

NEWSLETTER

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NUNCA MÁS



Introduction

Remember the General Assembly on Saturday 30 April at 10:00 AM, where we will look back at what has been achieved during the past year.

The GA will be followed by an organisational workshop, where we will evaluate our activities and discuss the future. We hope that many will join us and contribute to the workshop.

We have grown in the last two years with more activities and projects in four countries. Therefore, we desperately need one more controller. Please, see the advertisement below.



Press here



GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND WORKSHOP



The Annual General Assembly (AG) is just around the corner and this year, we are no longer in the way of Covid-19, so we will hold this year's event, as stated in the statutes of Nunca Más.

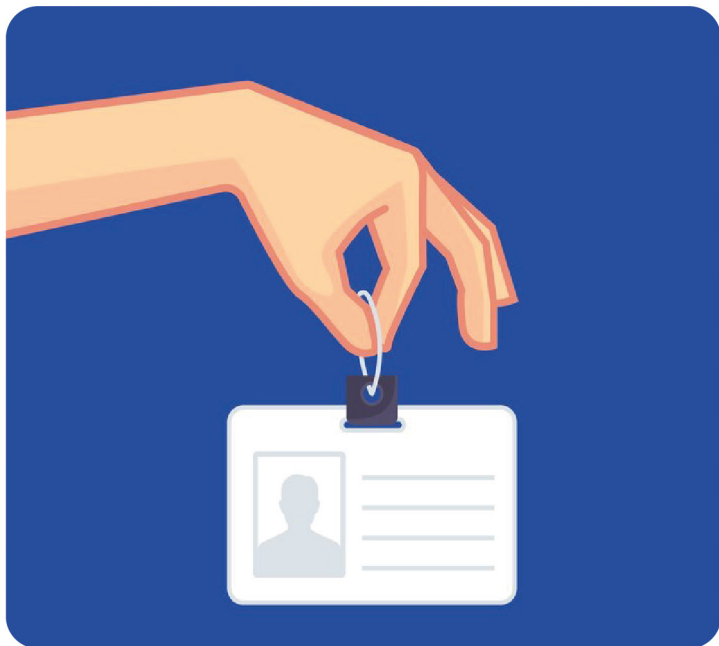
Therefore, the GA will take place on 30 April at 10:00 a.m. at the YMCA Amager - KFUM huset, at Oliebladsgade 7, near Amagerbro Metro St and Amagerbrogade. The agenda of the GA and the submitted proposals are in accordance with the statutes which can be found on our website: [Byelaws](#).

Proposals from members must be sent to the board at  latest the 16th of April - 14 days before the general assembly.

To be eligible to vote, you must pay your membership fee by 29 April.

As last year, we would like to invite you not only to the GA, but also to a workshop afterwards, where we will discuss and make plan for the future of Nunca Más. As a member-driven organisation, we value your participation and at the same time, we want to underline that by attending the workshop, you are part of deciding the path and direction of Nunca Más. Naturally, we will make sure that we have enough snacks and drinks, so that you are nourished and can contribute the best of your ideas.

MEMBERSHIP FOR 2022



At Nunca Más, a new year means a membership renewal. Therefore, we would like to kindly remind you to transfer your annual membership of 50 DKK to either register no. 8401 account no. 1036633, or via Mobilepay to number: 789953. Please include your full name and email address when transferring your membership.

At the same time, we would like to ask all of you to encourage your network; be it your brother, sister, parents, friend or anyone you encounter in your daily life, to become a member. Simply put, by having more members we can bring about greater change.

Volunteers call

At Nunca Más we believe that volunteers are key actors of change and should be included in change processes. A volunteer is not defined by background, age, education or even country. A volunteer at Nunca Más is someone who shares our values and mission and wants to engage in local engagement. However, it is important to note that "local" engagement does not necessarily mean in Denmark, this engagement could also take place in one of our partners' contexts.



Take Andrea Birkbak, a psychology student at Aarhus University and volunteer, who recently visited our partners in Zimbabwe. Andrea discovered that as a psychology student and Nunca Más volunteer, she could contribute psychologically and discover new perspectives on the study of trauma.

Volunteering at Nunca Más therefore means contributing to our work, but also acquiring some professional skills. In this note, we simply want to mention that we always need volunteers, no matter who you are and what you do. Everyone is welcome as a volunteer.



