




HAPPY *New Year*

to all the members and supporters of



1. Things to remember!

Membership renewal 

Without members we cannot apply for funds, and we have no credibility as an association. So, remember to pay the annual membership fee of **DKK 50. Reg no: 8401 - Account no: 1036633 - IBAN: DK1484010001036633 - MobilePay: 789 953.**

Reminder: General Assembly

This General Assembly will take place on **Saturday, April 29 at 11:00 a.m.** in Stuen at **Foreningshuset Sundholm 8, Sundholmsvej 8.** It will be followed by lunch. For those interested, there will be a workshop after the General Assembly where we will discuss ideas for the future of Nunca Más. The agenda of the General Assembly will be as stipulated in the Nunca Más statutes. The audited report will follow.

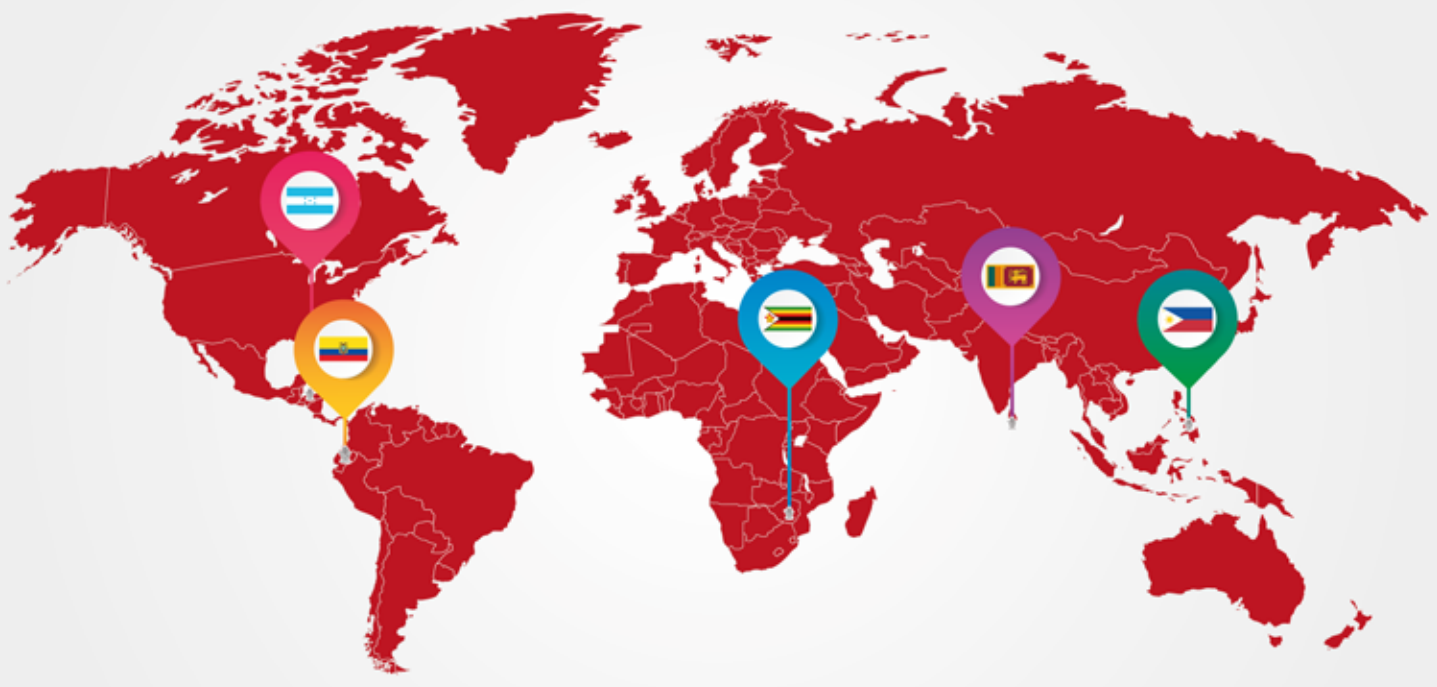
2. A new year with more members and more projects

The first project in Sri Lanka

In August, the Nunca Más launched the rule of law project with the Rule of Law Foundation and the Asian Human Rights Commission. The project is highly relevant due to Sri Lanka's present political, social, and economic turmoil as the aim of the project is to address crucial governance issues related to the 1978 constitutional change, which provided the president with near- dictatorial powers.

