



NEWS FROM NUNCA MÁS

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2021. We are still living under the dark clouds of COVID which has had an impact on our lives, but also on how Nunca Más has been able to work and grow stronger during the last year. The consequences of the pandemic may have been seen severe for us in Denmark, but it is nothing compared to the negative impact on the countries of our partners. COVID-19 has indeed amplified the world's inequalities, the richer populations and countries soon will be vaccinated, and poor populations seem to have been left behind. COVID-19 has, however, also shown that we are in it together.



Updates from the partners

The Philippines

Early January saw the beginning of our project together with our partner, Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Management Foundation (CDPMF) with funding from the civil society umbrella organisations CISU (Civil Society in Development). The project aims at defending the democratic space of civil society which is being increasingly restricted under the present regime, who are using the fight against terrorism and COVID-19 as a pretext for the restrictions. The project is very much about alliancebuilding and lobbying to counteract the authoritarian policies that are restricting civil society and concentrating resources and power in the hands of central government.



Nunca Más progress under the COVID-19 dark clouds.

Nunca Más volunteers make food to support victims of hurricanes.

Regardless of COVID-19, our partners have relentlessly carried out the project implementation. Last April, our partners in Honduras were even challenged by the super hurricanes Eta and Iota which left several 100,000 families with nothing. On the initiative of some NUNCA MÁS members, a collection was arranged to support the victims of the hurricanes.

We have begun our first project in the Philippines with the Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Management Foundation. So Nunca Más and strong partners now have projects in the Philippines, Zimbabwe, and Honduras.

Finally we are able to invite you to the annual General Assembly on 6th June, and we invite you to join our first strategy workshop. If you haven't done it already, please renew your Nunca Más membership for 2021. Directions for doing so at the end of this newsletter.



Under the project "Defending the democratic space of civil society in the Philippines", on Thursday March 18th, the webinar – ESPASYO: A “Know Your Rights” Forum, took place. The objective was to help with continuous education about human rights. The webinar was organized by Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Management Foundation (CDP) & Nunca Más with funding from umbrella CISU (Civil society in development).



Tip-taps for with soapy water at Pumula Hospital; at a private homestead; and Ukuthula staff handing over soap to nurse.

Zimbabwe

The project is delayed due to COVID-19 lockdowns. Ukuthula Trust and Tree of Life are doing what is possible in the current circumstances, attending their network in the rural communities, which are central for the success of the project.



Webinar:

Thursday April 29,
at 13 pm CET

In the light of the forthcoming development strategy – “Zimbabwe, The Forgotten Country”
The webinar aims to make a meaningful contribution to the current preparation process of the new Danish development strategy, which so far has included very few voices from the Global South as part of its consultations. Zimbabwe was once one of Denmark's key development partners, but this is no longer the case. The event will draw on experiences and insights from Zimbabwe's civil society sector and reflections on the changing relationship with Denmark, to help expand the debate on the new development strategy.



Public webinar by:

Professor Brian Rafiopoulos,
formerly employed by the University of Zimbabwe until he left for South Africa, where he is now the Director for Research and Advocacy for Ukuthula Trust, and a Research Fellow at the International Studies Center, University of the Free State.
Title of presentation:
Resurgent Authoritarianism in Zimbabwe.



Introduction to the 2 keynote speakers:

Amanda Hammar
Associate professor
Centre for African Studies
University of Copenhagen



Dr. Shari Eppell,
psychologist, and director of the Ukuthula Trust and has worked concretely with human rights in the country for more than 25 years.
Title of presentation: Shrinking Spaces.



CISU CIVIL SOCIETY IN DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

Organized by the Center for African Studies (CAS), University of Copenhagen and Nunca Más: International Network for Human Rights and Psycho-Social Response in cooperation with CISU (Civil Society in Development)

ZIMBABWE

On 29th April, Nunca Más is planning a webinar on Zimbabwe in the light of the new Danish development strategy. The webinar is held together with Ukuthula Trust, which will provide voices from Zimbabwe, the Centre for Africa Studies at Copenhagen University, and CISU. The Danish Minister for Development has been invited together with representatives from the different political parties.



In February, we lost one of our dear members, Anne Bay Paludan. She has been a member for several years. Before her retirement, she had worked for 10 years at the Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims (RCT) as the Africa coordinator, and at the Danish Refugee Council, where she was involved in the anti-apartheid struggle. She had a big heart, and few doubted that it beat for Africa. In the photo above, you can see Anne at the most right in the middle row - in her element - together with our Zimbabwe partners in South Africa in 2005.



