



Ajuntament de Barcelona
Barcelona International
Peace Resource Center

**TRUTH-SEEKING AND THE CHALLENGE OF SUSTAINABLE PEACE
ICTJ THIRD INTENSIVE COURSE ON TRUTH-SEEKING AND PEACE BUILDING**

Montjuïc Castle, Barcelona, Spain

September 26 to September 30, 2011

The International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), in partnership with the Barcelona International Peace Resource Center (BIPRC), is pleased to announce its third **Intensive Course on Truth-Seeking**. Our 2011 course will focus on the relationship between peacebuilding and transitional justice by examining the role of truth-seeking initiatives in ongoing conflict resolution and post-conflict contexts.

Under what conditions can truth commissions make a positive contribution to peacebuilding? What are the practical and conceptual considerations facing mediators, donors, international and national actors as they engage in various ways with truth commissions or similar initiatives? What are the boundaries and potential tensions between transitional justice and peacebuilding efforts? This course is intended to provide busy practitioners with an opportunity to reflect on these and related questions with leading experts in the fields of transitional justice and peacebuilding.

OBJECTIVE

The course seeks to prepare practitioners directly involved in peacebuilding and transitional justice initiatives with the necessary tools to assess the appropriateness of creating a truth commission in the wake of protracted conflict, and how to ensure the design and implementation of such measures are sensitive to contextual realities. The course provides participants with the knowledge required to conceive, implement and engage with the transitional justice policies and programs that increasingly interact with peacebuilding strategies around the world.

TOPICS

ICTJ's Intensive Course on Truth-Seeking will discuss truth-seeking as part of a comprehensive approach to dealing with a history of massive human rights violations. Such an approach aims to build sustainable peace in the aftermath of conflict by strengthening respect for the rule of law, fostering civic trust, and contributing to reconciliation in divided societies.

The course will critically appraise truth commissions as a tool for peacebuilding around the world recognizing their strengths and weaknesses, and their successes and failures. Course participants will learn how and why truth commissions have emerged as accountability mechanisms, and develop an understanding of how they can reinforce broader peacebuilding efforts.

The course curriculum balances academic reflection with concrete considerations relevant to practitioners. Participants will examine recent debates regarding the ways in which truth-seeking can serve to identify and transform the structural and cultural root causes of conflict. The course will additionally explore the practical challenges facing truth commission operations within a conflict or post-conflict setting. These sessions will focus on issues such as financing and sustainability; building partnerships within a complex network of actors; follow up and implementation of commission recommendations; and relationships with other national institutions and civil society. The course format will include a combination of lectures, small group discussion, and simulated applications. Active participation is expected from all participants as the course depends on a rich exchange of practical experiences.

DATES & LOCATION

This course will be held from September 26 to September 30, 2011 at the Castell de Montjuïc. The castle, overlooking Barcelona and its harbor, is a majestic 17th century construction with a dramatic history. A former military prison, and execution ground of political prisoners, including Lluís Companys, president of the Catalan Government during the Spanish Civil War, the castle is currently under a transformation process into an international peace centre, a cultural center and a site of memory.

PROFILE OF CANDIDATES

The program is primarily targeted at mid-career and senior staff of multilateral agencies, governments, NGOs, foundations, and universities who wish to undertake an intensive course on cutting-edge developments in the expanding and increasingly interrelated fields of peacebuilding and transitional justice. Practitioners directly involved in countries considering the establishment of truth commissions or similar efforts are especially encouraged to apply.

DETAILS & COST

This course will be taught in English and a high proficiency level is required to fully benefit from attendance.

The course fee is 1200 Euros, payable within 15 business days following acceptance to the course. Included in this fee is the cost of accommodation in individual living quarters at the four star Hotel Catalonia Barcelona Plaza, (http://www.hotelescatalonia.com/en/our_hotels/europa/spain/catalunya/barcelona/hotel_catalonia_barcelona_plaza/index.jsp) as well as all meals, including daily refreshments; transportation to and from the hotel; and course materials. Payment arrangement information will be included in acceptance letters. Limited scholarships are available on a competitive basis.

INSTRUCTORS

The academic coordinators of this course are Eduardo González, Director of the Truth and Memory Program at ICTJ and former staff member at the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and Caitlin Reiger, Director of International Policy Relations at ICTJ. Other instructors will include transitional justice and peacebuilding experts with direct experience in truth-seeking initiatives in post-conflict contexts.

MATERIALS

In advance of the course participants will be sent selected materials to read in preparation for the course, and upon completion receive a comprehensive resource packet for future reference.

TRAVEL

ICTJ and the Barcelona International Peace Resource Center do not cover participants' travel, visa, or insurance costs. We do provide some logistical assistance and letters in support of participants' visa applications upon request.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis but are due no later than July 15, 2011. Successful applicants will be notified in early August. Course attendance is limited to a 30 participant maximum.

To apply for the course, please submit a one-page cover letter, CV, one reference letter and a completed application form to Joanna Rice jrice@ictj.org. Please see the attached application form for further details. If you have any questions about the application process please contact Joanna Rice directly at the email address listed above.

ABOUT ICTJ & BIPRC

The International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) responds to the legacies of serious violations of human rights with an aim to redress these crimes and prevent their repetition. Find us at www.ictj.org.

The Barcelona International Peace Resource Center (BIPRC) is the outcome of an initiative launched by Barcelona City Council to promote the culture of peace through dialogue, awareness-raising, and training in crisis management and conflict resolution. The center is housed in the outstanding facilities of Montjuïc Castle, overlooking Barcelona city and harbor. Find us at: www.bcnpeacecenter.cat