

Ceremony to hand over the Archives of the Equity and Reconciliation Commission

International seminar Archives and human rights

Saturday, December 9th 2017 (starting at 9 a.m.)

Charif El Idrissi (Amphitheater), Faculty of Letters and
Humanities of Rabat

With support of



International seminar ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Rabat, December 9th 2017

Since the 1990s, Morocco has undergone a process of democratic evolution, leading the country, inter alia, to set up two transitional justice mechanisms. The first transitional justice experience was implemented in 1999 with the establishment of the Independent Arbitration Commission for the reparation and compensation of the victims of enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention. In 2004, the Equity and Reconciliation Commission (IER) was created for the establishment of truth, individual and collective reparations for the victims, preservation of memory and archives, and providing guarantees of non-recurrence through constitutional and institutional reform.

In a national context marked by several major reform projects (the Family Code, recognition of ethno-cultural pluralism, etc.), these two successive mechanisms, that were established to deal with the past of serious human rights violations in Morocco, were in fact a new experience in the area of transitional justice worldwide.

In Morocco, as in all other transitional justice experiences in the world, the question of archives is crucial and doubly important. Regardless of the scope of their mandate in terms of the violations they cover and the historical period they tackle, truth commissions use all kinds of sources for the accomplishment of their mission. They use public archives, reports of NGOs, testimonies of victims and their families, press articles, academic works, stories and novels, etc. In turn, these commissions become themselves producers of archives and a diverse documentation, which in itself enriches the historical heritage of the country concerned and the process of writing history.

As it is the case worldwide, the archives of the two Moroccan transitional justice bodies have a high symbolic, legal and historical value. It is thus crucial to preserve them and make them easily exploitable. Fully aware of this fact, the National Human Rights Council (CNDH) handed, in July 24th, 2017, the archives of the Independent Arbitration Commission (six thousand documents) over to the national archives institution (Archives of Morocco). On December 9th 2017, the national human rights institution will hand over a part of the Moroccan truth commission's archives to Archives of Morocco.

Progressively, these documents will be made available for historians and researchers in human sciences to deepen the historical analysis of the human rights evolution in Morocco. This can help identify, then, lessons and best practices that can help strengthen democracy and the rule of law in the country.

The CNDH and the strategic archives institution will also hold on December 9th 2017 in Rabat an international conference on archives and human rights. The gathering brings together national and international experts in the fields of archives, history, transitional justice and human rights. They will discuss how to best collect, process, and preserve archives. The participants will also tackle the essential role of archives in transitional justice experiences and in the protection and implementation of human rights.

The seminar will also be an opportunity to exchange and share experiences, best practices, and the different viewpoints of archivists, practitioners, researchers, and human rights activists.

9h- 9h30

Registration

9h30-9h50

Opening remarks

Mr. Jamaa Baida, Director, Archives of Morocco

Mr. Driss El Yazami, President, National Human Rights Council

9h50-10h00

- Handing over archives of the Equity and Reconciliation Commission to the national archives institution (Archives of Morocco) - First part

- Award to Mr. Driss El Yazami (to be awarded by Archives of Morocco)

First Session: Archives, human rights, and transitional justice

Chair: Mr. Driss El Yazami, President, CNDH

10h -10h20

Archives and human rights, an international perspective

Ms Perrine Canavaggio, Former Head of Archives at the Presidency of the French Republic, founding member of the Archives and Human Rights group at the International Council on Archives

10h20- 10h40

Equity and Reconciliation Commission and the question of archives

Mr. Mustapha Raïssouni, Former member of the Equity and Reconciliation Commission, Morocco

10h40- 11h00

Archives in the Brazilian transitional justice experience

Ms Silvia Whitaker, Former advisor at the Brazilian national truth commission

11h-11h20

Archives and genocide

Mr. Yves Kamurongi, Kigali Genocide Memorial, Rwanda

11h20-11h40

Wars and repressions: French paradoxes

Mr. Eric Lechevallier, Archivist, Diplomatic Archives - Nantes Center, France

11h40-12h15 Debate

12h15-12h30 Coffee break

Second session: Archives, history and ways of preservation

Chair: Mr. Jamaa Baida, Director, Archives of Morocco

12h30-12h50

Recent history and archives

Mr. Mohamed Kenbib, Historian, Mohammed V University, Rabat, Morocco

12h50- 1h10

Archives of the Equity and Reconciliation Commission: treatment and preservation

Mr. Azzeddine Bel Mekki Alaoui, Archivist, Morocco

1h10-1h30

Collecting and preserving born-digital documents: archives of the Tunisian revolution

Mr. Jean-Marc Salmon, Associate professor (Institut Mines-Télécom) France

1h30-1h50

Archives challenges of reconciliation in Togo

Mr. Adama Aly, Archivist, Senegal

1h50-2h10

Archives and the right to access to information in Cameroun

Mr. Emmanuel Ekongolo Makake, Deputy Director, National Archives, Cameroun

2h10-2h45 Debate

2h45-3h30 Exhibition

«*La Route de l'Unité (1957), la route de la citoyenneté*» (Road of Unity (1957)... road of citizenship)

3h30-4h30 Lunch