Nunca Más is now engaged with partners in five countries in the Global South

With its new project in Sri Lanka, Nunca Mas is funding projects in five different countries:



Events in Denmark



In the autumn of 2022, Nunca Más was very active, carrying out several events with the Nunca Más Ambassador, Alberto Lainez, from Honduras and Shari Eppel, the Director of Ukhutula Trust, our partner organization in Zimbabwe. In the last week of September, Nunca Más was responsible for various events in Aarhus, Brøndby and Copenhagen, respectively.



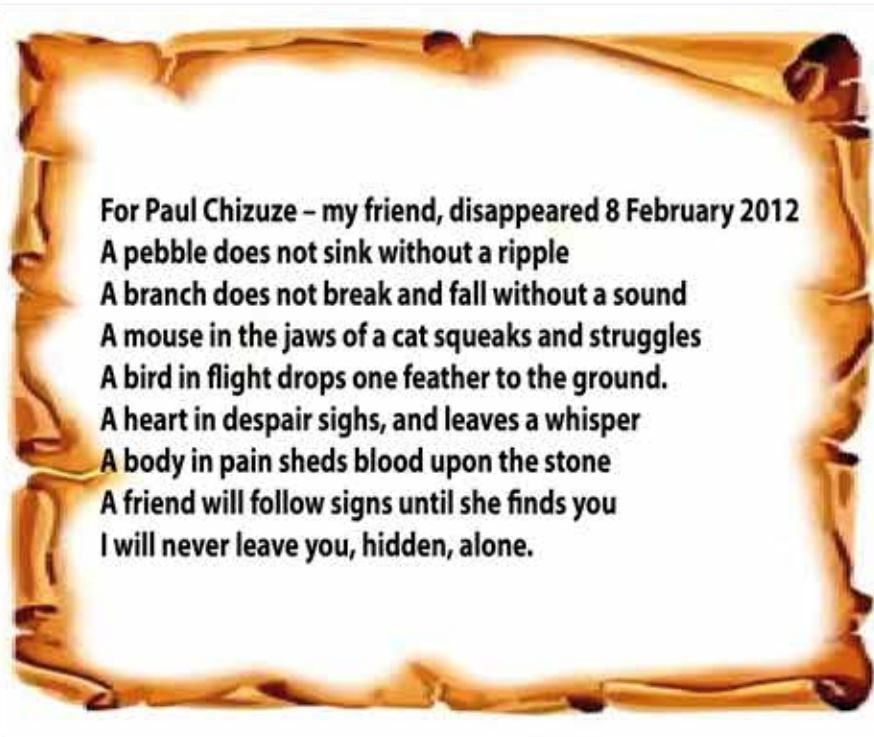
In Aarhus, together with Mellemamerikakomiteen (MAK), Nunca Mas organized a concert with Alberto Lainez. We had invited him to Denmark to promote our work and to present the work with the Lenca indigenous group in Honduras. Alberto sang his own songs about the environment and about indigenous people, and he spoke about the situation in Honduras.

The next day, Shari Eppel gave a moving presentation on the Gukuruhundi massacres in the 1980s, where more than 20,000 people were killed. She described how important it is for people to know what happened to their relatives during a time when many of the victims were randomly buried. This still haunts the population, as people want to know where their relatives are buried and give them a proper burial. The burial is an important ritual because it gives the relatives closure and connects them with their ancestral spirits. Alberto welcomed people with some of his songs, and after many good questions came from the public, Alberto also rounded the evening off with songs of his.



On Thursday the same week, Alberto met with school children in Brøndby, where he sang and interacted with the youths using games and songs that encouraged them to use their Spanish and where they heard about the life of indigenous youths in Honduras: the challenges they face when their land is taken from them, and their aspirations for the future.

Signs (by Shari Eppel)



In the evening of the Thursday, we invited the public to an open event in the historic Maskinhallen building at Sundholm, Amager. Here, Shari Eppel read some of her touching poems. The poems dealt with issues related mainly to the human rights situation in Zimbabwe, including the Gukurahundi massacres mentioned above, but also the time of COVID-19, which severely affected people in different ways. Within one week, Shari lost both her parents to Covid-19, without being permitted to say goodbye. For Shari, writing poems is a way of dealing with her work and the sad sides of life. It has a therapeutic effect.

