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## Human Security and Transitional Justice Implementation in Liberia

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### Abstract

The study examined the relationship between three elements of human security - community security, economic security- and political security and transitional justice in Liberia and how the existence of political commitment moderated these relationships. The study was anchored on three theories: assemblage theory, human security theory and rational choice theory. The study adopted the quantitative method with a correlational design. Stratified proportional sampling was used to distribute the sample size of 399. The model for the relationship between community security, economic security, political security, and transitional justice implementation shows a significant fit:  $R^2 = 0.236$ . Political commitment moderated the relationships between two elements of human security and the implementation of transitional justice community

security-political commitment (.320, Beta = 0.141) and economic security-political commitment (0.970, Beta = 0.454). The research concluded that for transitional justice to be effective, Liberia needs to focus on economic and community security. The study recommended that the government should implement major economic empowerment programmes, such as creating employment opportunities, and should provide and utilise an exclusive government budget which will guarantee transitional justice initiatives an annual budget line in Liberia's national budget.

**Keywords:** *Community Security, Economic Security, Human Security, Liberia, Political Commitment, Transitional Justice*

## **Introduction**

Transitional justice has become increasingly important as a framework for navigating the aftermath of conflict, authoritarian rule, or other serious human rights abuses (Yusuf, 2021). It includes a variety of mechanisms and procedures to address historical injustices, repair divided communities, and lay the groundwork for enduring peace (Cohen, 2020). Sustainable human security in post-conflict Liberia is difficult to achieve because of the considerable challenges involved in establishing transitional justice mechanisms to deal with historical human rights violations. Political commitment is a cornerstone in the realisation of effective transitional justice. The success of transitional justice mechanisms is intricately linked to the willingness of political leaders to prioritise justice over impunity, human rights over political expediency, and long-term stability of society over short-term political gains (Songa, 2021). Despite the importance that political commitment and human security issues have on the implementation of transitional justice, there exists a significant gap in understanding the dynamic interplay between human security, political commitment, and the successful implementation of transitional justice measures. Additionally, there have been limited studies on the implementation of transitional justice in Liberia. For example, there are few studies that considered the challenges of implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations and not on the human security concerns and political commitment issues that engender the implementation of transitional justice (Long, 2008; Roper & Barria, 2009; Sirleaf, 2009; Sooka, 2006; Twose & Mahoney, 2015). Two comparative studies (Armstrong & Ntegeye, 2006 and (James-Allen et al., 2010) compared the structures and motives of the Liberia TRC and that of other African countries,

specifically, Sierra Leone, Congo, Uganda, and South Africa. To date, there is a rarity of studies done exclusively in Liberia that significantly capture the issues of human security.

A civil war engulfed the small West African nation of Liberia from 1989 to 2003, displaced more than half of the population and killed between 150 000 and 250 000 men, women and children (Cabrera and Sarkarati, 2018). Human rights violations and serious crimes, such as forced enlistment of child soldiers, rape, torture, sexual slavery, and summary executions, were committed by all sides of the battle. On 18 August 2003, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed, bringing an end to the 14-year conflict in which some sources estimate that 250,000 people had lost their lives (Carlos and Carravilla, 2018). Gross human rights violations committed during the conflicts include the massive killing of civilians, torture, widespread rape and sexual violence, forcible recruitment of children as soldiers, extortion, looting of the national economy, and the destruction of cultural property (Evrard, 2023). The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) created a framework for a transitional government, called for political and economic reforms, and established procedures for demobilisation. The signatories to the CPA called for the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and envisioned that the TRC would provide a forum that would address impunity issues, as well as provide an opportunity for victims and perpetrators of human rights violations to share their experiences to facilitate genuine healing and reconciliation (Julie, 2017).

Despite considerable efforts to address past atrocities and promote reconciliation, Liberia is grappling with persistent issues that hinder the realisation of comprehensive human security through transitional justice processes. Many individuals who were involved in horrific crimes during the conflict have not been prosecuted. This climate of impunity directly jeopardises human security by undermining confidence in the legal system and fostering a cycle of violence. There is still a significant portion of the population marginalised and denied rights, increasing the likelihood of social unrest, creating economic instability, and restricting access to essential services (Issa, 2023). The Advocates for Human Rights (2024) reported that Liberia has not done much to implement prosecutions, sanctions, an alternative justice system, reparations, and memorialisation, despite minimal efforts to end impunity for crimes committed during the civil war.

