



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE

FOR COMPARATIVE PUBLIC LAW
AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Special Screening of the Documentary

„La isla - Archives of a tragedy“
with subsequent discussion
with the documentary's director
Uli Stelzner

(original version with English subtitles)

Thursday, 17 August 2023, 19:00 h

Max Planck Institute for

Comparative Public Law and International Law

Im Neuenheimer Feld 535, 69120 Heidelberg, Room 038

Please register by 14 August 2023 at

coordination@mpil.de

Conveners:

Prof. Dr. Armin von Bogdandy
Moritz Vinken

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La isla - Archives of a tragedy

A documentary by Uli Stelzner

The army and police abducted and murdered hundreds of thousands of people in Guatemala at the end of the 20th century. Yet this unprecedented genocide in recent American history has gone unpunished. A system of terror and impunity continues to rely on silence and lack of evidence. However, in 2005, after a massive explosion in the capital of Guatemala, the Secret Archives of the National Police were found by chance. At the site of the present police school was once the island, a secret prison of feared commandos of the Policia Nacional. It is here that 80 million documents surfaced that promised to shed light on the extent of the crimes committed by the state. As a result, the relatives of the 45,000 people who disappeared found new hope in their search for information.

The director is the only filmmaker so far who has been allowed to shoot in this archive. He succeeds in telling the story of a tragedy and finding evidence of inconceivable crimes through extraordinary visual and emotional interaction. He also portrays a young generation who wants to free itself from the stranglehold of an unresolved history.

For further information please see our website:

