

Providing Space for the Voiceless: Transitional Justice and Narratives on the 1965 Tragedy

Baskara T. Wardaya

PUSdEP, Sanata Dharma University

Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Abstract: Despite efforts to introduce the idea of transitional justice in the post-Suharto period, the Indonesian government and general public remain reluctant to take the idea seriously. As a result many cases of past human rights abuses are still unaddressed and the victims of the abuses continue to be denied their rights to live and work like other citizens, while their voices are suppressed. This is very obvious with the case of victims of the human rights abuses related to the mass killings and detention of the 1965 Tragedy. Consequently truth-seeking and truth-telling initiatives as parts of steps toward reconciliation have not been given adequate support. In dealing with such a situation more works need to be done, especially in providing opportunities for the survivors of the abuses to narrate their stories and express their reflection on what they have experienced.