

A Backgrounder

Transitional justice is an approach to systematic or massive violations of human rights that both provides redress to victims and creates or enhances opportunities for the transformation of the political systems, conflicts, and other conditions that may have been at the root of the abuses.

A transitional justice approach thus recognizes that there are two goals in dealing with a legacy of systematic or massive abuse. The first is to gain some level of justice for victims. The second

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Security system reform consists of wide-ranging programs to transform the military, police, judiciary, and related state institutions from instruments of repression and corruption into instruments of public service and integrity.

Memorialization efforts include museums, memorials, and other means of preserving public memory of the victims and of raising moral consciousness about past abuse, in order to build a bulwark against its recurrence.

Practically and conceptually, the various measures of transitional justice call for one another. This logic becomes clear when one considers the possible consequences of implementing any one of them in isolation from the others.

Without any truth-telling, institutional reform, or reparation efforts, punishing a very limited