HONDURAS

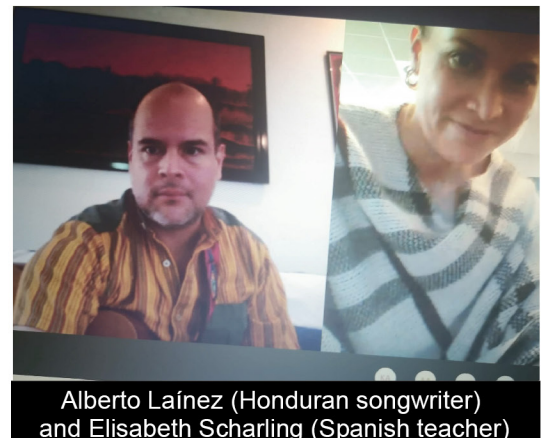


The project “Advocacy for the recognition of ancestral health practices in municipalities of the department of La Paz Honduras”, together with CIPREVI and MILPAH has ended. All there is left to do is the audited report. The project has been very successful and we have been capable of completing the tasks despite COVID-19 and the hurricanes Eta and Iota, which have had an enormous negative impact on the Honduran society and which will affect society negatively for years to come – and without doubt lead to further migration. Nunca Más initiated an external evaluation, and the consultants praised the achievements of our partners and encouraged us to continue the cooperation.

CIPREVI is now processing the evaluation report as well as internally evaluating the outcome. Nunca Más is awaiting their response as well as the response of the Lenca organisation (MILPAH). Part of the outcome of the project is a video and a unique publication that gives an overview over the ancestral health practices of Lencas. These documents will be shared on the website of Nunca Más. A video on the project activities was produced.



During the pandemic, Vestskoven Gymnasium received a virtual visit from Honduras.



Alberto Láinez (Honduran songwriter) and Elisabeth Scharling (Spanish teacher)

We finalised the information project with a grant we had with CISU. We had arranged with the popular singer songwriter Alberto Láinez to produce a song and a video together with MILPAH – a song that could spread information about the social and ecological struggle of MILPAH and the Lencas to a broader audience in Denmark. A song and a video were produced.

You can see/hear it on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gbjy3BZJPU4>

Regrettably, due to COVID, Alberto could not make it to Denmark where he was supposed to present the song at the annual Latin America Festival in Copenhagen, which was cancelled. He was also supposed to present the song at a high school class at Vestskovens Gymnasium in Albertslund, together with their Spanish teacher Elisabeth Scharling. The high-school performance went ahead as an online event, due to the flexibility of the people active in the event, and despite the many obstacles due to COVID-19.

Alberto, Elisabeth and the rest of Nunca Más learnt a lot from this event.

We are in the process of formulating a project with our old partner CPTRT and EHAP to support youth networks advocating for their rights and for secure local mental health support in the challenging and ongoing struggle in South Honduras. We believe that better opportunities for local youths will prevent them from migrating to the bigger cities or pursuing illegal and dangerous attempts to reach the USA.

HONDURAS



Bank account 8401-1258203

Your monetary donation to Nunca Más helps provide food to the victims of the hurricanes & Eta in Honduras.

Your monetary donation to Nunca Más' bank account 8401-1258203 helps provide assistance to victims of the hurricanes Eta & Iota in Honduras.

Finally, Nunca Más got permission to collect money for victims of the hurricanes Eta and Iota last November. It is the first time that Nunca Más has been actively involved in humanitarian assistance. Nearly 30,000 DKK was collected by members of Nunca Más and by Nunca Más itself. The funds were used to buy food for a starving population of La Lima, one of the hardest hit areas of Honduras. The collection gave the association experience in this field, which will be useful in the future. Thus, Nunca Más is now prequalified to apply for humanitarian funds from CISU (DERF) in case of another national disaster in one of our partner countries.

ECUADOR



With our partner PRIVA in Ecuador, we have now submitted a new project proposal to CISU on preventing violence against women using systematic collection of documentation. Although Ecuador has relatively progressive policies on the prevention of violence against women, so far the policies have had limited impact. Violence against women is still an enormous problem, exacerbated by COVID-19. The project aims to facilitate processes and produce tools to support the relevant institutions and social actors in the struggle against this problem.