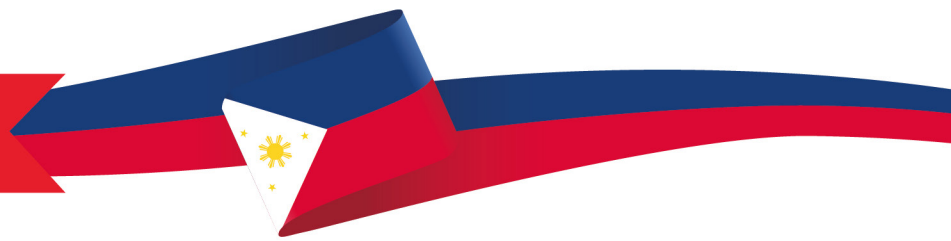
A lot has happened since the youth project with the RAJUMCH network began. The project is assisting young people in taking their future into their own hands, demanding concessions from the local government. The project carries on, with the assistance of our partners, CPTRT and EHAPS. It helps the project that there has been a change of government in Honduras. This took place in January this year, following the landslide victory of the opposition parties Libre and Salvador in the general elections on 28 November 2021.

The National Party lost the election, having been in power since the military coup in 2009. The Honduran president during the last 8 years, Juan Orlando Hernández, was ousted and replaced by Honduras' first female president, Xiomara Castro. The former president is now on his way to the United States, where he faces serious drug trafficking charges. His brother, Tony, is already serving a life sentence for the same crime.

Nunca Más held a webinar on January 12 with specialists such as Alba Mejia, CPTRT's Deputy Director, who informed us of events during the and what to expect afterwards. More than 50 people participated in the webinar, 30 of whom came from Denmark.

The partners have already made good connections with the new government, which prioritizes human rights, the fight against corruption and an just and fair economy. CPTRT and the project have engaged Commissioner Maria Luisa Borjas, who has been an important human rights advocate during the last decade. The project is exploring whether RAJUMCH can use the new political development to bring about real change for youth in Choluteca. It is also identifying volunteers that can help RAJUMCH members with psychosocial issues.

THE PHILIPPINES



Our project with CDP in the Philippines ended on 31 January, and we are in the process of rounding up the final tasks, such as the final report. It was a partial victory, that the project together with other civil society organisations helped convince the supreme court that part of the new anti-terrorism law was unconstitutional. Thus, the law has to be modified. Through the project, the CDP has been able to coordinate organizations that had not until recently been very involved in advocacy at the national level.



In March, a new phase of the project has started and will last for a year. The objective of the project is to combine human rights work with psychosocial intervention in a context where it is becoming increasingly difficult and dangerous to work as a human rights and development worker. There is a high risk of being "red-tagged" as belonging to the underground communist organization New People's Army, or for supporting some of the mainly Muslim groups fighting for independence or self-rule. At the same time, the country is preparing for new elections. At present, the frontrunner in the election appears to be Ferdinand II "Bongbong" Marcos, son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his wife Ismelda Marcos. The latter still plays a political role in the country.

ECUADOR



During the last week of January, Nunca Más carried out its first partner visit since COVID-19 hit Ecuador. Nunca Más was represented by Johannes Nordentoft and Jan Ole Haagensen. The trip took place at a time when Denmark had removed the last COVID-19 restrictions, while these were still in place in Ecuador.

The project aims to prevent violence against women, which is widespread in the country with few signs of improvement despite government policies and actions. Forty percent of all women have been victims of intimate violence, compared to 10 percent having experienced it in the previous year (WHO 2021).

ECUADOR



The project focuses on the city of Ambato, where it has succeeded in getting women's organizations and public institutions to unite behind the project's objectives. It is an uphill struggle, as there is historically a lot of mistrust between women's organizations and public institutions.

The team met with various project stakeholders and made a presentation on the experiences in Denmark, where intimate violence is still a huge problem, but where there is a political will to deal with it, and where resources are being allocated to address the problem. Differences between Denmark and Ecuador were highlighted: In Denmark, civil society plays a central role and enjoys government support, there is a better cooperation between the authorities and civil society, there are more safe houses for battered women (although still not enough). In Denmark, there is also a focus on men who are victims of intimate partner violence: psychological violence is just as important as physical violence. Finally, in Denmark, there is an increasing focus on the perpetrator and how to deal with the perpetrator in order to get him/her to recognize the unacceptable behavior. The team was very impressed by what our partner PRIVA had achieved, despite COVID-19, and we hope that the cooperation may continue.



ZIMBABWE



Nunca Más has recently visited Zimbabwe for the first time since Corona. It was at the end of February, where we visited our partners Ukuthula Trust and Tree of Life. Here we support the work against collective violence and for historical memory and justice after the Gukurahundi massacres in the 1980s. The team consisted of Andrea Birkbak, a psychology student and member of NM, Erik Wendt, vice-president of NM, and Jan Ole Haagenzen, Board Member & Sr. Adviser. It was rewarding to visit the partners, to witness what they had done, and to meet the target groups, where the chiefs in particular were very interested in the project and in ways of supporting the healing process. For Jan, it was the first visit since 2013, and it was a sad experience as it is indeed a country in continuous decline, if what we saw in Mataberland is anything to go by.