On Friday morning, we convened the Zimbabwe Danish Network to hear Shari tell about the current situation in Zimbabwe and what we can expect in 2023 where a general election is scheduled. Hugo Kloppert, the coordinator of the Zimbabwe European Network, had come from the Netherlands to participate in the meeting and inform about ZEN, the European Network on Zimbabwe. ZEN is engaged in political activities in Zimbabwe, where the Zimbabwe Government is making it increasingly difficult for independent civil society organizations to work, for instance by implementing a law that strengthens state control over civil society organizations and permits the state to take over these organizations merely on the basis of the signature of one government employee. Nunca Más and others are following the development closely.

The above events could not have taken place without the support of our volunteers. In Aarhus, Miroslava and Johannes in particular, and in Brøndby and Copenhagen Miroslava with the help of Mellisa.



In August, Nunca Más had a booth at the Latinamerika Festival in Folkets Park in Nørrebro organized by Mellemamerika-Komiteen (the Central American Committee). It was a lovely day with many performances. Nunca Más itself had invited the Mexican multi-artist Bruno Ramri to come. Many visitors stopped by the booth to hear about the organization and try the Honduran bread that our volunteer Lideny had baked.

Project development update:



Zimbabwe: "Documentation of massacres in Matabeleland Zimbabwe: the right to truth, the right to know and the right to heal"

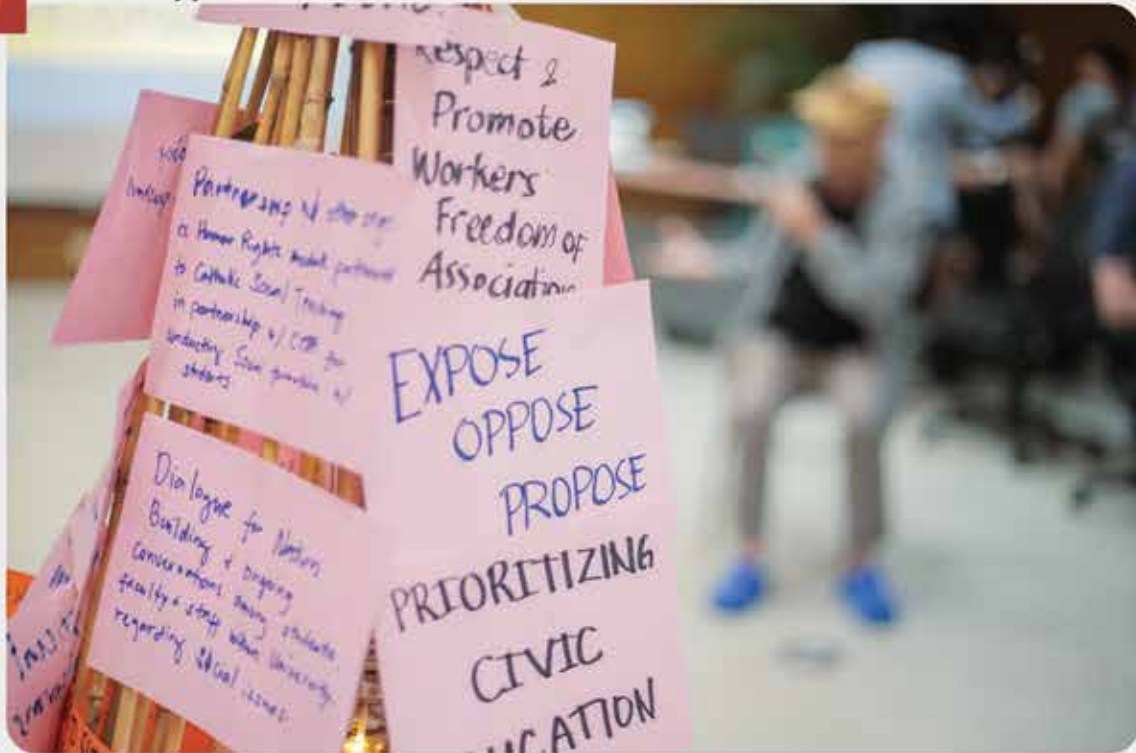


The second stage of project ended in May 2022. We are now in the third stage of the project, where it has been possible to involve traditional chiefs to a large extent. They have actively taken ownership of the project, which gives us hope for the impact of the project and its sustainability.