General Assembly and Strategy for the future

According to the by-laws of NUNCA MÁS, the General Assembly should have taken place in April, but due to the COVID-19 situation, the Board has decided to postpone it to 6th of June order to be able to hold a GA as a physical rather than an online event. For the same reason, the GA in 2020 was held in June.

The GA will take place at the YMCA Amager – KFUM huset, in Oliebladsgade 7 close to Amagerbro Metro st. and Amagerbrogade.

More information will follow.



6 out of the more than 30 who participated in our last General Assembly

Strategy workshop:

A lot of things have happened since the foundation of Nunca Más in 2013. The association is growing and flourishing. It is initiating more activities and more projects and getting more members and volunteers. The Board and the volunteers have been busy with project development, advocacy and full-packed monthly meetings. Thus, it is time to take stock, and therefore we will have a strategy workshop just after the General Assembly. We will discuss, where Nunca Más is today, where we want it to be in the near future, and how to get there? We are inviting all members of Nunca Más to participate and contribute. If you want to stay on after the General Assembly, you are most welcome. Although it is serious issues we are dealing with, we hope that the arrangement will be good fun, and we will provide something to eat and drink for everyone.

Save the date:
6th of June at 10:30 followed by lunch
and for those who can/want an interesting workshop!
More information will follow.

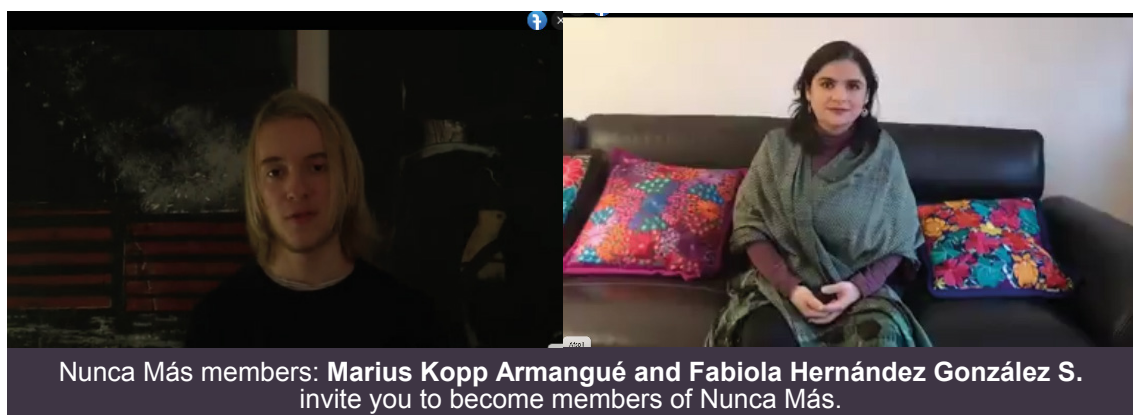
Advocacy and Communication

Together with 7 Danish organisations: 3F - United Federation of Workers in Denmark, Forest of the World, DIGNITY- Danish Institute Against Torture, the Danish Association of the Physically Disabled (DHF), Viva, The Central-America Committee and Nunca Más, with activities in Honduras, a letter was sent to the Danish minister for development with the request that funds were reserved for humanitarian assistance to the populations affected by the hurricanes Eta and Iota, as these were the most destructing hurricanes for 25 years, negatively affecting millions of people in the region. It took the ministry more than two months to reply for the request on humanitarian action, and only after a member of parliament followed up on the issue. The reply was negative referring to the (symbolic) support to alleviate the suffering from the catastrophe that Denmark has provided through UN agencies as well as Oxfam-IBIS, which is the only major Danish development organisation with a major direct presence in the region.

Time for renewal of your membership!

Join Marius in Danish on:

Join Fabiola in Spanish on:



Now it is time to pay the annual membership fee of DKK 50. You can pay by Bank transfer to our account in Merkur Bank:

Reg no: 8401 Account no: 1036633.

We hope to have mobile pay later this year.

To be able to vote at the general assembly, you will have to pay the membership fee before 6th of June.

We now are close to 80 members, but we do need more members, so convince your spouse, parents, kids, friends, colleagues, or neighbours to become members of this marvellous organisation that want to make a difference and support brave people in less fortunate countries in their struggle to create just societies based on human rights.

See you 6th of June!