## Hypotheses

To address these issues, four hypotheses are used:

H01: Community security does not influence transitional justice in Liberia.

H02: There is no relationship between economic security concerns and transitional justice in Liberia

H03: Political security does not significantly influence transitional justice in Liberia

H04: Political commitment does not moderate the relationship between transitional justice implementation and human security.

## Theoretical Framework

### *Assemblage Theory*

Assemblage theory is a conceptual framework that originated in the field of philosophy and social theory, particularly associated with the work of philosophers Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari. Deleuze and Guattari (1987) introduced the idea of an assemblage that can only be understood in terms of the dynamic relationship between the enunciative assemblage (such as laws, governing principles, and symbolic expressions) and the mechanic assemblage (such as the structure of organisations, physical materials, and resources). This provides a way to see the world as a collection of diverse and linked elements that come together to form complex and changing configurations called assemblages. An assemblage refers to a temporary and contingent arrangement of diverse elements, such as ideas, bodies, technologies, and institutions. These elements are not fixed or essential but come together in specific ways, often influenced by contextual factors. Assemblage theory emphasises the idea of multiplicity, suggesting that reality is composed of multiple, overlapping, and interacting entities. These entities can be material or immaterial, human or non-human, and they interact in complex ways. According to Reading (2019), transitional justice assemblages are multi-layered, process-based, and emergent formations in which various domains, such as the judicial, political, economic, and social, are unevenly merged to provide solutions in post-conflict scenarios. Assemblage theory emphasises the fluid and dynamic nature of social entities. Transitional justice processes are inherently dynamic, involving the interaction of various actors, institutions, and ideas.

### *Human Security Theory*

Human security theory is a concept that emerged in the 1990s as a response to traditional approaches to security, which often focused primarily on the security of states (Ziatdinov, 2020). Human security expands the notion of security beyond the traditional military and political dimensions to include the protection and well-being of individuals (Paleri, 2022). The concept was popularised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and has since been discussed in various academic and policy circles. Human security theory is a framework that focuses on the protection and empowerment of individuals and communities, rather than just the security of states (Erkiner and Akoudou, 2022). The concept emphasizes the importance of addressing a wide range of threats, including poverty, disease, environmental degradation, and political repression, in order to ensure the well-being of people.

This paper adopted the 1994 UN Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report, which is where the UN first proposed a human security- agenda and theoretical framework. Three areas of human security-political, economic and community security are considered in the study. These areas are important in transitioning societies plagued with economic marginalisation and inequalities, unsafe communities and inefficient political system.

### *Rational Choice Theory*

Rational Choice Theory is a framework used in various social sciences, including political science, to analyse and explain the behavior of individuals and groups. It assumes that individuals make rational decisions based on their preferences and the available information, with the goal of maximising their utility or satisfaction (Dowding, 2019). This theory has been applied to understand political behavior and decision-making. Downs' (1957) book titled "Economic Theory of Democracy" applied Rational Choice Theory to political behaviour, discussing how politicians make rational choices to maximise their self-interest. This was adopted by the study.

Rational choice theory can be applied to the decisions made by governments and international actors involved in transitional justice. Governments may weigh the political costs and benefits of pursuing accountability measures against the potential stability or reconciliation

benefits of amnesty. International actors may consider their own strategic interests and the costs of intervention. The establishment and functioning of judicial institutions during transitional justice processes can also be analysed through the lens of rational choice. Designing effective and credible institutions requires understanding the incentives and disincentives for individuals within these institutions to carry out their roles impartially.

## **Review of the Literature**

### **Transitional Justice**

Transitional justice refers to the set of judicial and non-judicial measures implemented in societies undergoing transitions from conflict or repression to a more stable and just state. As mentioned by Cohen (2020), transitional justice seeks to address the challenges faced by individuals, groups, and societies while they make efforts to recover from times of widespread atrocities, flagrant abuses of human rights, and pervasive oppressive systems. To achieve its intended purpose, however, Evrard, Bonifazi and Destrooper (2021) point out that a thorough scientific analysis of the transitional justice model should come before any attempts at implementation at the global level. This model standardisation as indicated by Gissel (2022), has produced a common definition, a conceptual vocabulary, a two-tiered model with mandatory and optional measures, and a monitoring and assessment regime in an effort to make transitional justice equal across cultures, eras, and geographic locations.

### **Human Security**

Human security is a political instrument meant to move people from oppression and exploitation to political responsibility and involvement and should not be dismissed as merely academic rhetoric (Aning and Lartey, 2019). The human security approach, as averred by Camins (2022), promotes the examination of the ways in which the existing legal frameworks fail to adequately address vulnerability and the development of new frameworks that aid in threat reduction and resilience building. A more detailed conception of human security is provided by Erkiner and Akoudou (2022), who asserted that security is considered to represent the inherent human order, which inherently involves conservation. Human security is presented as the natural law of political society—the

ultimate cause, foundation, and goal—due to the necessity of meeting this fundamental requirement.

## **Political Security**

Political security involves ensuring the stability of a government or political system. This includes preventing internal conflicts, political instability, and coup attempts (Shiva and Molana, 2022). A strong political security framework is often associated with a well-established rule of law. This means that laws are enforced consistently, providing a sense of security and predictability for citizens and businesses (Paleri, 2022). In transitioning societies, the presence of weak institutions can lead to political instability. This can create an environment of uncertainty, making it difficult for citizens, businesses, and foreign investors to predict and plan for the future (Hassan, 2015). Political security extends to safeguarding a nation against external threats. This includes maintaining a strong defence, border security, and diplomatic efforts to prevent conflicts (Zaffar, 2019). Addressing and preventing terrorism is a critical aspect of political security. Governments work to counter terrorist threats through intelligence, law enforcement, and international cooperation.

## **Human Security and Transitional Justice**

Human security is a political instrument meant to move people from oppression and exploitation to political responsibility and involvement (Aning and Lartey, 2019). The notion of human security has garnered significant attention in both academic and political circles since its introduction in international affairs during the 1990s (Erkiner and Akoudou, 2021) and was crafted to guide decisions regarding security threats in a way that serves people at all levels of a political community (Gilder, 2021). Yamahata (2020) posited that human security advances that, regardless of colour, religion, or other status, everyone has the fundamental right to human rights. The author mentioned *Supra* made the assumption that knowledge of the threats to human security, the root causes of human insecurity, and the democratic principles that underpin the establishment of democratic institutions are all supported by human security.

Despite human security's acclaimed status, it has some drawbacks and challenges. For instance, Zishiri and Makambanga (2023) asserted

that particular elements contributing to the absence of human security and constructive peace are exclusion, inequality in resource access, weakened national and regional institutions, and breaches of human rights and freedoms. To mitigate this effect of violent intrastate conflict, transitional justice mechanisms are instituted. These measures are intended to prevent post-conflict societies from relapse. Transitional justice encompasses criminal justice, truth-telling, reparation and institutional reform (Gissel, 2022). Implementing effective transitional justice measures and ensuring human security in post-conflict settings can be challenging. Those who were involved in past abuses may resist, and the process of achieving justice and reconciliation often requires careful negotiation and consideration of what all stakeholders need and are concerned about (Cohen, 2020).

Human security and transitional justice are interconnected in the sense that addressing past human rights abuses through transitional justice mechanisms can contribute to creating an environment of security and well-being for individuals and communities in post-conflict or transitional societies. Both concepts emphasize the importance of recognising and addressing the human dimensions of security and justice.

### **Political Commitment**

Political commitment is a degree of acts that show a persistent commitment on the part of an actor or actors to a set of accountability goals intended to put an end to the impunity of human rights violations (Pham, Balthazard, Gibbon et al., 2019). The success of transitional justice is heavily influenced by a nation's political leadership and its commitment to implementing it (Songa, 2021). Effective transitional justice mechanisms are difficult to establish and maintain without the political leadership's commitment and willingness to address historical abuses (Gallen, 2023). Building and bolstering a legal framework that promotes transitional justice is a common way for political commitment to be seen. To address previous human rights violations, this will entail setting up truth commissions, special tribunals, or other mechanisms (Werle and Vormbaum, 2021). Kapshuk (2022) mentioned that peace processes leading to comprehensive peace agreements and successfully executed political commitments are favourably correlated with the fulfillment of truth and reconciliation requirements.

Transitional justice procedures must receive sufficient funding and human resources. This covers the cost of funding inquiries, legal actions, settlements, and victim assistance. The government's budgetary priorities demonstrate its political commitment (Rojas and Shaftoe, 2021). Political leaders need to be prepared to face the dangers and difficulties that come with transitional justice, including the potential for opposition from those who are against accountability measures, by properly aligning with the five dimensions - initiation, assessment, mobilisation, allocation, and enforcement of political will (Pham, Balthazard, Gibbon, et al., 2019).

