegedly responsible for crimes in East Timor, but independent observers have raised significant concerns about whether these trials constitute a sincere effort to pursue justice. The Center has commissioned a comprehensive analysis of the trials, analyzing the political, institutional, and legal aspects of the investigations, prosecutions, and judgments.

Where We Work



February 1, 2000. Suspected militia member spends time in a makeshift jail in Dili until a new facility can be found. Many of these individuals assisted the Indonesian military and militia in the destruction of East Timor and slaughter of more than a thousand East Timorese. | Photo by John Stanmeyer/VII

The Center has also commissioned a broad survey of transitional justice initiatives throughout Indonesia involving consultations in 22 cities with more than 175 organizations. The report showed an intense interest across Indonesia in dealing with the legacy of human rights abuse, and the ICTJ, together with partner NGOs, is currently developing a comprehensive strategy to promote transitional justice in the country.

Sri Lanka

On Christmas morning 2001, the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam declared a ceasefire, heralding cautious optimism about the prospect of peace after more than two decades of war. Since 1983, more than 60,000 people have been killed and over 800,000 internally displaced, and thousands were injured by land mines and bombs. Human rights activists have called for appropriate acknowledgement, accountability, and reparations for past injuries to promote a just and sustainable peace.

In July 2002, Alex Boraine gave the annual Neelan Tiruchelvan Memorial Lecture in Sri Lanka on “Truth and Reconciliation in Times of Conflict.”

Thereafter, Dr. Boraine and Vasuki Nesiah gave several public presentations and consulted broadly with individuals and organizations in government and civil society about the ways in which Sri Lanka might approach its own process of recovery.

Vasuki Nesiah, Paul van Zyl, and two ICTJ consultants returned to Sri Lanka in December 2002 to conduct workshops with local organizations, examining transitional justice issues in the context of the fragile peace process. Together with the International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES), the ICTJ helped establish the Transitional Justice Working Group, a coalition of NGOs that has begun an extensive consultation process across Sri Lanka on transitional justice strategies.

Returning in March 2003, Vasuki Nesiah contributed to a workshop on justice and reconciliation organized by the Center for Policy Analysis (CPA) and the Berghoff Foundation for Conflict Studies. The ICTJ also commissioned a report on human rights education in Sri Lanka to identify the issues at stake in incorporating the study of transitional justice into the human rights curriculum.

“In the context of an ongoing, yet fragile, peace process, coming to terms with past human rights violations in Sri Lanka is a complex and sensitive task. The ICTJ’s work in Sri Lanka reflects an appreciation of these challenges, and a nuanced view of transitional justice as a long-term process. The combination of the Center’s deep knowledge of the Sri Lankan context, and its expertise and experience in helping deeply divided communities address past human rights abuses, uniquely positions it to assist transitional justice efforts in Sri Lanka. The ICTJ makes an invaluable contribution to efforts by Sri Lankan civil society to rebuild a national conversation about justice, historical memory, and reparations.”

—Radhika Coomaraswamy, Chair, Human Rights Commission;
Executive Director, ICES; former Rapporteur on violence against women

Timor-Leste

A Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation (CAVR) was inaugurated in early 2002 with the help of the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). In addition to establishing a historical record of crimes committed over the past 25 years, the Commission will help communities reintegrate perpetrators of less serious offenses. UNTAET also established a Serious Crimes Unit to prosecute high-level perpetrators. Meanwhile, a number of Indonesian officers and others responsible for crimes committed in East Timor have been prosecuted before an ad hoc Human Rights Court in Jakarta. Independent observers have raised significant concerns about whether these trials constitute a bona fide effort to pursue justice.

ICTJ staff have been working closely with the East Timorese and UN officials since early 2000 on issues of justice and accountability. Priscilla Hayner and Paul van Zyl have helped to shape the Commission since its inception and have provided training and advice to its members. During missions in September 2002 and January 2003, Paul Seils provided advice on public hearings, legal issues, and the organization of investigation and research strategies. The Center also contracted a full-time consultant to work with the CAVR in Dili to refine its approach to statement taking, hearings, and investigations. In March 2003, Paul van Zyl and Senior Associate Federico Borello returned to Timor-Leste as part of a joint mission with the UN Development Programme to assess the Commission’s community reconciliation hearings and help it mobilize funds for the continuation of its work.

The ICTJ is committed to achieving maximum accountability for the crimes committed in East Timor in 1999. In January 2003, Vice President Ian Martin chaired an international conference on this issue in Melbourne, Australia, the conclusions and recommendations of which were sent to the president and government of Timor-Leste.

Europe

The former Yugoslavia

The assassination of Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic on March 12, 2003, shook Serbia and the whole region. Following years of reluctance, the government of Serbia and Montenegro modified its law on cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and intensified efforts to arrest suspects. While long-standing initiatives to establish truth commissions in the former republics have either remained stagnant or failed, this new environment might allow for a fresh re-

examination of past crimes, as demonstrated by plans to establish a War Crimes Chamber to prosecute war criminals before local courts, the drafting of a vetting law to bar human rights violators from office, and efforts to reveal the links between current organized crime and war criminals. The past year has also seen the opening of the landmark trial of Slobodan Milosevic and the ICTY’s decision to end its operations by 2008 and transfer remaining cases to domestic courts.

Alex Boraine gave testimony at the ICTY sentencing hearing for Biljana Plavsic, former president of Republika Srpska, on December 17, 2002. Ms. Plavsic was the first wartime leader to plead guilty to the charge of crimes against humanity and to apologize to her victims. Dr. Boraine was invited by both the prosecution and defense to speak about the potential contribution to reconciliation of Ms. Plavsic’s gesture. In his testimony, he underscored the importance of an act of acknowledgement and apology, but also the need for achieving justice in the aftermath of such horrible crimes.

During 2002, the Center commissioned a study examining all of the major national and international initiatives to investigate and document war crimes and human rights violations in the region. Subsequently, an NGO, the “Coalition for Reconciliation,” was established to advocate for accountability, reconciliation, and reform measures in Serbia and Montenegro. In July 2002, the ICTJ finalized and distributed a major report entitled “A Casualty of Politics: An Overview of Acts and Projects of Reparation on the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia,” documenting the scant attention paid to the subject of reparations in the former republics.

Meanwhile, material from the Bard College/ICTJ web-based archive of the Milosevic trial (<http://hague.bard.edu>) will be incorporated directly into the programs of Facing History and Ourselves, a U.S.-based NGO that educates American and European youth about social justice issues, including accountability for genocide and war crimes (for information on the archive, see page 8).

Middle East

Israel / Palestine

The promise of resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict within the framework of the Oslo Accords has given way to further violence, escalation of mistrust, and increased polarization. Although it is difficult to predict the path by which a final settlement may be reached, the ICTJ believes that a sustainable peace will require a constructive examination of a painful past.

In July 2002, the ICTJ brought together 16 individuals in New York representing several Israeli and Palestinian peace and human rights organizations. The group was visiting the United States as part of a collaborative effort to integrate human rights principles into the current peace process. The Center presented a range of perspectives on the application of transitional justice norms to situations where a peace agreement had not yet been achieved.

The ICTJ has identified transitional justice in the Middle East and North Africa as a programmatic priority and will expand its work in this area in the coming year. ■

New Country Initiatives

In the second quarter of 2003, the ICTJ undertook initiatives in four countries: **Colombia**, the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, **Iraq**, and **Paraguay**. Please refer to our website, www.ictj.org, for more information.

Global Justice

A Sample of Our Work

United States

Provided extensive consultation and strategic planning analysis to the Greensboro Truth and Community Reconciliation Project. Drafted a guide, drawing on foreign truth commissions, on the issues that need to be addressed in devising a mandate for a commission, and a paper on the commission selection process.

Mexico

Worked with the Human Rights Program at the Universidad Iberoamericana to further inform debate and discussion of transitional justice issues. Organized seminars with the special prosecutor's office on global accountability efforts. Co-organized a delegation of Mexican human rights activists to visit their counterparts in Peru and share experiences.

Guatemala

Worked with a local human rights organization to develop the legal capacity for managing cases brought by victims and met with prosecutors to develop training programs to assist their efforts. Offered advice to a coalition of NGOs in developing a national reparations program.

Nicaragua

Conducted interviews with government and civil society representatives to assess whether a truth commission should be established and evaluate the viability of such an institution. Outlined a list of conditions conducive to the creation of an effective and credible commission.

Peru

Provided technical assistance and information to the truth commission. Continued to work with human rights organizations to strengthen investigations and prosecutions of human rights violations. Co-launched a collaborative research project on a national reparations plan and provided policy advice on reparations to key Peruvian actors.

