



Seminary on

THE PEACE AGREEMENT IN COLOMBIA
Works of the *Comisión de la Verdad* for the recognition of victims

Milan, 29 January 2019

Fondazione Stelline, Sala Bramante
Corso Magenta 61, 20123 Milano

in collaboration with
Università degli Studi Milano-Bicocca

Giordano Dell'Amore Observatory
on the relationship between law and economics

On Tuesday 8 April 2018 in Colombia officially the three and a half years mandate of the *Comisión de la Verdad* (Commission for Clarifying the Truth) has started. This body has been nominated in November 2017 by the *Comité de Escogencia* (a United Nations appointed Committee) chaired by padre Francisco De Roux SJ.

The Truth Commission does not have any judicial power, but its functions include investigating practices to clarify offences, such as crimes perpetrated by all armed forces, not only guerrilla but also paramilitary organizations, and to try establishing the truth also with disappeared persons. During the next three and a half years the Commission is expected to write and publish a complete report that will explain to the country what has been the armed conflict in Colombia, and that will promote the recognition of victims and help building up a campaign of respect and tolerance.

The work does not start from zero: during the last months the Commission has adopted all measures to best interpret the functions within its mandate, creating spaces for listening institutional and different civil society voices. It has promoted 22 seminaries all over the country, especially in the periphery; 48 meetings with Conflict Victim Associations, about a dozen of meetings with international and national institutions. Women and natives are the expression of the most interviewed categories. Among the files there are documents that have been handed over by the family of the liberal leader Jorge Eliécer Gaitán, who has been assassinated in 1948, and whose murder can be considered the initial act of violence that has affected Colombia.

Padre De Roux's and the Commission's idea is to anticipate the delivery date of their work giving time to increase information and pedagogic activity in order to contribute creating structural conditions for the cohabitation between Colombians and to set the ground for non-repetition, whereas reconciliation and the construction of a stable and long-lasting peace will prevail.

Meanwhile, although with thousands of obstacles, the peace dialogue between the Colombian government and ELN continues; since Ecuador has suspended its availability, the peace talks will move from Quito to Havana, the capital of Cuba, where the peace dialogue with Farc had been hosted.

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 29 January 2019

9.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Welcome Coffee

Opening Remarks

PIERGIUSEPPE BIANDRINO, *President Fondazione Centro nazionale di prevenzione e difesa sociale; Executive Vice President Legal and Corporate Affairs, General Counsel, Edison SpA*

University of Milano-Bicocca

Chair

STEFANIA NINATTI, *Full Professor of Constitutional Law, University of Milano-Bicocca*

- **Transitional Justice with particular attention to Truth Commissions**

ANNA MYRIAM ROCCATELLO, *Deputy Executive Director and Director of Programs of the International Center for Transitional Justice-ICTJ, New York, USA*

- **Comisión de la Verdad and the Colombian exile in the world**

CARLOS BERISTAIN, *Member of the Comisión de la Verdad, Colombia*

Discussants

- ADOLFO CERETTI, *Full Professor of Criminology, University of Milano-Bicocca*
- ROBERTO CORNELLI, *Associate Professor of Criminology, University of Milano-Bicocca*

Debate

Light Lunch

Conference Secretariat:

Fondazione Centro nazionale diprevenzione e difesa sociale-CNPDS

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