### **Political Commitment and Transitional Justice**

Transitional justice implementation timelines are affected by the institutionalisation of bureaucracy, governance, and the rule of law. Transitional justice has continuously given way to projects for temporally extended justice, with state weaknesses forcing implementation projects to be delayed until institutional development or consolidation through long-term peace-building missions (McAuliff, 2021). The study of Obradovic-Wochnik (2018) demonstrated local initiatives that claim to be inclusive of local voices but commonly serve as settings for hidden power dynamics, entrenched injustices, subjectification, and punishment. In the case of Liberia, Julie (2017) concluded that the transitional justice implementation has not been a major factor in these gains made in Liberia since 2003 due to the country's lack of political will and also because the TRC was unable to resolve the conflict between the country's indigenous population and Americo-Liberian elites, which resulted in the civil war.

Transitional justice procedures are required to address systemic and flagrant human rights violations; however, political commitment to implement transitional justice tools is extremely essential. Harnessing political commitment for fully implementing transitional justice in Africa is a difficult task. Songa (2021) revealed that a lack of political will to carry out these measures is a major obstacle for the AU agenda. The author furthered that a plethora of examples from the past ten years demonstrate how political actors have committed to complete agendas for transitional justice, only to abandon them or fail to implement crucial components as soon as they secure their position of power or when outside pressure lessens.

## Materials and Methods

The method adopted for this study is quantitative. To investigate the link or association between two or more variables, a non-experimental research method called a correlational research design was employed. The objective was to ascertain whether and how much of a statistical link (or correlation) exists between these variables.

### Study Population

The population of this study considered the population in Liberia on Census Night November 2022, which put the country at 5.2 million (5,248,621) people (Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services, 2022). The four geographic regions were fully accounted for in the population. Northern Region, Central Region, Western Region, Southeastern Region and West Central, including Grand Bassa

### Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

The Taro Yamane formula was used to generate the sample size. From the calculation, the sample size for the study is 399 respondents. The inclusion criteria for this study are that the participants must be permanent residents of the selected regions. The sampling technique that was utilised to distribute the sample is the proportional stratified sampling technique.

**Table 4.2 Sample size distribution per region**

Region	Population	Sample Proportion	%
Northern Region	989,217	119	29.2
Central Region	772,507	93	23.4
Western Region	408,567	49	12.4
South-Eastern Region	865,242	104	26.3
South-Central Region	293,689	35	8.7

### Data Collection Instruments

The study used a structured questionnaire as the main data-gathering instrument. The Likert five-point scale, which contained 'strongly disagree', 'disagree', 'neutral', 'agree' and 'strongly disagree' was used as response options for the survey questionnaire. The questionnaire comprised a total of 56 items.

## Data Analysis Method

Quantitative data analysis involves the process of collecting, cleaning, processing, and interpreting numerical data to understand patterns, relationships, and trends within a dataset. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences Version 23 was used to perform the statistical analyses. An inferential statistical analysis was performed to test the relationships between the variables.

## Ethical Considerations

The researcher adhered to all the guidelines set by the Babcock University Health and Research Committee (BUHREC). Ethical approval was gotten from BUHREC for the conduct of this research. The BUHREC number 777/24 was assigned to this research. All sources cited in-text were duly provided in the reference list, and credit was given to every study that was consulted.

## Results

### Coefficients<sup>a</sup>

Model	Unstandardised Coefficients		Standardised Coefficients		Sig.	Collinearity Statistics	
	B	Std. Error	Beta	T		Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	.250	.048		5.235	.000	
	CS	.250	.007	.148	3.310	.001	.967
	ES	.680	.007	.444	9.733	.000	.928
	PS	-.009	.009	-.046	-1.011	.313	.955

R = 0.486    R<sup>2</sup> = 0.236    AdjR<sup>2</sup> = 0.230    F-Stat = 40.624    P-Value = 0.000

df (3,395)    Durbin-Watson = 1.575

a. Predictors: (Constant), PS, CS, ES

b. Dependent Variable: LogTJI

The model summary provides essential information about the regression analysis, describing how well the independent variables predict the dependent variable (LogTJI). The R value of 0.486 indicates a moderate

positive correlation between the independent variables (community security, economic security, and political security) and the dependent variable. This suggests that these predictors are somewhat effective in explaining the variations in transitional justice implementation. The  $R^2$  value of 0.236 indicates that about 23.6% of the variation in LogTJI can be explained by the model, which is a moderate explanatory power. The adjusted  $R^2$  value of 0.230 considers the number of predictors used and confirms that the model is still a reasonable fit, explaining a similar portion of variance after adjusting for the number of independent variables.

