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The conflict in Liberia and subsequent transitional justice process through means of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission provide a unique opportunity to examine how the exploitation of religious and traditional identities/institutions became a means to fuel and perpetuate the conflict. Likewise, it also offers an example of how the strength and credibility of a religious community can be instrumental in facilitating formal peace processes.

The enabling statute that created the TRC of Liberia introduced for the first time in a truth and reconciliation commission a specific area of inquiry into the role of religious and traditional institutions, both in conflict and in peacebuilding. A separate subcommittee was created to examine these disparate roles in the context of Liberia's conflict. The directive to explore religious and traditional activities during the commission's hearings, statement-taking, and outreach efforts resulted in a rich collection of narratives that help inform our assessment of the roles religious and traditional leaders and institutions play in the midst of violence and conflict.

The following index from the TRC's Thematic Hearings directs readers to the actual transcripts or audio recordings of hearings and testimony relating to the role of religious and traditional institutions during the conflict and in peacebuilding. They are categorized by county and permit access either by the active link or by reference to the TRC website where the full set of hearings is retrievable. We hope you will find this valuable primary resource to be a beginning point for future examination for how religious leaders and institutions influence the dynamics of conflict.

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