

NUNCA MAS

Newsletter nr. 1 2020

Dear everyone,

Here comes the first newsletter in the history of Nunca Mas. We will from this point forward attempt to regularly send out newsletter to our members. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform you of what is taking place within the organization and out in the world. Despite this being a small organization, many things have happened the last year.

Honduras

In our project in Honduras in collaboration with CIPREVI, we are attempting to help the indigenous people called the *Lencas*, through their organization MILPAH, in receiving recognition for their culture and their land rights. Recognition of their culture particularly revolves around having their views on health be recognized. The indigenous people live under a constant pressure from others in regard to their culture and their traditional land. Honduras has signed the ILO-convention document regarding indigenous people, but they are not honoring it. In regard to the pressure the *lencas* live under, Nunca Mas and CIPREVI provide them with psychological tools to help stand against the pressure from regular intimidations, death threats and violent assaults and even homicides against them and their acquaintances.

Our psychologist *Arely Alvarado* together with *Jan Ole* has just been in Honduras to see how the project is proceeding and to take part in a workshop with 44 participants. At the workshop, there was an exchange of methods for handling the psychological pressure the indigenous people (adults and children) experience. Here, suggestions for how they could lobby for recognition of their rights, culture and practice were laid out. Together with our partner CIPREVI, we followed up on earlier work done with *testimonial therapy*, which the participants sought more of. This form of therapy only works for adults which is why the participants were also given tools to use with their children, who are also deeply affected by the breach of the rights of their community.

Our good-will ambassador, the Honduran musician Alberto Lainéz also attended the workshop, where he presented a proposal meant to inform more about the *Lencas* and their struggle for their rights through music and video.

Generally speaking, we are very satisfied with how the project is evolving. CIPREVI are very engaged and deliver good results in collaboration with the *lenca* organization MILPAH.

Increasing interest in the work of Nunca Mas

We are getting more inquiries from organizations in the global south that wish to collaborate. We have to decline the majority since we do not have the resources needed or because their requests lie outside the mandate of our organization. But we - and in particular *Erik* and *Anne Marie* - have been in the process of completing applications from Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka. The first project revolves around getting documentation on and

recognition of the assaults that took place in Matabeleland in the start of the 1980's. These assaults still lie like a thick blanket over the region and are inhibiting people (adults and their children) from moving on with their lives. (PS. we have now been informed that our project application s been approved by CISU). The other project revolves around violence taking place in schools. Violence in schools in Sri Lanka has formally been prohibited for year, but it is still practiced. Teachers - much too often - use violence to punish their pupils. Lastly, we have received an inquiry from Nicaragua, where an organization associated with an University requested our help in building a clinic that takes care of people affected by collective violence. *Miroslava* has visited the organization in Managua to meet them and explore whether collaboration is possible. All in all, we have our hands full at the moment.

Nunca Mas waves the flag

At the Latin American festival that took place in Copenhagen the 5th of October, Nunca Mas had a booth where *Miroslava* and our intern *Jose Quiroz* from Rostock University shared the story of Nunca Mas and what we do. For the occasion, *Miroslava* made a pamphlet that describes the organization.

Internal Information

Nunca Mas has now existed for 7 years and we are looking into amending the bye-laws so it fits to where the organization is today and where it is heading. *Dea* will make sure we make it to the finishing line in this regard. *Anne Marie* has sent our financial statements to our auditor. It seems that our finances are in good shape when you take our activity level into consideration, and that everybody presently works pro bono.

With the help of *Erik* and *Anne Marie* we have compiled a code-of-conduct for our work which will be published on the homepage. The aforementioned needs a proper makeover which is something the board will be looking at throughout the month of February. If there are volunteers that would like to contribute send an email to *Jan Ole* (joh@nuncamas.net).

Keep yourself updated on our Facebook page where we regularly post updates from our work or other topics related to the countries we work in.

We are also looking at a membership strategy, where we have been given some good inputs from our volunteer *Sergio Bahr*. To get project funding from CISU, we must have at least 50 paying members. Presently, we have 58. We would like to have a few more and we would also like to have a few more active members. With the number of projects increasing we are particularly interested in individuals with knowledge and experience within the psychosocial field, preferably a psychologist that can help our partners within this area. Our partners request this type of expertise.

General Assembly 2020

Put a mark on your calendar on the 30th of April between 17:00-20:00. Then, we will be hosting our next **general assembly**. Show up, have a say and if you wish, find out how you can contribute! The general assembly will take place at Beboerlokalet, Heringgade 2 st., 2100 Østerbro, close to Nordhavn station. Write to Jan Ole, if you plan to attend joh@nuncamas.net, as we will offer a bite to eat and a little something to quench the thirst.

Subscription 2020

Remember to pay the membership fee for 2020. You shall pay at the following account: Our Merkur Bank registration number 8401 with the account number 1036633. The subscription fee for 2020 is only kr. 50. To be eligible to vote the payment transaction must be completed latest by the 29th of April. We currently have 58 paying members and we would like more. We are also interested in members who can lend a hand when it comes to our external communication, administration or the project collaboration with our global south partners. We are particularly interested in enthusiastic individuals with a psycho-social background, since we experienced that there is a growing interest for our help in this field. This could be psychologists or individuals with a similar background. We are also looking for activist that can support us in public events or project co-ordination. If you have little expertise in the field some of our very experienced voluntaries can assist you.