Sierra Leone

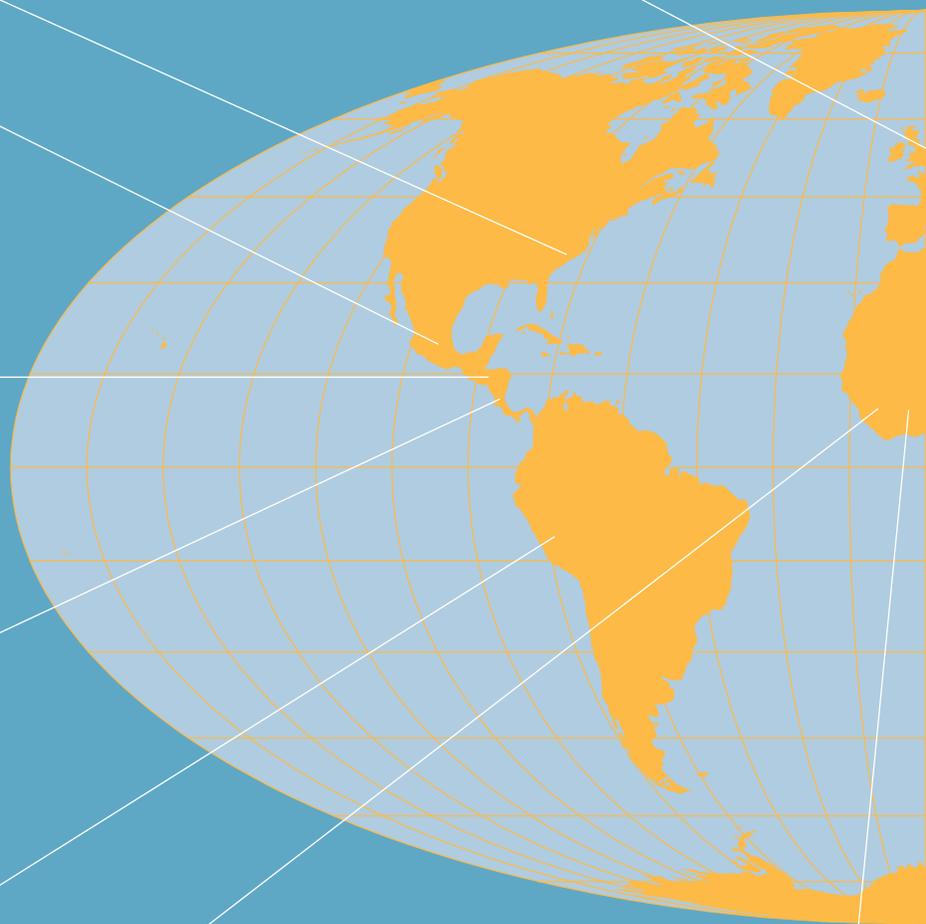
Provided technical assistance, legal advice, and comparative expertise to the truth commission and Special Court. Worked with local NGOs to support the work of the commission and Special Court. Drafted a paper defining the relationship between these institutions. Co-launched the Special Court Legacy Project to promote domestic legal reform.

The former Yugoslavia

Provided testimony at the ICTY sentencing hearing for a former Bosnian Serb leader, underscoring the importance of acknowledgement, apology, and accountability. Commissioned a study examining the major initiatives to investigate and document war crimes and human rights violations in the region. Distributed a report documenting the scant attention paid to reparations in the former republics.

Ghana

Advised the truth commission on a range of technical issues confronting the commissioners in carrying out the commission's mandate, as well as on operational issues related to public hearings, investigations, and documentation. Worked with a local human rights organization on defining and strengthening the role of civil society.



Israel / Palestine

Hosted a gathering bringing together representatives of several Israeli and Palestinian peace and human rights organizations to integrate human rights principles into the peace process. Presented comparative perspectives on applying transitional justice norms to a region still in conflict.

Afghanistan

Drafted a report stressing the importance of an extensive consultative process in addressing past crimes that was adopted by the local human rights commission. Co-sponsored workshops including members of the commission and civil society to formulate strategies for addressing past abuses and develop local transitional justice expertise.

Burma

Consulted with pro-democracy groups to examine ways in which transitional justice strategies could be effective in the long term. Developed an analysis of transitional justice options in comparative perspective to disseminate and discuss with key local and international actors. Conducted workshops on transitional justice for human rights activists at the Thai/Burma border.

Sri Lanka

Consulted broadly with individuals and organizations in government and civil society about the ways in which Sri Lanka might approach its process of recovery. Conducted workshops with local organizations examining transitional justice issues, including justice and reconciliation. Collaborated with a local organization on defining the role of civil society in formulating transitional justice strategies.

Indonesia

Commissioned a comprehensive analysis of the Jakarta human rights trials. Also commissioned a broad survey of transitional justice initiatives throughout the country to assist policymakers and civil society in developing a comprehensive transitional justice strategy for Indonesia.

Timor-Leste

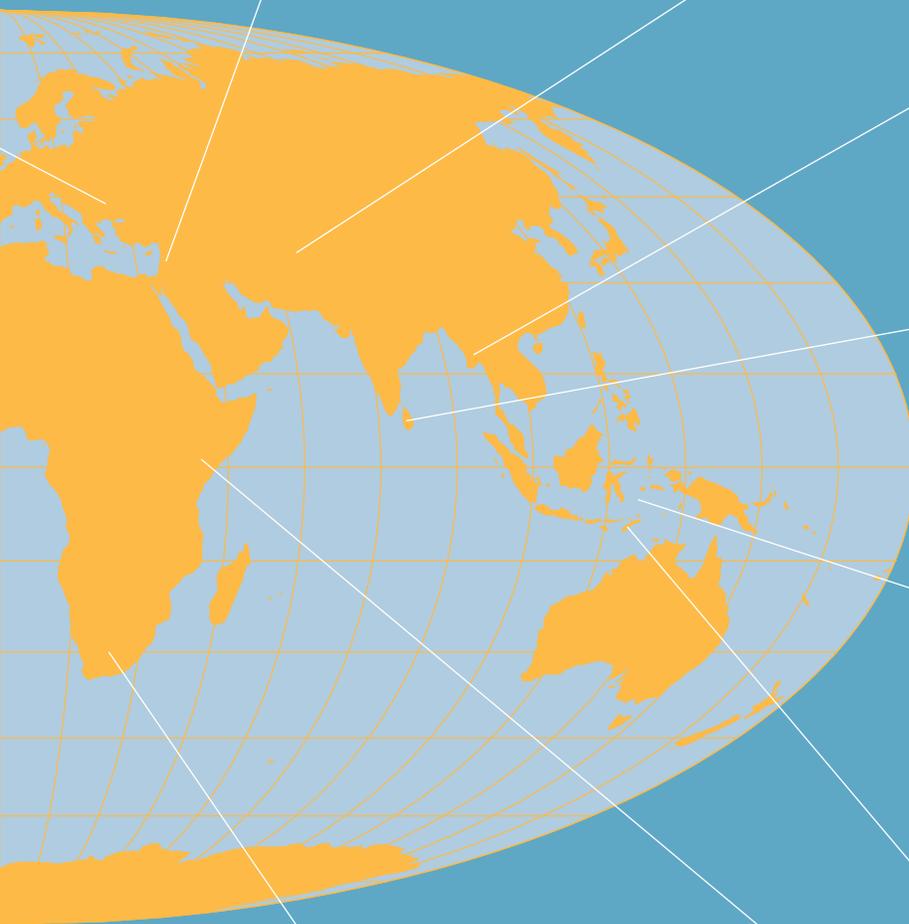
Provided training and advice to the truth commission, including on public hearings, investigations, research strategies, legal analyses, professional skills, and comparative information. Supported initiatives geared toward ensuring maximum accountability for past abuses and enhancing victim participation.

Kenya

Conducted a general assessment of in-country transitional justice initiatives under way. Advised truth commission task force on advantages and disadvantages of including corruption and economic crimes with human rights abuses in the mandate of a future commission. Outlined vetting options, including descriptions of programs implemented in other countries, for policymakers and civil society organizations.

South Africa

Provided legal and other assistance to the truth commission as it worked to complete its final report and recommendations. With local human rights organizations, co-sponsored a workshop exploring strategies to pursue reparations and prosecutions within the post-commission framework.



Sierra Leone



A teenaged Revolutionary United Front rebel soldier brandishes his weapon in the town of Koindu, Sierra Leone, on June 9, 2001. | Photo by Chris Hondros/Getty Images

Background

Sierra Leone is emerging from a 10-year conflict marked by intense and cruel violence against civilians, corruption, a struggle for control over the diamond mines, and recruitment of child soldiers. The civil war has left the country in physical and economic ruin. Tens of thousands of civilians are dead, and the number of persons raped, mutilated, or tortured is much higher still. The war captured international headlines over a prevalent policy of forced amputations, which were carried out even on very young children.

