



Roundtable on:

Victim Participation in Cambodia's Dealing with the Past Process

Tuesday, 11 June 2019, 14.15 – 16.45 at swisspeace, Sonnenbergstrasse 17, Bern

Over the past few years, greater attention has been paid to victims of mass atrocities in dealing with the past processes. The former UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, Pablo de Greiff, even argued that victim participation had become a “mantra”, although this rhetorical commitment is not necessarily matched by practice and systematic analysis of the relevant experiences is lacking.

This roundtable proposes to discuss victim participation in dealing with the past processes based on the case study of Cambodia. Many resources and hopes were invested in enabling victim participation at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), also known as the Khmer Rouge tribunal, which was established 15 years ago. This roundtable will present the findings of a research project examining the effects of victims' inclusion at the ECCC and in broader civil society projects on the perceptions of justice and reconciliation. Drawing from mixed methods, the project team conducted a large-scale survey with 439 respondents and qualitative interviews with 65 of these respondents between January and June 2018, i.e. before the July 2018 general elections. Respondents included an array of complainants and civil parties participating to various degrees in the ECCC, participants in NGO projects and people who have not participated in the transitional justice process in Cambodia. The project, funded by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) from Nov. 2017 to Dec. 2018, was a collaboration of the Conflict Studies Center of the University of Marburg, the Center for the Study of Humanitarian Law of the Royal University of Law and Economics in Cambodia and swisspeace.

Following the presentation of the research project, the roundtable will offer space for reflection and discussion. What are the experiences of participation of victims who were included to varying degrees in the dealing with the past process in Cambodia? What are the perceptions of justice and reconciliation in Cambodia, 15 years after the establishment of the ECCC? What are lessons learned and policy recommendations for dealing with the past in other contexts? How do the findings resonate with your experiences regarding victim participation in dealing with the past processes?

If you would like to participate, kindly send a confirmation e-mail to [Andrea Grossenbacher](mailto:andrea.grossenbacher@swisspeace.ch) by **4 June 2019**. We look forward to the exchange and discussion!

Best wishes,

Julie Bernath

swisspeace

Andrea Grossenbacher

Swiss Platform for Peacebuilding KOFF

Speakers:

- Dr. [Timothy Williams](#), Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Center for Conflict Studies, University of Marburg
- Dr. [Julie Bernath](#), Senior Researcher & Program Officer, Dealing with the Past program, swisspeace

Moderator: [Claudia Josi](#), Senior Program Officer, Dealing with the Past program, swisspeace

Program:

- 14.15 – 14.30 Welcome and introduction
- 14.30 – 15.15 Presentation of the research project on "[Justice and reconciliation for the victims of the Khmer Rouge? Victim participation in Cambodia's transitional justice process](#)" by Dr. Timothy Williams & Dr. Julie Bernath
- 15.15 – 15.30 *Coffee break*
- 15.30 – 16.40 Reflection & Discussion
- 16:40 – 16.45 Closing