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Sexual Violence during War and Peace

Gender, Power, and Post-Conflict Justice in Peru

Jelke Boesten
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Acknowledgments

This book is much inspired by Elizabeth Stanko’s questions regarding the meanings of violence. The notion that seemingly equal acts of physical violence can have a range of different meanings, consequences, and responses has led me to think about how sexual violence in so-called war and peacetimes is understood differently, and, if so, why such differentiated meaning affects the way in which society and the state respond to sexual violence. Understandings of violence shift over time, geography, and sociopolitical and cultural contexts, shaping how individuals, families, and communities make sense of their experiences. This book is a reflection of those questions, unfortunately though not an answer. However, I have taken up the task to arrive at an approximate answer to the question of what sexual violence means as a sociopolitical act in war and peacetime Peru by examining testimonies of such violence, and link these to processes of post-conflict justice.

Many people have been very patient with me over the years. Gloria Cano, whose commitment to human rights allows many Peruvians to maintain the hope that there will be justice at some point, has generously shared her insights with me over many years. Likewise, Julissa Mantilla has been very helpful and illuminating, and I admire her dedication to and passion for gender justice. Many others have shared their wisdom and their work, for which I am eternally grateful: Yuber Alarcón, Nelida Baca, Ruth Borja, Gustavo Campo, Rosa Lia Chauca, Mercedes Crisóstomo, Paula Escribens, Narda Henríquez, Vladimiro Hurtado, Daniel Manrique, Nelly Mejia, Liz Melendez, Liliana Pañizo Muñoz, Victoria Oviedo, Jairo Rivas, Carlos Rivera, Rocío Silva Santisteban, David Sulmont, and Blanca Zanabria. I also extend my sincere thanks to all those professionals working in state agencies and institutions, as well as those working for NGOs in Huanta, San Miguel, Huamanga, and Lima, who I have not mentioned above but who were kind enough to share with me.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

their thoughts and experiences in relation to violence against women. CEPRODEP Ayacucho helped with interviewing men accused of battering in the Department of Ayacucho, and Betsy Flores helped with interviewing frontline personnel and victim-survivors of violence in north Lima. Apart from being a good researcher, Betsy is a practitioner that every neighborhood should have. Her concern and practice reach far beyond her daily work as a forensic psychologist in poor Peruvian communities.

I received generous funding from the British Academy and Nuffield Foundation for research trips to Peru, and from the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) to write. At USIP in Washington, I thank my colleagues of the Jennings Randolph Senior Fellowship Program during 2011–2012, and especially the director of the Centre for Gender and Peacebuilding, Kathleen Kuehnast, and the director of SIPRI-North America, Chantal de Jonge Oudraad, for their trust and support. I was lucky to have Veronica Eragu Bichetero as my partner in gender matters, and Melissa Fisher as research assistant. The Human Rights Centre at the University of London provided me with a research fellowship in the spring/summer of 2012, and the Institute of the Americas at University College London with an associate fellowship in the autumn of 2012. In London, I thank Maxine Molyneux for the trust she has shown and the continuous support for and confidence in my work.

Between 2007 and 2013, the School of Politics and International Studies at the University of Leeds has given me all the opportunities I needed to be able to travel and to write, and gave me the space to teach subjects close to my research interests. Ray Bush and Mette Wiggen were not only great colleagues but are also superb friends. I hope to spend many more nights at a shared kitchen table. Likewise, I thank Polly Wilding and Gabrielle Lynch for collegial support, inspiration, and friendship. It is also at Leeds and with colleagues there and those at the Sheffield Institute for International Development and the Centre for Applied Human Rights at the University of York that we set up the Transformative Justice Network. Working with Gordon Crawford, Paul Gready, Lars Waldorf, Jean Grugel, Polly Wilding, and Paula Meth in this network has been very inspiring and will hopefully continue to be so.

Yolanda de Echave has always been a grateful reader of my work, in addition to being a great Abuela to Seba and support to us, the parents. Rafael Drinot helped me in translating articles from English to Spanish and in running errands, Lima to London. I am lucky to have such parents-in-law. Likewise, Arnoud Boesten and Henny van Vliet
were supportive throughout these years and performed the Opa and Oma roles from Aruba and the Netherlands, respectively. Considering the long-distance commuters-life we have lived since Seba was born, these are important and much-appreciated contributions.

As several of the ideas in this book were first presented in papers at numerous international conferences such as the Society of Latin American Studies, the Latin American Studies Association, the American Anthropological Association, and the International Congress of Americanists, as well as at many workshops and departmental seminar series, gratitude goes to all those who listened, questioned, and advised: Kimberly Theidon has been a great support and inspiration at many of such events, thank you for that. I must thank Jo-Marie Burt and Cristina Alcalde for providing essential critical comments on the manuscript. Sharing your knowledge and critical thinking with me has considerably improved this book: Farideh Koohi-Kamali, Sara Doskow and Erin Ivy at Palgrave have been great editors, quietly managing the manuscript through all the stages of production. Thanks also to Denisse Rodriguez for helping with the index. Paulo has been my rock throughout, although it sometimes feels a rather pointed one: I thank you for the eternal skepticism and precision that keeps me intellectually on my toes, and for your patience in reading and rereading papers and chapters over and over again. Your comments doubtlessly improved this book. Fortunately, all that is merely an addition to life and love in the everyday.