In July 1999, the government of Sierra Leone and the main rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), signed a peace agreement in Lomé, Togo, which included a controversial unconditional amnesty for all parties to the war. The government and RUF also agreed to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) that, although passed into law in February 2000, only became operational in late 2002.

Several months after the Lomé peace agreement was signed, conflict broke out again. In May 2000, some 500 United Nations peacekeepers were captured by RUF forces, which led to British intervention. Subsequently, the Sierra Leone government asked the UN to help it establish a Special

Court to hold individuals accountable for war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Special Court for Sierra Leone was established by an agreement between the UN and the government of Sierra Leone in January 2002, and its first officials arrived in Freetown in July 2002.

Special Court and Truth and Reconciliation Commission

The Special Court and the TRC offer an opportunity to pursue justice on two tracks: prosecuting high-level perpetrators while examining the conflict's history through a victim-centered, truth-seeking process.

The Special Court, a “hybrid” tribunal with domestic and international judges, has a mandate of three years to try those “who bear the greatest responsibility” for serious violations of international humanitarian law and certain domestic laws committed since November 30, 1996. In March 2003, the Prosecutor issued the first indictments against alleged leaders of the RUF and other factions, including the Minister of Interior. Trials will likely begin before the end of 2003.

The TRC has a 12-month mandate to take statements from victims and perpetrators, hold public hearings, and issue a final report and recommendations. It completed a four-month period of statement taking in

March 2003, during which it recorded about 7000 statements. Public hearings began in Freetown on April 14, 2003, and then moved to the provinces. The TRC's final report is expected to be released in late 2003 or early 2004 and will include binding recommendations to the government on how to alleviate the consequences of the war and institute reforms to prevent future conflict.

If the simultaneous operation of these two mechanisms is successful, it will not only assist Sierra Leone in moving beyond its troubled past, but will serve as an example to other countries that might benefit from a similar dual approach to accountability.

The ICTJ's Work

Before the ICTJ's founding in early 2001, Outreach and Analysis Director Priscilla Hayner was closely involved in the establishment of the TRC. As a consultant to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), she advised on the draft legislation for the TRC and made public presentations on methodological and organizational issues, including the handling of child perpetrators and victims.

In the fall of 2001, the OHCHR commissioned the ICTJ to draft a policy paper on the relationship between the Special Court and the TRC—a project deemed essential because the documents creating these institutions left issues regarding their relationship unresolved. Written mainly by Senior Associate Marieke Wierda, the paper focused on the difficult question of whether information gathered by the TRC in confidence should be disclosed to the Special Court. The Center proposed a test whereby information would be shared only if it is indispensable to deciding a case before the Special Court and not available from another source. This test was adopted by a UN Expert Group working on the issue, and a range of civil society actors also accepted it as the best approach.

Since the inception of the TRC, ICTJ staff have traveled to Freetown on many occasions to provide technical assistance and comparative expertise. The Center also provided consultants, including a database expert, and partnered with an NGO, the Post-conflict Reintegration Initiative for Development and Empowerment (PRIDE), to reach out to ex-combatants in an effort to understand their views of the TRC and Special Court. At the end of March 2003, President Alex Boraine and Marieke Wierda conducted seminars on public hearings with commissioners and other TRC staff. Dr. Boraine helped to broker a final cooperative agreement between the Amputee Association, an influential victim organization, and the TRC. "The ICTJ has been one of the few international NGOs to support the TRC process in Sierra Leone since its inception. Throughout our mandate, the Center has provided a variety of support, including technical assistance, consultancies, and materials," says Bill Schabas, one of the TRC's international commissioners.

The ICTJ has also provided the Office of the Prosecutor and the Registry of the Special Court with policy and legal advice on a number of key issues and has commissioned an expert journalist to conduct workshops with local journalists who will act as the main trial monitors. "In the 12 months that I have served as Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, my awareness of the crucial role that NGOs play in this process has grown significantly. This is in part due to the ICTJ, which has been a constant source of advice and assistance during the evolution of the Special Court," says Robin Vincent.

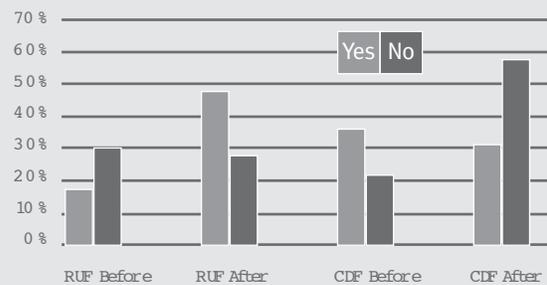
The ICTJ worked with the Sierra Leonean National Forum for Human Rights to jointly produce a reader-friendly handbook explaining the co-existence and compatibility of the TRC and Special Court and the objectives of each in plain, nontechnical terms, to be used by those informing the wider public in an effort to encourage cooperation with both institutions. Sheku Lahai, executive secretary of National Forum, called the handbook the "most interesting joint project with the ICTJ to

date," commending the fact that the "Center's work with local partners is not that of imposition but rather facilitation," and praising the handbook as "excellent and high-impact."

The PRIDE Report on Views of Ex-Combatants

The ICTJ also partnered with PRIDE in a survey of ex-combatants' perceptions of the TRC and the Special Court. The report is the only study of its kind that consulted this group, and shows that support among ex-combatants for each institution was relatively high. It also demonstrates that heightened knowledge of each institution and its objectives can lead to a direct increase in the level of support.

Would you agree to give a statement against your comrades or commanders to the Special Court?



Both rebel (RUF) and government-aligned (CDF) forces were asked whether they would provide the Special Court information about their co-combatants or commanders. Before they received comprehensive information about the Special Court, most RUF soldiers replied in the negative, while the reverse was true for CDF forces. However, after sensitization, RUF ex-combatants almost doubled their willingness to testify, while the CDF's aversion to testifying doubled. Focus group discussions support this finding and indicate that ex-CDF combatants initially perceived that the Special Court was not going to target them because they were defending their country and communities. After this misconception was corrected during sensitization sessions, the CDF emerged as more cautious, while the RUF was reassured (from page 29 of the PRIDE Report; to download a copy, go to www.ictj.org/africa/sierra.asp).

The Legacy Project

In February 2003, the ICTJ and the UN Development Programme's (UNDP) Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Recovery launched the "Special Court Legacy Project," which seeks to maximize on the presence of the Special Court in Freetown and the expertise it brings in order to achieve broader goals of legal reform of Sierra Leone's domestic system. The Center conducted a joint mission with UNDP and a rule of law specialist to identify and propose areas of focus, which are likely to be: revision of outdated and draconian criminal procedures; establishment of professional development and legal education programs; and projects that convey information on Special Court trials to the provinces. The first two focus areas would be advanced by a new Sierra Leonean organization called the Legal Reform Initiative. "The 'legacy' initiative...will serve to assist the Special Court in making a lasting contribution to the legal system of Sierra Leone," says Robin Vincent.

"Sierra Leone's transition is particularly hopeful due to the tremendous efforts of Sierra Leoneans and the international community to move the country beyond a violently troubled past by confronting it. The TRC's final report and the trials of those bearing the greatest degree of responsibility for past atrocities are courageous and positive steps that the ICTJ will continue to support," says Marieke Wierda. ■

Reparations Project



Kanau Jywanza shouts, “Reparations! Black Power!” as he joins other demonstrators demanding slave reparations on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on August 17, 2002. Hundreds of African-Americans rallied, asserting that it is long past time that they be compensated for the many ills of slavery. | Photo by Manny Ceneta/Getty Images

What Are Reparations?

In the aftermath of a conflict or after a long period of abuse, a government seeking to remedy the impact of human rights violations may turn to prosecutions and truth-seeking initiatives, but should also consider ways of providing redress to victims. Reparations can take the form of individual monetary compensation, financial and social service benefits to individuals or groups, symbolic acts such as apologies or memorials, or other means of addressing the injury individuals have suffered. Reparations constitute the new government’s most tangible effort *on behalf of victims*, distinct from justice mechanisms that—while important for victims—are primarily directed *against perpetrators*.

The ICTJ Reparations Research Project

The ICTJ is conducting the most comprehensive study of reparations programs anywhere in the world. Headed by Research Director Pablo de Greiff, the study draws on the findings of field researchers and examines 15 reparations programs worldwide.

The project addresses the difficulties that almost all reparations programs

have encountered in attempting to compensate victims in proportion to the harm they have suffered, and examines how justice can be pursued in the face of these constraints. The study has focused on the meaning of the term “reparations” *in practice*. In the context of massive reparations programs, the term refers to measures that are designed to provide benefits to victims directly.

The Center’s research emphasizes the importance of designing programs whose benefits reinforce one another and that are conceived as part of a broader transitional strategy including prosecutorial efforts, truth-telling, and institutional reform.

In addition to in-depth case studies, the project includes studies on a variety of issues that arise in the design and implementation of reparations programs, including: the standard of justice in massive cases; international law obligations; the relationship between reparations programs and civil litigation; the funding of reparations programs; the politics of coalition building behind reparations; the impact of reparations on economic development; and the relationship between compensation and symbolic reparation.

The principal field research was completed in early 2003 and the final report will be published in 2004.

In addition to the following case studies, the final report will also examine reparations programs in Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Germany (slave and forced labor), Guatemala, Haiti, Malawi, Sri Lanka, and the United States (Japanese-Americans after World War II and African-Americans).

A Sample of Case Studies

Chile

The 17-year dictatorship of General Pinochet (1973–1990) resulted in more than 3000 deaths, as well as acts of torture and other human rights violations against hundreds of thousands of victims. In order to address the suffering of these individuals and their families, Chile has undertaken efforts at reparations that, although uncoordinated, add up to a vast number of beneficiaries. The ICTJ's research has revealed the magnitude of these efforts when they are taken as a whole. Some of the programs include:

- Families of those killed or disappeared are entitled to a lifetime monthly pension. Nearly 6000 persons began receiving benefits in 1992 and half that number was still receiving pensions a decade later. Although relatively modest (US \$318 per family in 1992), the benefits ensured some income and were explicitly distributed as recognition of state responsibility. The program also included scholarships for the children of the victims, exemption from military service, and health benefits.
- Since 1992, a comprehensive health care program with increasingly expanding coverage has been serving a broad range of beneficiaries, from political prisoners to the families of the disappeared, to all victims of torture. By 2002, more than 93,000 individuals were registered with the program.
- More than 100,000 former state and private industry employees fired for political reasons have applied for pension readjustments and retirement benefits under laws passed in 1993 and 1998. Nearly half are already receiving benefits.

Germany (Holocaust victims)

In 1952, the German government negotiated an agreement with Israel to compensate survivors of the Holocaust. Germany agreed to pay the equivalent of US \$882 million to the Conference on Jewish Claims Against Germany and to the State of Israel to assist Jewish refugees and to help build Israeli infrastructure. Payments are still ongoing and have exceeded more than \$60 billion. The German Finance Ministry estimates that it will pay out almost \$20 billion more by the year 2030, when, according to its calculations, the last survivor will have died. The number

of recipients outstrips that of most other programs: more than 500,000 Holocaust survivors in almost 70 countries have received some form of compensation.

Iraq

The Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait began on August 2, 1990, and ended in April 1991 after an international military campaign. Shortly after the end of the conflict, the United Nations Security Council established the UN Compensation Commission to process claims and pay compensation for loss, damage, or injury suffered by individuals, corporations, governments, and international organizations as a direct result of the unlawful invasion and occupation. The Commission was authorized to use 30 percent of Iraq's oil proceeds to carry out the corresponding payments (25 percent since December 2000). Out of 2.6 million claims, all but 100,000 have been processed and 1.5 million have received compensation totaling US \$17.5 billion. The overall total for all types of claims is estimated at more than \$350 billion.

September 11, 2001

The U.S. government established the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund to grant compensation to individuals or personal representatives of individuals killed or physically injured in the course of that day's events. The U.S. Congress has appropriated approximately \$4 billion to the fund. In addition to awards given for economic loss, one-time awards are given in the amount of \$250,000 to each victim's family, with another \$100,000 for each dependent. It is estimated that an average of \$1.5 million will be awarded to each

family. As of April 2003, approximately 1400 claimants have filed applications and roughly 300 have been granted compensation.

South Africa

Under apartheid, the majority of South Africans were denied basic human rights; those who opposed the system were banished, imprisoned, or suffered other serious consequences. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommended that six yearly payments of just under US \$3600 at the 1998 exchange rate (equivalent to the average household income) be distributed to about 22,000 victims. After a great deal of frustration and protest against the lack of progress in implementing the recommendations, the government decided to make urgent interim reparations (UIR) to victims and their families. UIR payments began in July 1998 and consisted of one-time payments ranging from approximately \$260 to \$790, only a fraction of what the TRC recommended. Approximately 14,000 victims have received UIR payments. In April 2003, the government announced its intention of making a one-time payment of less than \$3000 to the 22,000 victims identified by the TRC. ■



March 2003. Kenneth Feinberg, the Special Master of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, begins his work day at 6 A.M. in his Washington, D.C., office, surrounded by case law related to the September 11th tragedy.

| Photo by Stephen Ferry

Program Overview



Totonicapan, Guatemala, November 2001. Quiche woman gives offering both for victims and perpetrators of army repression in front of a Mayan altar on the Day of the Dead.
| Photo by Mischa Prince

Country Programs

To read about the ICTJ's Country Programs Unit, led by Director Paul van Zyl, see the Where We Work section on pages 10–15.

Research

Under the leadership of Director Pablo de Greiff, the Research Unit has launched several projects. The most extensive initiative, involving multiple research teams worldwide, is the Global Study of Reparations measures following transitions to democracy, described in detail in the Reparations Profile (pages 20–21).

The ICTJ also continued work on a long-term global study, *Countering Amnesties: Preserving the Right to Justice*, led by former Senior Associate Mark Freeman. This study examines laws that prevent prosecution of individuals who have committed human rights crimes and related violations. By identifying trends and patterns, this research will assist lawyers and activists in efforts to oppose, prevent, and repeal unprincipled amnesties. Associates at the New York law firm of Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton conducted initial research for the project.

Under the direction of Mark Freeman, associates at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, together with ICTJ interns and externs and Columbia Law School students, undertook a major comparative study of procedural fairness standards pertaining to truth commissions. A draft of the study, *Due Process Considerations for Truth Commissions*, was completed in March 2003 and compares past practices of truth commissions with those in analogous nonjudicial proceedings. This study aims to produce a practical and detailed handbook for reference by academics, activists, and those who sponsor or operate truth commissions.

In conjunction with New York University Law School, the ICTJ previously commissioned papers to record lessons learned from the truth commissions in Guatemala and South Africa. To make the conclusions from this Lessons Learned project more accessible, the Center commissioned an article, co-written by Mark Freeman, providing an overview and analysis of all of these papers. The study will be published later in 2003 in the *Human Rights Quarterly*.

The ICTJ also continued work on the Long-Term Legacies/Consolidated Democracies project, examining the responses of established democracies to long-term legacies of human rights abuse. Led by Senior Associate Lisa Magarrell, this research includes a selection of cases from Australia, Europe, and North America. The study will provide an overview of transitional justice measures used to address past abuses.

Outreach and Analysis

The Outreach and Analysis Unit, led by Director Priscilla Hayner, was created within the ICTJ's program structure in early 2003 in order to strengthen certain aspects of the Center's existing programs, as well as to develop key new areas. The following programs, undertaken in 2002–2003, now fall under this unit.

Outreach and Institutional Relations

The ICTJ values its relationships with both international and national colleague organizations and has collaborated on specific projects with Amnesty International, Freedom House, Human Rights Watch, the International Federation for Human Rights, the International Human Rights Law Group, International IDEA, the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, and others. The Center has also benefited from expertise and project input provided by the law schools of Columbia University, Harvard University, New York University, the University of Notre Dame, and the University of

Seattle, as well as the Human Rights Project at Bard College. The ICTJ works closely with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Development Programme, the UN Department of Political Affairs and Office of Legal Affairs, and other departments within the United Nations, and hopes to deepen these relationships and develop new ones in the coming years.

Analysis

The ICTJ's provision of direct assistance to ongoing transitional justice initiatives puts it in an advantageous position to provide both descriptive and analytical accounts of the new, cutting-edge developments taking place around the world. The new Analysis program will make public short papers describing each of these initiatives and, over the next year, plans to write a number of comparative analytical articles across key thematic areas. These publications will be available on the ICTJ website (www.ictj.org).

Policymakers Program

The Center is further advancing its program to reach policymakers, especially those in intergovernmental organizations, to provide an overview of the lessons and precedents emerging from this field. United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has invited the ICTJ to provide a training seminar for senior officials from a number of UN departments. This program and others are planned for later in 2003.

Documentation Center

Under the direction of Documentation Officer Eric Darko, the ICTJ has continued to build and maintain a specialized collection of primary and secondary documents. In 2002, the Documentation Center provided books, articles, and edited videos to the truth commissions in Ghana, Peru, Sierra Leone, and Timor-Leste, as well as to individuals and organizations in a number of other countries. The Center implemented a new database software system and expanded its physical space, making its holdings more easily and readily accessible to both staff and visitors. The Documentation Center also began a video project to collect and edit footage of the public hearings of currently operating truth commissions.

Alliances and Capacity Development

Through network development and training programs led by Director Louis Bickford, the Alliances and Capacity Development Unit aims to enhance the ability of local organizations to promote transitional justice initiatives and facilitate communication and collaboration among human rights activists and organizations.

Transitional Justice Alliance

In April 2002, the ICTJ convened an international group of leaders in the field of transitional justice to discuss the creation of a global network, the Transitional Justice Alliance, in an effort to enhance communication and knowledge sharing among human rights and democracy organizations and activists. The most important component of this alliance is a series of ICTJ-coordinated "affinity groups," small clusters of like-minded individuals and organizations who share interests in a specific theme or region.

Participants from human rights organizations and individuals working on transitional justice initiatives created the Managing Truth Commissions Affinity Group (MTC) in response to the multiple challenges encountered in establishing and operating truth commissions. In its first meeting in early December 2002 in New York, the MTC group brought together the executive management of truth commissions in Ghana, Peru, and Timor-Leste and the former executives of truth commissions in Argentina, Guatemala, and South Africa. Participants exchanged ideas, strategies, and experiences on subjects ranging from public hearings to database management.

The African NGOs Affinity Group (ANGO) originally emerged from discussions among fellows involved in the 2002 Transitional Justice Fellowship Program. ANGO is an effort to gather together some of the major NGOs in Africa directly involved in formulating transitional justice strategies in their regions, as well as a few international NGOs, to create a space for these practitioners to share experiences and ideas, and help each other improve ongoing and future efforts. An Africa-wide meeting geared toward finalizing plans for the creation of this group will take place in Kenya in late spring 2003.

Several other affinity groups are currently in early phases of planning, including the Prosecutions Strategies Affinity Group, the Youth Affinity Group, and the Memory and Memorials Affinity Group.

Transitional Justice Fellowship Program

The ICTJ expanded its 2003 Transitional Justice Fellowship Program, its second to date, and selected more than 20 human rights practitioners from 13 African and Southeast Asian countries (see pages 24–25). The program is based at the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation in Cape Town, South Africa. In 2004, the Center will also launch a new fellowship program based in Santiago, Chile. Emphasizing both *intra*regional and *cross*-regional sharing of knowledge and experience, the program seeks to prepare fellows for participation in the development of transitional justice strategies in their home countries. Several of the 2002 fellowship program alumni have become partners and colleagues of the ICTJ. The Center has also developed an alumni program, including an interactive website for alumni and an annual Alumni Conference.

Training Program

Through a partnership with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Center oversaw the production of a training module on transitional justice to be used in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and also completed training modules on selecting commissioners for truth commissions and creating memorials for victims of past human rights abuse. ■



Thai/Burma border, October 16, 2002. Burmese human rights and democracy grassroots leaders transferred knowledge and skills in implementing transitional justice strategies as part of a "Training the Trainers" course, co-taught by Sai Myint Thu (middle row, second from right), a 2002 Transitional Justice Fellow, and ICTJ Director Louis Bickford (center back row). | Photo courtesy of Burma Lawyers' Council

The Transitional Justice Fellowship Program 2003 Fellows

Augustina Aforo-Yeboah has been an award-winning journalist for 16 years, focusing on the human rights of women and children in Ghana. She is the national coordinator of the human rights NGO, Ghanalert, and the acting features editor of Ghana's second-largest newspaper, *The Ghanaian Times*.



Luciano Chianeque is a theologian with the Seminário Emanuel Unido do Huambo in Angola and holds graduate degrees in theology from the University of Durban, Westville. His publications include *A Biblical Mandate for Social Change* and *Angolan Conflict and African Theology in the Face of Globalization*.



Zuaibatu Ann-Marie Browne is a founding member of the University of Sierra Leone 50-50 groups, which advocate a higher level of participation by women in politics. She has volunteered with the Gender Ministry, as well as the Post-conflict Reintegration Initiative for Development and Empowerment, working with ex-combatants on issues including gender-based violence and the truth commission and Special Court.

Sophearith Choung has dedicated recent years to the now-independent DC-Cambodia program established in 1995 as part of Yale University's Cambodian Genocide Program to document Khmer Rouge crimes. He is one of three staff writers for DC-Cambodia's monthly magazine, *Searching for the Truth*, and has tracked Khmer Rouge human rights abuses for several years.



Franklin Oduro, an alumnus of the 2002 Transitional Justice Fellowship Program, is a program officer at the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana). He is also the coordinator of the CDD's Civil Society Coalition on National Reconciliation, a forum feeding into the Ghana National Reconciliation Commission, and a member of the steering committee of the African NGOs Affinity Group. Franklin characterizes the impact of the Transitional Justice Fellowship on his contribution to CDD-Ghana: "I have been given recognition for my level of knowledge on transitional justice issues." He is often called upon to reflect on the comparative experiences of other truth commissions, knowledge he credits to the Comparative Transitions sections of the fellowship.

The experience of meeting and interacting with emerging human rights professionals from Africa and Southeast Asia was invaluable for Franklin. "For the first time in my life, I had the opportunity to meet people from Southeast Asia and recognize our common challenges, such as military brutality," he says, referring to a case-study presentation from a Burmese fellow. "Even though we are geographically distant, our countries are very similar. The Transitional Justice Fellowship Program is a crucial step toward building a network of the new generation to promote peace, accountability, and good governance."

Photo by Jaffar Gotah

Photos by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation

Farishta Sakhi was a civil/political affairs assistant with the UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan. She sits on the steering committee of the Afghan Women's Association for Social Services and is an active member of the Open Media Fund for Afghanistan, Afghan Women Lawyers and Professionals, and the Afghanistan Institute of Learning.

Natalia Hera Setiyawati is the assistant human rights program manager of the TIFA Foundation in Indonesia, which focuses on the rights of the Indonesian people. She is a law graduate from Brawijaya University in Indonesia and has written a thesis analyzing the impact of work segregation on wage policies for women in the industrial sector.



Ana Paula Sequeira Da Cruz Pina has worked for the United Nations in Timor-Leste on human rights and civil society development. A founder of two NGOs in Timor-Leste, she has coordinated women's groups and voter education and most recently served as a district representative on East Timor's National Council.

Edward Joseph Sam is a commissioner with the National Commission for Democracy and Human Rights for the Eastern Region of Sierra Leone, where he serves as the focal point for legal aid and human rights education and monitoring. He has also worked closely with the University of Sierra Leone to investigate the antecedents of the rebel war in that country.

Naw Paw Wah Thumla started working with youth and women's organizations in Thailand after finishing her high school education in Burma. She completed a diplomacy course through Earth Rights International in Southeast Asia, where she focused on human rights, transitional justice, and constitutional issues. She has also worked for the Initiative for International Dialogue in the Philippines.

Simão Cacumba Morais Faria began working in 1998 as a humanitarian at Club UNESCO in Kilamba, Angola, where he provided alternative education to displaced children in one of the poorest areas of the city. He is a founder of the Association for Reintegration of Youth/Children in Social Community Life and a member of the Network of African Peace-Builders.



Aziz Ahmad Hakimi was a human rights officer for the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, where he played a principal role in mobilizing support for the creation of Afghanistan's first Human Rights Commission. The author of numerous reports and articles on humanitarian protection and human rights, he has worked for government agencies and NGOs in Pakistan and Afghanistan.



Helena Manuela Ferreira Igreja is a law graduate from Mozambique. Her research focuses on the concept of state under Mozambique's first president, Samora Machel. She has worked for the NGO, Associacao Esperanca Para Todos, and as a field researcher with the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation in South Africa.



Didace Kanyugu is a Burundian magistrate and human rights activist with a law degree from the University of Burundi. He is a member of the Burundian Human Rights League ITEKA, Christian Action Against Torture, and the UNESCO Club, and is also a regular participant in seminars on conflict resolution, human rights, and transitional justice.



Yvonne Mahlunge, a lawyer and human rights activist, is a founding member of several human rights NGOs, as well as of Zimbabwe's main opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). She was a member of the MDC's Interim Executive Committee and was elected to the National Executive.

