

Project summary

Between 1980 and 2000, Peru endured an internal armed conflict waged by the Communist Party of Peru - Shining Path (Partido Comunista del Perú - Sendero Luminoso, PCP-SL) and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (Movimiento Revolucionario Túpac Amaru, MRTA) against the State. During the internal conflict both subversive groups and security forces committed extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, kidnappings, torture, arbitrary detentions, and other serious violations of human rights. Peru's internal conflict produced more than 69 thousand victims, and disproportionately affected rural, indigenous, Quechua-speaking and impoverished Peruvians. To this day approximately 15,000 persons remain disappeared. On June 22, 2016 a new statute, Law 30470, was enacted in Peru. Law 30470 calls for the implementation of a national plan to search for and identify the remains of the approximately 15,000 people who were disappeared during Peru's internal conflict and are still missing, and return them to their families. The law is a historic effort by Peru's government to recognize the rights of the relatives of the disappeared to know the truth about their loved ones' disappearances and final whereabouts, and to receive comprehensive reparations. Law No. 30470 emphasizes the need for a humanitarian approach to treating disappearance cases –an approach that prioritizes the need for forensic investigations to be carried out independently of judicial processes, so as to expedite the search process without relying on legal timelines. Nevertheless, due to a lack of resources and state processes the investigations performed by the state, are not enough.

Before State actions are taken, civil society organizations can research and keep information that may be used in further investigations led by State institutions or others when conditions are optimal to proceed. Conducting ante-mortem investigations prevents the loss of information that can occur due to the time between legislation being enacted and public policies and plans for investigation being created and the collection of information. If ante-mortem investigation efforts are properly conducted, the information can be used for judicial and humanitarian purposes in the future.

In this scenario our organization in close collaboration with the communities, EPAF work constantly on:

- 1) strengthening communication with victims' families and 2) updating, collecting and delivering relevant data on disappearance cases.

EPAF proposes to update the information in our database and to incorporate more cases into it. This action will lighten the burden on the State by providing systematized information on cases investigated by the EPAF over its 15 years of institutional existence. EPAF currently maintains records on 4800 cases, which is more than 30% of the total cases estimated by the State. The EPAF database has been built through antemortem information collection campaigns, and the antemortem records contain valuable data for the search and identification of disappeared persons' skeletal remains. At the end of this project, EPAF expects to have updated information on approximately 80% of these cases through interviews with families and verification of burial sites. Additionally, EPAF will add approximately 500 cases to our database, bringing our database to an expected total of 5,000 cases. Finally, in coordination with the affected communities, EPAF will hold public events to share the recovered information with those communities. These forums will also provide an opportunity for dialogue with families about ways to appropriately commemorate victims whose cases remain open or whose data remains in reserve.

EPAF is uniquely situated to communicate with the families of the disappeared regarding the implementation of Law 30470. As an organization that has been working in impacted regions for 16 years, and whose director is herself a

family member of a disappearance victim, EPAF has a level of credibility as well as access to communities impacted by Peru's internal conflict. Regarding this EPAF will help to communicate with families of disappearance victims, an essential condition for the implementation of Law 30470.

Immediate beneficiaries:

Approximately 2,000 families of disappeared persons from Ayacucho, Junín, Huancavelica, Apurímac, Huánuco and Lima;
State operators and members of civil society who will participate in the implementation of the law on the search for missing persons.

Final beneficiaries:

15,000 families of missing persons.

Beneficiary profile:

More than 75% of the victims of the conflict were indigenous, poor and Quechua-speaking peasants whose position of exclusion limits their ability to find channels of representation and expression to make their demands heard to this day. The majority of the victims are women: widows, daughters, sisters and mothers of victims of enforced disappearances.