The chiefs lead the meetings where the villagers can present what happened during Gukurahundi and how it has affected them. We expect 2023 to be challenging, as elections are coming up no later than June. The ruling party is already escalating its intimidation of opposition voices and activities that could be seen as a threat to its power, in this way strengthening its means to stay in power. Presently, several opposition supporters have been killed when participating in political campaigns and draconian laws have been introduced (see earlier).



Philippines: "Strengthening civil society actions for rights-based and inclusive resilience in the Philippines"



The second phase of the project focuses on strengthening civil society organizations involved in community development in response to disasters that hits the Philippines much too often due to its geographical location. Different initiatives have been taken to strengthen the organizational skills of civil society actors to assist communities at risk. The election of Fernando "Bongbong" Marcos (son of the late dictator Fernando Marcos), indicates that the policy of undermining civil society (action), human rights and the rule of law may continue, and if it is not escalated, it may probably continue in a more subtle way. Thus the project is more relevant than ever.



Ecuador: "Improve the prevention of gender violence in Ecuador "



Reunión de Retroalimentación y Rendición de cuentas de la Campaña: "Mujer Tú puedes SER lo que quieras SER"

Our project partner, PRIVA, was in the first phase of the project able to sensitize and mobilize institutions, civil society organizations and other groups to work together on the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV). Many more people in the target area of the city of Ambato in high land Ecuador now know what instruments can be used to prevent gender violence. We were surprised at the limited knowledge about Ecuador's GBV-related laws and how they could be used within most organizations and groups working with gender related issues.





Sri Lanka: “Supporting the rule of law and defending the rights to freedom of assembly and association through the participation of civil society in Sri Lanka”.



The project with the Asian Human Rights Committee and the Rule of Law Foundation in Sri Lanka began in August 2022. Quality materials are being developed for the advocacy campaign related to the governance system that is undermining the rule of law, restricting civil society and popular participation, and concentrating power in the hands of a few – something which is preventing sustainable development in Sri Lanka. Participatory workshops are now taking place all over the country with different target groups, and this leads to a great amount of interest for the topic and a wish for change.

Honduras: “Support and strengthen political advocacy and psychosocial support for networks of young human rights defenders in Choluteca, Honduras 2”.



The first phase ended positively where the Network of Youth Associations of the Municipality of Choluteca (RAJUMCH) was strengthened and, finally, able to obtain support to continue their work from the Choluteca municipality - promised long back. It happened only due to the support of our partner Centre for the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims and their Families (CPTRT) and Nunca Más. Our other partner, the Honduran Psychosocial Accompaniment Team (EHAPS) mapped the psycho-social resources in the region that RAJUMCH and human rights defenders can draw on and it succeeded in bringing the different private and public organizations together. The organization aired a great interest in continuing to meet for the exchange of information and technical knowledge and provide support to the RAJUMCH activists and others. The mapping also indicated that suicide amongst youngsters was a severe problem in the area.

Upon studying statistical data it was seen that Choluteca had the highest incidence in the country compared to its number of citizens. We are now into the second phase continuing with the support to the youth group as well as into further strengthening the organization of the interested psycho-social organizations into a set up where they will meet regularly for exchange and eventually provide support to the above mentioned target groups. There will be a particular focus on the rural areas where the problems of the youth are more severe due to primarily traditional culture.

Internal matters



On April 30, 2022, we held our General Assembly. It demonstrated that Nunca Más was solidified with several projects under way, with a strong financial system and solid finances. This development seems to have continued, giving us high hopes for 2023 and 2024. As we are growing, we are in need of more volunteers. Please contact Jan Ole Haagensen at joh@nuncamas.net, if you have time, interest, and competences to contribute to our work. Since we have several volunteers with a lot of experience, it is an excellent opportunity to learn and to have a good time with smiles and fun doing activities with a higher purpose.

Members

Once again, please remember to renew your membership for 2023 by paying the DKR 50 fee. Kindly do so – we have 86 members and would love to hit the 100 members mark early in 2023.

In Denmark, you can transfer the amount to **Merkur Bank**
Reg no: 8401 - Account no: 1036633 or - MobilePay: 789 953.

Outside Denmark you can make a transfer to **Merkur Bank: IBAN: DK1484010001036633.**