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ECUADOR: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WELCOMES TRUTH AND JUSTICE  
COMMISSION

Amnesty International today welcomed the recent establishment of the *Comisión Verdad y Justicia*, Truth and Justice Commission, charged with investigating complaints of unresolved human rights violations over the past 17 years.

The Commission, which is mandated to publish its report and file its findings and recommendations before the relevant judicial authorities, came into effect on 17 September.

“Establishing the full truth about past human rights violations is of critical importance to the victims and their relatives,” Amnesty International said today.

“To bring those responsible for these violations before a judiciary which is independent, competent and impartial, is to lay the basis for ensuring that human rights violations will not in any way be tolerated by the authorities.”

The Truth and Justice Commission was established in response to recent complaints about grave human rights violations and subsequent declarations, by newly elected President Abdalá Bucaram, resolving to set in motion a process which will ascertain the facts, punish those responsible, and make good the damage caused.

The Commission is an important first step to put an end to the impunity surrounding hundreds of cases of enforced “disappearance”, extrajudicial execution and torture documented by Ecuadorian and international human rights organizations over the past few years. It could also serve as a basis for ensuring that the victims and their relatives are adequately compensated for the suffering they have been subjected to.

Amnesty International publicly urged President Bucaram, the institutions of the State and all Ecuadorians to keep watch over the Commission so that it carries out its mandate successfully.

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