### **Hypothesis Testing**

$H_{01}$ : Community security does not influence transitional justice in Liberia.

Coefficient (CS) = 0.250,  $t = 3.310$ ,  $p = 0.001$

Decision: Since  $p < 0.05$ , reject  $H_{01}$ .

Conclusion: Community security has a statistically significant positive influence on transitional justice.

$H_{02}$ : There is no relationship between economic security concerns and transitional justice in Liberia.

Coefficient (ES) = 0.680,  $t = 9.733$ ,  $p = 0.000$

Decision: Since  $p < 0.05$ , reject  $H_{02}$ .

Conclusion: Economic security has a statistically significant positive relationship with transitional justice.

$H_{03}$ : Political security does not significantly influence transitional justice in Liberia.

Coefficient (PS) = -0.009,  $t = -1.011$ ,  $p = 0.313$

Decision: Since  $p > 0.05$ , fail to reject  $H_{03}$ .

Conclusion: Political security does not have a statistically significant effect on transitional justice in this model.

**Coefficients<sup>a</sup>**

Model	Unstandardised Coefficients		Standardised Coefficients	t	Sig.	Collinearity Statistics	
	B	Std. Error	Beta			Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	.346	.033		10.580	.000	
	CS_PC	.320	.011	.141	2.785	.006	.755
	ES_PC	.970	.011	.454	8.670	.000	.711
	PS_PC	-.032	.013	-.124	-2.421	.016	.736

R = 0.481    R<sup>2</sup> = 0.231    AdjR<sup>2</sup> = 0.225    F-Stat = 39.580    P-Value = 0.000

df (3,395)    Durbin-Watson = 1.524

a. Predictors: (Constant), PS, CS, ES

b. Dependent Variable: LogTJI

The model's R<sup>2</sup> value of 0.231 and adjusted R<sup>2</sup> of 0.225 suggest that Political Commitment, along with community security, economic security, and political security, accounts for about 23.1% of the variance in transitional justice implementation, which is modest but indicates that the predictors are statistically significant. The F-statistic of 39.580 with a p-value of 0.000 confirms the overall significance of the model.

The overall moderating effect of Political Commitment (PC) can be assessed by looking at the relationship between the independent variables (CS\_PC, ES\_PC, PS\_PC) and Transitional Justice Implementation (LogTJI). Political commitment significantly influences the relationships between community security, economic security, and political security with transitional justice implementation.

Economic Security (ES\_PC) exhibits the strongest positive relationship with Transitional Justice Implementation. The coefficient for Economic Security (ES\_PC) is 0.97, with a standardized coefficient (Beta) of 0.454, and it is highly significant ( $t = 8.670$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ). The coefficient for Community Security (CS\_PC) is 0.32, with a standardised coefficient (Beta) of 0.141, and this relationship is significant ( $t = 2.785$ ,  $p = 0.006$ ). The coefficient for Political Security (PS\_PC) is -0.032, with a standardised coefficient (Beta) of -0.124, and this relationship is significant ( $t = -2.421$ ,  $p = 0.016$ ). The negative coefficient indicates that, contrary to expectations, an increase in political security, moderated

by political commitment, is associated with a slight decrease in transitional justice implementation.

## **Discussion of Findings**

The findings on community security and its relationship with transitional justice in Liberia underscore the crucial role of security in facilitating successful reconciliation and stability in the post-conflict context. Strong support for the impact of transitional justice measures on community safety and stability indicates widespread recognition of the interdependence between justice, security and peacebuilding efforts. This finding indicates a clear recognition of the potential of transitional justice mechanisms, such as truth commissions, trials, reparations, and institutional reforms, to create safer communities. By addressing past human rights abuses and holding perpetrators accountable, transitional justice can dismantle the structures that perpetuate violence and insecurity. It also reassures the community that the government is committed to preventing impunity, which contributes to a sense of justice and security. This aligns with Kekovi et al. (2023) assertion that community security bolsters safety and resilience of local communities, specifically within the framework of human security, as transitional justice processes help to restore trust between citizens and the state, and they can help establish a more stable and peaceful environment in which security is strengthened.