Wellington Mbofana is national director of the Civic Education Network Trust in Zimbabwe. He is a board member of the Media Monitoring Project of Zimbabwe, the Zimbabwe Peace Project, and the Zimbabwe Election Support Network. A member of several other prominent NGOs, in 2000 he was chief writer and editor of the PACE-NET Zimbabwe Parliamentary Election report.



Damien Mbikyo Mulinga directs the Institute of Human Rights Education for Peace Promotion in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He has also done graduate work in Comparative Education at Makerere University in Uganda, where he has written a thesis on education and the use of corporal punishment.



Nomsangaphi Regina Nduku is an educator in the rural areas of the Eastern Cape in South Africa. Her work has put her in direct contact with the injustices suffered by those living in rural areas, which has formed the basis of her commitment to expand her experience to the areas of justice and human rights.

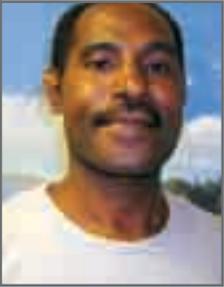


Pierre-Claver Nsengiyumva is the assistant project manager in the Peace Building Program at Care International in Burundi. He was previously a humanitarian worker with the UN World Food Programme and has been a freelance Great Lakes Region political analyst for Radio Publique Africaine, a private local radio station in Burundi.



Phakama Ntshongwana worked for the South Africa Truth and Reconciliation Commission for three years and was part of a Human Rights Commission team conducting research on chronic poverty in the rural Eastern Cape region. She holds a M.Sc. in International Development from the University of Bath, England.

Dorus Wakum is a human rights activist committed to promoting safeguards against government abuses in Papua, Indonesia. A graduate of the Teacher Training and Education College in North Sulawesi, Gorontalo, as well as the Institute of Science and Technology, he has worked as a teacher and a member of the Papuan division of the human rights NGO, Kontras.



U Htain Win is a Professor Emeritus at the Department of International Relations at Dagon University and the National Defense College, both in Yangon, Burma. He is also a member of several academic institutions, including the Myanmar Academy of Science, the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, and the Myanmar New Century Resource Center.

Maria Rosa Xavier contributed to the East Timorese people's struggle for independence through her participation in the student movement, Clandestine, and her assistance in organizing voter education. A social/political science major at the University of Timor-Leste, she has studied conflict resolution, student movements, and the role of NGOs and the UN in Cambodia.



Nansata Saliah Yakubu is a program officer with the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), where she is directly involved in the CDD's program on the National Reconciliation Commission. She holds degrees in religion and international affairs from the University of Ghana, and has written a thesis on the South Africa Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Mounirath Yin has served as a program assistant to the Cambodian Court Training Project, which works closely with the Ministry of Justice, and as a legal assistant with Legal Aid of Cambodia. He most recently headed the legislative development program of a local NGO and is a member of a criminal code working group at the Ministry of Justice.



Staff

ICTJ staff members come from diverse national backgrounds and bring with them broad professional experience. They include nationals or dual-nationals of Colombia, Croatia, Egypt, Ghana, Honduras, Italy, Kenya, Netherlands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, United States, and Zimbabwe. Among them, 17 languages are spoken. Program staff members hold degrees in a variety of disciplines, including business administration, communications, economics, history, international affairs, law, library science, philosophy, political studies, and theology.

Alex Boraine President

The founding president of the ICTJ, Alex Boraine was deputy chairperson of the South Africa Truth and Reconciliation Commission from 1995 to 1998, serving under Archbishop Desmond Tutu. His book about the experience, *A Country Unmasked*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2000. Previously, he headed two South African organizations concerned with ending apartheid and addressing its legacy. An ordained Methodist minister and long-time opposition Member of Parliament in South Africa, he teaches law at New York University.

Ian Martin Vice President

Ian Martin served as Secretary General of Amnesty International from 1986 to 1992 and went on to play a central role in several international missions. He was the human rights director of the UN/OAS Mission to Haiti, Chief of the UN Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda, and Deputy High Representative for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He also served as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Mission in East Timor in 1999, and as the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Ellen Baird Executive Assistant to the Vice President

Ellen Baird has taught English to Cambodian, Laotian, and Vietnamese women refugees for the San Francisco-based nonprofit, Refugee Transitions, and to children in bilingual schools in Guadalajara and Guanajuato, Mexico. She holds a B.A. in German from the University of California-Berkeley and an M.F.A. in Dance/Choreography from Mills College.

Lorraine Belgrave Executive Assistant to the President

Lorraine Belgrave received her B.A. in Mathematics with a minor in Education. She taught in the New York City Public School System before joining the Ford Foundation as assistant to Fred Friendly, considered the dean of broadcast journalism. Upon Mr. Friendly's retirement, she became assistant to Ellen Futter, president of Barnard College and later of the American Museum of Natural History.

Amelia Betancourt Program Assistant (to August 2002)

Amelia Betancourt received her B.A. in Sociology from Boston College in 1996. She then continued on to Columbia University, where she received her M.A. in Latin American Literature. After teaching Spanish for a year, she joined the United States Peace Corps, where she served in the highlands of Guatemala for 27 months.

Louis N. Bickford Director, Alliances and Capacity Development

Louis Bickford was previously associate director of the Global Studies Program and a lecturer in International Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he coordinated the Legacies of Authoritarianism Project and taught regular seminars on human rights. Prior to that, he worked as a frequent consultant to the human rights program of the Ford Foundation's Santiago office and was a Visiting Researcher at the Faculty of Latin American Social Sciences (FLACSO-Chile). He earned his Ph.D. from McGill University and an M.A. from the New School.

Federico Borello Senior Associate

Federico Borello has served with the United Nations and other international agencies, including the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Rwanda and Cambodia, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. He holds a law degree from the University of Milan, Italy, and a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University in New York.

Lydia K. Bosire Program Associate

Lydia Bosire holds a Masters in Public Administration and a B.A. in Government with a concentration in International Relations, both from Cornell University. She is a co-founder of Youth Against AIDS, an international youth network, and in that capacity has worked with such organizations as UNICEF, UNFPA, and the United Nations Youth Unit on youth participation projects. Under Family Health International, she was coordinator for the Barcelona YouthForce, the youth media platform of the XIV International AIDS Conference.

Eric O. Darko Documentation Officer

A lawyer and librarian, Eric Darko served as the organizing secretary of the University of Ghana branch of the Movement for Freedom and Justice, a pressure group that advocated a return to democratic rule in Ghana. He has worked as a reference librarian at The New York Public Library, and was head of circulation and bibliographic instruction at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, Riverdale. He is admitted to practice law in New York and Ghana.

Pablo de Greiff Director, Research

Pablo de Greiff was an associate professor of philosophy at the State University of New York at Buffalo and a Rockefeller fellow at Princeton University. He is an expert on Colombia's political system and has written on transitions to democracy, democratic theory, and the relationship between morality, politics, and law. He is the editor of five books, including Jürgen Habermas's *The Inclusion of the Other* (MIT Press, 1998) and, most recently, *Global Justice and Transnational Politics*, a collection of essays on cross-national obligations (MIT Press, 2002).

Mark Freeman Senior Associate (to October 2002)

Mark Freeman previously worked with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and has continued his association with the ICTJ as a consultant. He has participated in a wide range of human rights projects in Canada and Latin America over the past decade.

Suzana Grego Director of Communications (from March 2003)

Prior to joining the ICTJ, Suzana Grego directed communications programs for IBM Lotus Software. She has also managed a business development program in Russia under the auspices of the International Executive Service Corps, a nonprofit consulting organization, and worked as a human rights activist with the Croatian Helsinki Committee in Zagreb, Croatia. She holds a B.A. in Government from Harvard University and a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University.

Priscilla Hayner Director, Outreach and Analysis

Priscilla Hayner, a co-founder of the ICTJ, has written widely on the subject of official truth-seeking in political transitions. She is the author of *Unspeakable Truths* (Routledge, 2001), which explores the work of more than 20 truth commissions worldwide. She has worked as a consultant to the Ford Foundation, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and other organizations. She was previously a program officer on international human rights and world security for the Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation. She holds degrees from Earlham College and the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.

Karmen Jelincic Director of Communications (to January 2003)

An independent filmmaker and journalist, Karmen Jelincic co-directed the Emmy award-winning documentary film, *Calling the Ghosts*. She served as special adviser to the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the UN from 1997 to 1999.

Rebecca Lichtenfeld Program Assistant

Rebecca Lichtenfeld obtained her B.A. in Latin American Studies in 1997 from Wesleyan University. She spent part of that time living and studying abroad in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Prior to joining the ICTJ, she administered a fellowship program throughout Latin America related to Collective Memory and Political Violence.

Andrew Ludwick Director of Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer (to January 2003)

Andrew Ludwick has led the financial and administrative operations of several nonprofit organizations. He has also served as treasurer for a municipality and a large school district and has worked with an international "Fortune 500" company and a "Big Five" international accounting firm.

Rachel Madenyika Management and Research Assistant

Rachel Madenyika previously worked at the Quaker United Nations Office, where her main focus was on the UN's Financing for Development. She graduated from Guilford College, with a B.S. in Business Management and International Studies, Latin America concentration. While at Guilford, she studied in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Lisa Magarrell Senior Associate

Lisa Magarrell holds law degrees from the Universities of Iowa and El Salvador, and a Master of Laws degree from Columbia University with a focus on International Law and Human Rights. Following a number of years of legal work on the rights of immigrant workers and political asylum seekers in the U.S., she led the international legal section of the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission of El Salvador (CDHES) from 1988 through 1994, and then went on to spend five years as a political affairs officer with the UN Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA).

Jim McGarry Director of Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer (from January 2003, formerly Accountant)

Jim McGarry has more than 30 years' experience in various nonprofit organizations, including serving as CFO of City Harvest Inc. and the American Ballet Theatre. For the past nine years he has taught courses in financial management for not-for-profit organizations at the NYU School of Professional Development.

Jennifer McHugh Program Assistant

Jennifer McHugh obtained her B.A. in Spanish from the University of Minnesota in 1997 and spent a semester at the University of Seville, Spain. Following graduation, she worked in Barranquilla, Colombia, for just under a year. She worked in marketing communications in the international financial services sector before joining the ICTJ.

M. Kelli Muddell Program Associate

Kelli Muddell graduated from North Park College of Chicago with a B.A. in Sociology in 1996. She received a Presidential Fellowship to attend Fordham University, where she earned an M.A. in International Political Economy and Development with a concentration in Development Studies. While in graduate school, she interned in the Africa Division of Human Rights Watch.

Vasuki Nesiah Senior Associate

Vasuki Nesiah completed her doctorate in Public International Law at Harvard Law School, where she also received her J.D. with honors. She has published and lectured in international and comparative law, feminist theory, law and development, postcolonial studies, constitutionalism, and governance in plural societies. She holds a B.A. in Philosophy and Political Science from Cornell University.

Dawn Page Development Coordinator

Dawn Page earned a B.A. in History from Swarthmore College and focused most of her coursework in the areas of Latin American Studies and Inter-

national Relations. While at Swarthmore, she studied in Merida, Venezuela, and also attended the University of Salamanca in Spain. She has worked at Swarthmore College and at the New School University.

Judit Pousada Office Manager (to February 2003)

Judit Pousada holds a B.A. in Comparative Literature and has worked for various nonprofit organizations in New York.

Sarah Rutledge Communications Associate

Sarah Rutledge has nine years' experience managing copy for legal and professional publishing companies, including Warren, Gorham & Lamont, Research Institute of America, and Book-of-the-Month Club, Inc. She holds both M.A. and B.A. degrees in English from the University of Connecticut.

Paul Seils Senior Associate

Paul Seils was legal director for the Center for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH) in Guatemala City from 1997 to 2001, focusing on prosecutions against the Military High Command on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity. He specializes in national criminal justice initiatives in political transitions. He formerly practiced as a criminal defense lawyer in Scotland, and also served as the Scottish Refugee Council's legal director from 1994 until 1997. He holds degrees in philosophy, languages, and law, including an LL.M. in Public International Law from University College, London.

Carol Skyrn Director of Development

A seasoned fundraiser, Carol Skyrn has worked since 1981 in communications and development with international organizations, including the American University in Cairo, International House in New York, the UN Department of Public Information, and Interlink Press Service. Prior to joining the ICTJ, she was development director for the Population Council. She holds graduate degrees from the University of Washington and the Université de Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne).

Sherien Sultan Program Assistant

Sherien Sultan graduated with a degree in International Relations from the American University in Cairo in 1999. Following graduation, she worked with a number of NGOs in Egypt as an independent researcher on gender issues before completing her M.A. in Liberal Studies at The Graduate School and University Center of CUNY, with an emphasis on women and development. Prior to joining the ICTJ, she worked as a research assistant with the Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center at CUNY.

Paul van Zyl Director, Country Programs

Paul van Zyl, a co-founder of the ICTJ, has acted as an adviser and consultant to international organizations, governments, and foundations on transitional justice issues in many countries. He previously served as a researcher for the Goldstone Commission and as executive secretary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa. He worked as an associate at Davis, Polk & Wardwell and as director of the Transitional Justice Program at Columbia Law School in New York. He holds a law degree from the University of the Witwatersrand and two Masters of Law degrees from Leiden and New York University. He teaches law at both Columbia and New York University Law Schools.

Marieke Wierda Senior Associate

Marieke Wierda is a lawyer trained in the U.S. and the UK. A specialist in international criminal law, she worked as an associate legal officer for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia from 1997 to 2000. She has also worked with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Office of Legal Affairs, and Interights. She has taught international criminal law and recently published a book, co-authored with Judge Richard May, on international criminal evidence. She holds a law degree from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and a Master of Law degree from New York University.

Publications

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Financials

The International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), an independent, nongovernmental organization, separated from the Tides Center on May 1, 2002, when it received tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). As of May 1, 2002—the date of organizational “inception”—the ICTJ has been performing all accounting and financial reporting functions. The financial records for the first year after inception reflect an 11-month fiscal year, starting May 1, 2002, and ending March 31, 2003.

An audited financial statement is available upon request.

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2003

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	2,687,579
Contributions receivable		3,328,611
Prepaid expenses and other assets		131,427
Fixed assets, net		592,162
	\$	6,739,779

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$	252,264
Deferred rent		134,845
Total liabilities	\$	387,109

Commitments

Net assets:

Unrestricted	\$	2,554,741
Temporarily restricted		3,797,929
Total net assets		6,352,670
	\$	6,739,779

Statement of Activities (Statement of Revenue and Expenses)

Period from May 1, 2002 (inception) through March 31, 2003

	Unrestricted	Temporarily restricted	Total
Revenues, gains and support:			
Grant income	\$ 3,630,747	\$ 5,508,614	\$ 9,139,361
Contributions	1,609,010	-	1,609,010
Interest and dividend income	28,914	-	28,914
Net assets released from restrictions	1,710,685	(1,710,685)	-
Total revenues, gains and support	6,979,356	3,797,929	10,777,285
Expenses:			
Program services	\$ 2,884,482	\$ -	\$ 2,884,482
Supporting services:			
Development	195,779	-	195,779
Management and general	1,623,744	-	1,623,744
Total supporting services	1,819,523	-	1,819,523
Total expenses	4,704,005	-	4,704,005
Increase in net assets	2,275,351	3,797,929	6,073,280
Net asset transfer	279,390	-	279,390
Net assets, beginning of period	-	-	-
Net assets, end of period	\$ 2,554,741	\$ 3,797,929	\$ 6,352,670

2002 / 2003 Supporters

The ICTJ is grateful to all of the organizations, governments, and individuals who supported its activities during the period April 2002 through March 2003. Those listed below contributed \$1,000 or more.

Foundations, Governments, Organizations

The Konrad Adenauer Foundation
Andrus Family Fund
The Atlantic Philanthropies (USA) Inc.
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The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
Institute of International Education
International Development Research Centre (Canada)
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Management Assistance Group (MAG)
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
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OSI Development Foundation
The Overbrook Foundation
The Philanthropic Collaborative
The Ruben and Elisabeth Rausing Trust
Rockefeller Brothers Fund
United Nations Development Programme

Individuals

Anonymous
Vincent and Anne Mai
Kati Marton
Jim Ottaway, Jr.
Minna Schrag and David Goldblatt

The ICTJ expresses its gratitude to the following organizations and individuals for their generous in-kind support between April 2002 and March 2003.

In-kind Support

Catherine Amirfar
David Bondy
Randall J. Cude
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Debevoise & Plimpton
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Ron Slye
Henry Smith

The ICTJ benefited from a pool of 63 interns and externs during the 2002–2003 reporting period. These individuals came to the Center from countries as diverse as Argentina, Pakistan, and Romania; speak more than 15 languages, including Bulgarian, Khmer, and Swedish; and represent university programs from institutions such as the Australian National University, London University School of Oriental and African Studies, and Yale University.