ZIMBABWE

Everything is falling apart: for instance, the roads in Matabeleland, which were already bad, have worsened. This is expected to continue, because this year the rains have failed again, and the crops that have been planted, especially maize, were withering before our eyes. Many rural households in the region consist of only a grandmother looking after a handful of grandchildren, while the parents are working in South Africa.

Corona hit many of these families hard because they lost the opportunity to earn money in South Africa, which in turn meant that last Christmas they were unable to bring much money home to their families, if anything at all. In this way, Corona has intensified the existing food crisis. Many children do not go to school because families cannot afford school uniforms. The fact that there are more and more teachers from the ethnic majority group the Shonas, who do not speak the local language (Ndebele) in the schools in Matabeleland does not increase the motivation to send children to school .

Hyperinflation is on its way back: Between 2000-2010, the economy collapsed completely, and it was possible to obtain worthless banknotes of 100 billion Zim\$.



As a response, the country switched to the US dollar. This was abandoned again almost two years ago, and the Zim Bond was introduced at a rate of one Zim \$ 1 to US \$ 1. Today the exchange rate is 240 Zim Bonds for 1 US \$ on the "grey" market. It is not a black market, as the state is the largest buyer of US dollars, and it is possible legally to pay in US dollars at hotels and for other activities, through credit cards.

In most places, even rural ones, only Rand and US \$ are accepted. It is terrible for everyone, especially the civil servants, who get their salaries in Zim Bonds, as salaries do not keep up with inflation at all.

One consequence of the low value of civil servants' salaries is the numerous roadblocks, where the very innovative and sometimes aggressive police officers try to extract fines that they can pocket to compensate for the low value of their salaries. On the main roads out of Bulawayo, there were two roadblocks during the first four km. At one roadblock it was rather ironic when the driver was asked to pay a fine because there was no radio in the car, even though there was room for one.

Politically, the prospects do not look any better. ZANU-PF is still in power, and the opposition is harshly repressed. On the day before our arrival, a demonstration organized by a member of the popular opposition in Kwekwe was violently prevented by ZANU-PF thugs, leaving one dead and many injured. Sixteen people were arrested for the assault and almost all released a few days later.



The government is once again threatening civil society with the so-called Voluntary Private Organisation (PVO) Amendment that will give the government complete control with civil society organizations.

The PVO looks set to pass soon. It is estimated that approximately 18,000 NGO employees will be affected. The voluntary sector is the third largest earner in terms of foreign exchange. It does not concern the government. ZANU-PF spokesperson Chris Mutsvangwa said: "Those working in NGOs should start looking for other jobs".

The Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution in the Midlands, Larry Mavima, said (5-6 / 3/2022) that the government no longer needs NGOs, as it can look after its citizens itself. "How long must we continue to rely on other people? The country is built by its own people".

He encouraged instead NGOs to travel to Ukraine, where there was more need for NGOs with more than 1.5 million refugees. Sic! It doesn't sound like Zimbabwe is a poor food aid country. The ZANU-PF seems to live in another world where all that matters is retaining power at all costs and making its members rich by stealing from others. It is tragic indeed.

The PVO will most likely affect our partners in Zimbabwe and our cooperation with them and with the country as a whole – and this is worrying. For this reason, Nunca Más, together with other international NGOs, has signed a petition against the law.

The team spent time developing a new project proposal. We submitted the proposal on 8 March and are keeping our fingers crossed that it will be approved.

We will have a busy Spring, as three projects are coming to an end, and we have to formalize new projects in Zimbabwe, Honduras and Ecuador.

NUNCA MÁŠ INTERNAL STUFF



We are preparing for our General Assembly on 30 April. We have also written a working procedure for the board that will make the work of the board more transparent and make it easier for newcomers to join the organization and the board. The board regards it as a sign of maturity, and as a sign of an organization that is growing, now with four ongoing projects in four countries, and with more volunteers joining the organization.

According to our draft financial report, our economy is solid with a surplus of more than 90.000 DKR at the end of 2021. This is mainly due to the fact that Nunca Más has very low running costs due to the huge voluntary contributions of its members.

Warm regards to the newcomers Jeymi, who from Madrid will help us with the newsletter, Instagram and Facebook; Andrea Birkbak, who from Aarhus will help us in the psychosocial area, Bo Karlsen, who from Copenhagen will help us to evaluate project proposals, Pernille Bjørnskov, who from Copenhagen will help us to get more young people engaged in our work, and finally Sofia Mata, who from Copenhagen is helping with the newsletter, making a volunteering/internship strategy and doing the monitoring of our projects.