



## Expert discussion | Transitional Justice and Current Conflicts

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**Date:** 26 November 2015, 16:00 - 19:30

**Venue:** International Development Law Organization (IDLO), Hofweg 9E , The Hague

Contemporary conflicts are confronting the international community with new challenges, many of which go beyond the confines of borders or societies. A decade ago, transitional justice was widely considered as a necessary step for countries to emerge from a history of dictatorship or conflict. But with the emergence of current conflicts and new dynamics, is its relevance waning or is it still considered as a tool to enable societies to emerge from cycles of violence?

This event convenes highly distinguished experts with recent first-hand experiences of transitional justice in a wide variety of contexts, including Guatemala, Colombia, Burundi, Sri Lanka, Libya, Iraq/ Syria, Afghanistan, and Sudan/ South Sudan. Through an interactive discussion, the experts and participants will reflect on whether their experiences have a broader significance for the field of transitional justice, and whether transitional justice is a tool to reduce violence in today's world.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Netherlands



impunity watch

# Program

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**16:00 - 16:05** Welcome & opening  
*Marlies Stappers, Executive Director Impunity Watch*

**16:05 - 16:55** Transitional Justice: Balancing Justice and Reconciliation  
*Panel: Yasmin Sooka (Executive Director Foundation for Human Rights, South Africa), María Eugenia Solís García ( a renown feminist Guatemalan lawyer and Human rights activist, currently main advisor to the Guatemalan ombudsman), Louis Marie Nindorera (Burundi), Gustavo Gallón (CCJ, Colombia), Bhavani Fonseka (CPA, Sri Lanka)*

*Moderator: Brandon Hamber (University of Ulster & Impunity Watch)*

Session objectives: How should societies emerging from conflict seek to balance justice and reconciliation? Are there situations in which justice must be deferred permanently for the sake of reconciliation? What is the significance of criminal punishment? Does transitional justice have a preventive function in certain contexts?

**16:55 - 17:45** Transitional Justice and Current Conflicts  
*Panel: Salah Marghani (former Ministry of Justice, Libya), Habib Nassar (Acting Co-Executive Director/ Director for Programs PILnet), Nader Naderiy (Advisor to President Ghani), Barney Afako (Advisor to former President Thabo Mbeki on Sudan and South Sudan)*

*Moderator: Marieke Wierda (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rule of Law Coordinator)*

Is transitional justice applicable to complex conflicts in Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, and Iraq? How can the concept be applied to state or non-state actors who fail to respect the relevance of international norms? What can be the role of international or regional organizations in promoting transitional justice?

**17:45 - 19:30** Drinks

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