Interns

Anitha Abraham	Stefan Matiation
Ivna Bajsic	Kirsten McConnachie
Orla Bannan	Judge David McNab
Emily Berman	Ariel Meyerstein
Aneta Binienda	Saloie Moreno
Chelsea Catto	Maud Mukova
Artemis Christodoulou	Kelly Morrison
Craig Cohen	Stuart Naifeh
Joanna Crandall	Nikhil Narayan
Jane Desnoyers	Jessica Nevo
Djordje Djordjevic	Claudia Ramirez
Ronald Faber	Aryeh Raucher
Susan Farbstein	Paavani Reddy
Arthur Furnhammer	Claudia Rincon
Alexander Gerts	Anita Roberts
Bunafsha Gualakova	Sara Saad El-Dein
Kathleen Gunerante	Rashid Shabazz
Daniel Hardy	Mirella Sirakova
Ayesha Hasan	Sandesh Sivakumaran
Sarah Hellmann	Jessica Thorpe
Lisa Howley	Sara Tollefson
Bryan Hull	Anthony Triolo
Nausheen Iqbal	Ernesto Verdeja
Tania Jastrzembki	Kimberly Waldner
Matthew Jones	Elizabeth Webber
Pia Kappy	Elizabeth Wickeri
Saeko Kawashima	Nina Wilking
Susanne Knittel	Julia Yoo
Ionut Lacusta	Gwen Young
Renate Lunn	Joaquin Zuckerberg
Carola Mandelbaum	Mariyan Zumbulev
Anna Mansfield	

“Working as a research intern at the ICTJ not only bridged the gap between theory and practice in my final year of law school, it also gave me a launching pad from which to jump into the field of transitional justice upon my graduation. I received excellent mentoring, substantive and meaningful assignments, and a comprehensive introduction to the field of transitional justice. When I decided I wanted to work full-time on transitional justice issues, my supervisor put me into contact with the Ghana Center for Democratic Development. Now, I am monitoring and reporting on the activities of the National Reconciliation Commission in Ghana, and beginning research on the reparations to follow. The ICTJ continues to serve as a resource for me, and eventually, I hope to be able to reciprocate the service.”

—Sara Tollefson, NYU School of Law ‘02, ICTJ Intern, Spring 2002

Partner Organizations

In carrying out its program work, the ICTJ collaborates with dozens of excellent national organizations around the world. Over the past year, the Center formally partnered with some organizations and informally collaborated with other groups, including:

As one of the ICTJ's main partners in Peru, the **Association for Human Rights** (APRODEH) was founded in 1983 to respond to widespread and systematic human rights violations occurring in Peru. Since then, it has documented, researched, and litigated thousands of cases of forced disappearances, torture, summary executions, and other acts of violence.

APRODEH has been instrumental in calling for the establishment of the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission and supporting its work. www.aprodeh.org.pe

The National Human Rights Coordinating Group (CNDDHH), of which APRODEH is a member, is a coordinating body for more than 60 national human rights organizations working for justice and accountability in Peru. The ICTJ works closely with the CNDDHH as well as a broader civil society coalition that has shaped and followed the truth commission process from its inception. www.dhperu.org

The Burma Lawyers' Council (BLC) is an independent human rights organization that aims to facilitate the return to democracy in Burma by undertaking legal training and research. The BLC has helped develop constitutional models and options for Burma, produced research reports on complex legal questions, and undertaken scores of training workshops on various legal issues for members of the democracy movement. www.blc-burma.org

The Center for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH) is a Guatemalan human rights organization dedicated to promoting and defending fundamental civil, political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights. www.caldh.org

The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) in Nigeria is a nongovernmental, research, information, and training institution dedicated to policy-oriented scholarship on questions of democratic development and peace building. www.cdd.org.uk

The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) is dedicated to making a meaningful contribution to a peaceful transition in South Africa by helping to shape policy through capacity-building workshops, research, and other consulting services. The Centre has established ties with trade unions, press, legal and professional organizations, government, and other institutions. It also operates a trauma clinic that provides counseling services for both victims and perpetrators of violence. www.csvr.org.za

The East Timor Steering Committee on the Truth Commission played a pivotal role in conceptualizing and advocating for the establishment of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation in Timor-Leste. The Steering Committee consists of representatives of political parties and key civil society organizations, particularly those working with women, youth, and former political prisoners. Together with the United Nations Human Rights Unit, it undertook a national consultation process prior to the establishment of the Commission and provided commentary on various drafts of legislation establishing the Commission.

The Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) is one of the country's most important nonprofit research organizations, working in partnership with various segments of government, business, and nongovernmental organizations. As an independent and nonpartisan organization, the CDD promotes justice and human rights by conducting research on democratic governance, monitoring the democratic progress in Ghana and elsewhere in Africa, and offering training workshops in conflict management and resolution. It has also worked to assist the National Reconciliation Commission in Ghana.

www.cdd-ghana.org

The Healing Through Remembering Project grew out of discussions between Alex Boraine and members of the Northern Ireland community who were seeking to mend the wounds of their society. Central to the project is the idea that those harmed by conflict must be included in the process of finding a solution. www.healingthroughremembering.org

The Human Rights Program of the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City organizes forums, workshops, courses, and seminars on human rights and other issues, working in collaboration with civil society organizations, national and foreign universities, and governmental agencies. The program is a member of the Mexican Coalition for an International Criminal Court and the Human Rights Network of Civil Society All Rights for Everyone. www.uia.mx/ibero

The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) was formed in May 2000 around the idea that reflecting on the past is a critical basis for understanding the present and building a better future in South Africa. Seeking to ensure that a constitutional democratic society exists for all citizens, the IJR facilitates and encourages dialogue among South Africans of diverse backgrounds. With the aid of multimedia kits on the issues of justice and reconciliation, the IJR shares its experiences to assist other countries in transition. www.ijr.org.za

The International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES) is a Sri Lanka-based nonprofit, nongovernmental, research-oriented organization, established in 1982. ICES is dedicated to the understanding and study of ethnic conflict, stimulating a diverse domestic and international dialogue for mutual understanding. www.icescolombo.org

The International Coalition of Historic Site Museums of Conscience is a global network of historic site museums dedicated to linking past historical significance with present-day implications. Through its work with international human rights organizations, the Coalition works to stimulate an understanding of prominent social issues while promoting democratic values. www.sitesofconscience.org

The International Federation for Human Rights comprises 115 human rights organizations from 90 countries worldwide that work together to promote the implementation of rights defined under a variety of international human rights documents. www.fich.org

The Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights (CMDPDH) is an independent nongovernmental organization dedicated to the preservation of basic human rights in Mexico. The organization strives to solidify various freedoms already in place within the human rights paradigm while working for the creation of a more peaceful society. www.cmdpdh.org

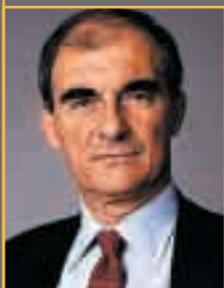
The National Forum for Human Rights (NFHR) is a coalition of local and national human rights organizations in Sierra Leone. Its aim is to ensure the maximum protection, promotion, and preservation of human rights. The National Forum advocated for an official truth-seeking process prior to the signing of the Lomé Peace Agreement, which established the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in July 1999. It has been centrally involved in the Commission's development over the past few years. www.sierra-leone.org/trcd/01101.html

The Post-conflict Reintegration Initiative for Development and Empowerment (PRIDE) is an Sierra Leonean nongovernmental organization working to advance a lasting peace through reintegration and development by ameliorating the socio-economic conditions of ex-combatants and war-affected parties still suffering the effects of the decade-long war.

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Core Principles

The core principles of the ICTJ are reflected in the following five operational guidelines:

- **Prioritize the interests and perspectives of victims and survivors.** The Center will always assess and respect the interests of victims, often working closely with victim organizations and human rights advocacy groups.
- **Promote compliance with international obligations.** The Center will promote understanding and acceptance of the obligations of states in responding to rights violations, especially those established in international law.
- **Shape policy and advice based on a rigorous analysis of the national and international context and circumstances.** The Center will undertake each assignment with a focused assessment of local conditions and relevant international circumstances, rather than approaching its work with prior blueprints or rigid guidelines that pre-determine options.
- **Promote local involvement and empowerment.** The Center will prioritize the training and empowerment of local actors so that skills and expertise are transferred to nationals. The Center will always involve local actors in policy developments so that initiatives are shaped and ultimately decided by nationals.
- **Support and facilitate the work of organizations and individuals in the transitional justice field.** The Center will aim to facilitate communication, networking, and collaboration among those working in the transitional justice field.

Cover: Ayacucho, Peru, 1984. A relative holds a photo of a disappeared family member. The account was one of the first reports of disappeared filed in Peru. This image is similar to another by the same photographer that is a part of a 270-photo exhibit entitled "Yuyanaepaq" ("To Remember") and organized by the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The exhibit will be on display in Lima, Peru, from early August through December 2003. | Photo by VeraLentz/Black Star

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