The findings on economic security and its impact on transitional justice in Liberia highlight the integral role that economic factors play in ensuring the success of transitional justice mechanisms. Economic conditions are closely related to the success of transitional justice processes. Economic instability often exacerbates social grievances and can make citizens feel that justice mechanisms are irrelevant or ineffective in addressing their needs. In contrast, economic stability can make people feel that the government is more capable of keeping its promises, which in turn increases public trust in transitional justice efforts. As mentioned by Urueta and Prada-Urbe (2018), a stable economic environment allows the government to fund and implement justice initiatives effectively and can create a sense of optimism among the public that its participation in transitional justice will lead to tangible and positive outcomes. In the absence of economic security, individuals may feel that justice is unattainable, and thus reconciliation processes can stagnate or fail to take root (Lederach, 1997).

When people are struggling with economic hardship, they can prioritise survival and immediate economic needs above participation in long-term justice processes. If transitional justice mechanisms focus solely on legal or political dimensions without addressing economic inequality, as advanced by Emeziem (2021), they risk reinforcing existing social tensions. Transitional justice efforts as averred by Shahid (2023), should not only aim at acknowledging historical injustices but also at providing tangible opportunities for economic empowerment. The findings strongly suggest that economic security is a critical component of successful transitional justice in Liberia. Economic stability, the provision of opportunities for participation, and the addressing of economic inequality are essential to promote public trust, ensure victims' needs are met, and create a sustainable environment for reconciliation. Additionally, the alignment of economic policies with transitional justice goals is necessary for the long-term success of justice processes.

The findings suggest a weak and statistically insignificant relationship between political security (PS) and the effectiveness of transitional justice, as indicated by the negative coefficient, low beta value, and nonsignificant p-value. These results are interesting compared to existing literature on the relationship between political security and transitional justice. Generally, the literature suggests that political security may be a crucial factor in the implementation of transitional justice (TJ) (Lutz and Sikkink, 2001; Omelchuk, 2021; Paleri, 2022). Political stability and security can create an environment conducive to the establishment of justice mechanisms and processes, as secure environments allow for the proper functioning of judicial and truth-telling institutions. However, the findings of this study do not align with this general expectation, as the negative coefficient and the lack of significance imply that political security may not be as important for the implementation of transitional justice as the literature typically suggests.

The literature on transitional justice stresses the importance of context in determining the effectiveness of transitional justice measures. Political security has different effects depending on the specific political and social context of a country. For instance, in a post-conflict society like Liberia, political security is closely tied to the consolidation of peace, which is at variance with the prosecution of perpetrators who themselves are key stakeholders in the governance of the country. Nevertheless, the war in Liberia ended since 2003, and series of institutional reforms by international partners have created a more stable democracy; hence, political security is not as crucial for the success of

transitional justice as other factors such as public support, economic stability, political commitment, the presence of independent institutions, and community security take precedence.

The findings of the responses on political commitment as a moderator of the effectiveness of transitional justice mechanisms, particularly in enhancing human security, show a significant moderating effect. The findings show that transitional justice mechanisms are more effective when supported by political commitment, highlighting the central role of political will in ensuring the success of these processes. This sentiment was expressed by Gallen (2023), who argued that without the political leadership's dedication and desire to address past crimes, it is challenging to create and sustain effective transitional justice structures. Transitional justice mechanisms, such as the prosecution of perpetrators, truth commissions, or reparations, require legal and institutional frameworks that are dependent on political support. Without political backing, there is a risk that these mechanisms could be underfunded, blocked, or poorly executed. In summary, the finding showing a significant positive relationship between the variables emphasises the consensus that political commitment is a vital enabler for the successful implementation of transitional justice mechanisms that strengthen human security in Liberia.

## **Conclusions**

The findings point to elements of human security as a critical facilitator of the success of transitional justice in Liberia. Success in transitional justice measures in Liberia significantly depends on community and economic security, as all of these together nurture confidence, stability, and reconciliation. They are important in creating a secure environment in which justice can thrive and contribute to lasting peace. Together, community security, economic empowerment, and strong political commitment to peaceful co-existence guarantee the sustainability of peacebuilding processes, since each underpins public belief in the government's capacity to address both past wrongs and prevent future violence. The government must ensure that policies that enhance economic development and opportunities and empowerment are part of transitional justice processes. The government can reduce frustrations that weaken public support for justice mechanisms and encourage long-term social stability by addressing the economic hardships and inequalities created by the civil war. Additionally, the Government of Liberia should move away

from cosmetic commitment and must demonstrate an unwavering and actual commitment to accountability, allocate the necessary resources and actively support transitional justice reforms to create an environment conducive to long-term peace and security.

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