



Newsletter nr. 3/2021

Six months have passed since the last issue. A lot of things have happened since then, as you can read below. We look forward to the Christmas holiday when we can relax a little, because we have been very busy.

It is clear that our partners and we are affected very differently by COVID-19. In Denmark normality is almost back and there are very few restrictions, at the same time as the pandemic is still ravaging in the countries of our partners, who are severely hit by one wave after another.

Nunca Mas held its general assembly on 6th June 2021. Participation was lower than last year due to COVID-19, and a pleasant warm summerday outside. We were 12 participants, two of which were fairly new members. The general assembly showed that the organisation is on the way to consolidating itself with more members, more partners, and more projects in what seems to be a healthy, controlled, organic development.





Updates from the partners



The Ecuador project on the prevention of violence against women is well on the way in Ambato in Central Ecuador. The timing is excellent, as the President has made it one of his major priorities. Ecuador has good laws. What is important now is for these laws to be implemented. In order to make changes, it is important to change people's attitudes with respect to violence against women.

Our partner, Foundation for Integral Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence (Fundación para la Rehabilitación Integral de Víctimas de Violencia - **RV**) has already secured cooperation agreements with central and local officials and civil societies and movements. In January 2022, Nunca Más intends to visit the project. The first visit to a partner in two years! The Corona situation is partly under control in Ecuador with more than 65% of the population vaccinated (in third place after Uruguay and Chile in Latin America). We are hoping that the project and the civil society in general will not be affected by a state of emergency very recent launched by the government in order to counter what they see as a rising level of violence in prisons".



On October 1st 2021, the second phase of the project with Ukuthula Trust  and Tree of Life  in Matabeleland, Zimbabwe began, dealing with the victims from the massacres in the 1980s, the so-called Gukurahundi.

The first phase focused on assisting the National Peace and Reconciliation Committee (NPRC) in an ethically and professionally correct collection of testimonies of Gukurahundi along with capacity development of lay people in dealing with people with trauma caused by violence. As the NPRC has had its committee members replaced and the new NPRC is not showing any interest in securing testimonies from Gukurahundi at all, the second phase will focus on the local chiefs. They have shown a keen interest as it is their communities that are still severely affected by the massacres that took place almost 40 years ago.



Picture: AFP

"The regime seems not to accept criticism at all making more laws that restrict civil society organisations in doing their job." New laws have made it dangerous for civil society activists to be in contact with diplomats or to receive funding from abroad. It is indeed scary, and a return to the situation of the mid-00s.



THE PHILIPPINES



In the Philippines, the project with the Center for Disaster Preparedness Foundation **CDP** is proceeding with a tight network of civil societies organisations (CSOs) and others fighting to keep a transparent, decentralised system to deal with disasters instead of a centralisation of power and funds in the hand of the central government. The project is also trying to counter the new terrorist laws that are putting all CSOs involved in development and humanitarian work at severe risks of being named as terrorist, which in some areas can be the same a death sentence. Numerous civil society activists, journalists and their lawyers have been killed in recent years, often after being “red-tagged” by the army and others. “Red-tagging” means being seen as communists or communist sympathizers, thus being related to the illegal New People’s Army that has been at war with the Philippine Government during the last 60 years.

THE PHILIPPINES



Finally, Civil Society in Development (**CISU** CIVIL SOCIETY IN DEVELOPMENT) has just approved a new project in Honduras with our old partner, El Centro de Prevención, Tratamiento y Rehabilitación de Víctimas de la Tortura y sus Familiares (CPTRT - **CPTRT** Convivencia Sin Violencia) together with a network of psychologists, El Equipo Hondureño de Acompañamiento Psicosocial (EHAPS - **EHAPS**) and La Red de Organizaciones Juveniles del Municipio de Choluteca (RAJUMCH - **RAJUMCH**) a network of youth groups in the city of Choluteca (South Honduras).



"I don't want to feel BRAVE when I go out to the street. I want to feel FREE"
"No quiero sentirme VALIENTE cuando salga a la calle, quiero sentirme LIBRE."






The project began on November 1st 2021. It will deal with enhancing youth's capacity to undertake advocacy, so they can improve their situation and attend to those activists and their families who are in need of psycho-social interventions.

In November, the country is in the middle of a very tough election which is violent even in a Honduran context. Many people who are standing for public office have been killed. The regime is desperate to once more "win" the election, because being in control is the same as being able to secure resources for the few people in power. Everyone is looking north to see how the US will react. Will they accept a blatantly rigged election once more? If law and order is not restored in Honduras and if people do not see any hope for the future of the country, then the flow of migrants and drugs will continue to increase.

Networking





Nunca Mas has continued its involvement in Zimbabwe European Network  where information is exchanged, and efforts are made to get Zimbabwe on the European agenda. Nunca Mas has taken the initiative to an informal Danish network (DanZimNet) in order to exchange information on the development in the country and to keep each other informed about what each organisation is doing – with the purpose to get Zimbabwe back on the political agenda in Denmark. The first meeting has been held, and there was broad support to this effort. For Nunca Mas, it is a very important effort, reflecting the concept of solidarity. The struggle for human rights is global, and our partners need all the support it can get. Their working often comes with great risks.





Communication

We are regularly posting news on our facebook page  and our web page www.nuncamas.net contains all formal information on Nunca Mas. We have had an update of our webpage, and we have decided that it will be updated when we get new partners, projects, board members or the like. Our facebook page will post things regularly. We are still looking at ways of improving our communications effort, taking our limited human resources into account. If anyone would like to volunteer, you are most welcome. If you have any questions or comments, then write to  or contact any of the board members of Nunca Mas.



Administration



We have strengthened our financial management and accounting system, by introducing a new system that will provide us with a much better overview of our financial situation (which is very sound for the time being with very low costs). With four projects in four countries, more work is on our plate, and until recently this was managed by only one person. Therefore, we have been lucky to take on a bookkeeper. She is highly qualified as a financial administrator. By getting her on board, we are now in a better position to share the responsibilities, and we can relieve our controller/financial manager of some of her work.





We have introduced  **MobilePay** 789953, enabling members to can pay membership fees using this app. Since October 26 2021, we have been given a free **office** space by **Plumfonden** at their nice historic building in **Dronningensgade no. 14 at Christianshavn**, where we can work and meet. Most days at least one person from Nunca Mas is available during working hours. ***If you want to learn more, do some very exciting voluntary work, or become a member, then please come to see us. We are on the 2nd floor.***

Membership - Subscription 2021

We have 84 paying members in 2021. We would like to reach 100. Thus, ask your friend, brother, mother, father, son, daughter, or neighbour to become a member. It only costs DKK 50 per year to become a member of this fantastic organisation. You can also use your internet banking and set up an automatic annual payment. Then you will not have to think about it 😊. We prefer this method because we don't have to pay any bank charges 😊.

Membership

fees of DKK 50 should be transferred to the following account:

Merkur Bank registration number 8401 account number 1036633.

Or you can pay using Mobilepay: 789953

Include name and year and email in the payment – it makes it so much easier for us.

You are also welcome to donate funds to Nunca Más. It is the same account, and you just write “donation”.



MUNCA MÁS



**For just 50 dkk a year
you can make a difference!**

Become a Nunca Más member and support our work for human rights and psychosocial support for victims of socio-political violence.

Reg no: 8401
Account number: 1036633
Iban nummer: DK1484010001036633

 www.nuncamas.net/where-we-work 





Glaedelig Jul og Godt Nyttår
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo

