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Dear readers,

On the pitch at the football stadium in El Alto, there is a sign that reads "Se juega donde se vive", which loosely translates as "We play where we live." Beneath it, in large letters, is written: 4,150 metres. This is the altitude at which the stadium is located. The Bolivian city of El Alto, with a population of over a million, is the highest in the world. Now, qualifying matches for the World and South American championships are now also being held there. Many nations are angry when they have to travel to high altitudes for away games, because the Bolivian players have a considerable home advantage due to acclimatisation. Argentinian superstar Lionel Messi is said to have vomited after a qualifying match in the catacombs of neighbouring La Paz, which is 500 metres lower.

Even for our peace workers, arriving at our Bolivian partner organisations is not always easy. The altitude, the harsh climate and the cultural adjustments demand a lot from them. Nevertheless, Esther Henning stayed for over six years and has now written an impressive portrait of her temporary adopted home. Even at high altitude, in a city marked by poverty and burdened by its colonial heritage, it is possible to experience what people can achieve through their commitment to peace.

We live in politically turbulent times in which it is important to defend international solidarity. Read the guest article by Jennifer Menninger and Ginger Schmitz on budget cuts and their serious consequences for the lives of People in the Global South. In this issue, we also portray how EIRENE makes partnerships with organisations in other countries more sensitive to power dynamics, and take you on a tour of a youth hostel in Hanover. Sounds paradoxical? Let yourself be surprised!

I hope you enjoy reading it.

Stefan HeiB, Head of Communications

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Cover: Aymara New Year celebrations: Women and men from El Alto wait hopefully for the first rays of sunshine. At this moment, the mountain and the city merge with the collective waiting, in which time seems to stand still.

Liz Solares is a 27-year-old Bolivian photographer. For five years, she has been developing her work based on intuition and lived experience. Her gaze is nourished by everyday life – she seeks to reveal the beauty, strength and contradictions of Bolivian reality. Through her lens, she transforms the ordinary into testimony and visual poetry.



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PEACE IN THIN AIR



El Alto in Bolivia is the highest metropolis in the world. The so-called “capital of the Aymara” lies at an altitude of over 4,000 metres. It is a place marked by poverty and conflict, but also by self-government and improvisation. Former EIRENE expert Esther Henning provides insights into the character of the city and shows the positive effects of the peace service in cooperation with local partner organisations.

From the aeroplane approaching the metropolitan area, you can see the vast expanse of El Alto. El Alto has long since ceased to be an appendage of La Paz and is now an independent city with self-confidence and its own identity. There are many prejudices about El Alto and its population: chaotic, poor, macho, dangerous, MAS supporters... The city, which borders directly on La Paz, is stigmatised simply because a significant proportion of its inhabitants are indigenous. Against this backdrop, it is nicknamed the capital of the Aymara.

According to the national statistics institute, 60 per cent of El Alto's inhabitants are under 30 years of age. Many of the young people are aware of their indigenous roots and at the same time see themselves as belonging to a group that is not clearly defined. Attributions. Their identity is diverse and complex. They move with great ease between two worlds: on the one hand, that of family and tradition in the countryside; on the other, city life with grilled chicken on every corner.

Over the past six years, I have advised EIRENE's partner organisations in El Alto and have had the opportunity to learn a great deal about the people and their city. In doing so, I have realised how significant the shared migration experience of many people in El Alto, as it often provides a more meaningful explanation for the

social and political dynamics of the metropolis than overly simplistic ethnic attributions.

The internet is full of hateful comments about the people of El Alto. Ignorant, savages or terrorists are some of the terms used. The colonial legacy in the form of hate speech in the digital space and discrimination against indigenous people therefore persists, even though Bolivia's constitution is characterised by its comprehensive recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples. There is a discrepancy here between reality and legal norms.

El Alto also has a negative image in Germany. To reduce prejudice and prevent discrimination in the first place, it helps to have contact with other people and facilitate positive encounters. Since 2008, EIRENE has been offering young people the opportunity to spend a year working on social projects in El Alto and live on the plateau. The voluntary service helps to break down stereotypes. Michael Roubicek reports: "Before I came to Bolivia, I believed that the Alteños and Alteñas were very closed people." Over time, Michael changed his opinion of the inhabitants of El Alto. "If you When you meet people at a birthday party, they are extremely open, warm and funny. We Germans are less open to other people."



Francisca Poma, Christina Sarzuri and Isabel Huchauanca are fighting for women's rights in Bolivia. ©OMAK



A cholet in El Alto: symbol of a new urban identity. The striking buildings designed by architect Freddy Mamani reflect the prosperity and pride of the Aymara community and show how tradition and modernity merge creatively in Bolivia's highest city.

Image: Pixabay

El Alto is a melting pot of tradition and modernity, different cultures and languages. Futuristic cholets designed in Andean colours by the internationally acclaimed architect Freddy Mamani, an expression of the material wealth and success of the Aymara bourgeoisie, stand next to unplastered houses. While young people express their protests against injustice through hip hop and the leaders of social organisations call for road blockades to fight back, yatoris (Andean healers) perform spiritual rituals and interpret the future with coca leaves. For Marilia Quispe, consultant at EIRENE's partner organisation FOCAPACI and lecturer at the Universidad Pública de El Alto, the city is therefore an ideal place to practise respectful coexistence. The 35-year-old has known El Alto since she was four years old.

El Alto is a stronghold of activism and resistance: ever since the so-called gas war, which led to the overthrow of neoliberal President Sánchez de Lozada in October 2003, El Alto has become a symbol of rebellion in Bolivia. El Alto de pie, nunca de rodillas (El Alto on its feet, never on its knees) is a slogan that is still used today. The Alteños and Alteñas successfully organised themselves and exerted political influence at that time. We are voicing our discontent. **Rebelliousness is an important part of the DNA from El Alto,** Fatima Pocoaca, a psychologist at EIRENE's partner organisation OMAK, tells me in conversation. At the weekend, Fatima sells handmade cheese to supplement her income.

During my time as a specialist, I witnessed from a safe distance what happened shortly after the 2019 presidential elections. In the massacre in Senkata, a southern district of El Alto, 10 demonstrators were shot in the head and killed. They had blocked a fuel depot, to defend the policies of change pursued by then-President Evo Morales. The event remained deeply engraved in the collective memory. The facts clearly show the extent to which social movements and state responses in the urban area of El Alto are marked by violence. A comprehensive criminal investigation into the events in Senkata has not yet taken place.

The young city became independent from La Paz 40 years ago. Two town halls have been looted and set on fire during this period. Important documents from the city archives were lost in the fires. There is no memorial site or Museum of City History, to look back at the past and provide guidance for the future. Jach'a Uta (Aymara for "the big house"), the current town hall, is located on the western outskirts of the city, about 30 minutes by car from the centre. The location was chosen for security reasons. The imposing character of the building is reminiscent of a fortress. For ten without interruption for years. This is impressive, given that female politicians are not only underrepresented in German town halls, but also rare in Bolivia. to this position. Soledad Chapetón

was succeeded by Eva Copa. Both women are daughters of migrants and began their political careers at a young age. They are role models for many Alteñas, but are also exposed to a great deal of hatred and harassment. Sexualised insults, open threats and physical attacks are aimed at intimidating and silencing women who hold office in El Alto – or even forcing them to withdraw from their political and social engagement. Until 1985,

radio stations. They were and are a mouthpiece for the citizens: for example, OMAK Activists discuss the proportion of women in the presidential elections live on web radio and analyse in Aymara why the women's quota is not working. Or programmes by and for children from the EIRENE partner organisation CHASQUI, which reports on their everyday lives in simple language.



Aymara New Year celebrations in the Andes. People greet the rising sun with raised hands and colourful scarves.

Image: Malin Funsch

El Alto belonged administratively to La Paz. However, city politicians focused on the Issues in Ollada, as La Paz is called due to its basin location, and provided hardly any funds for sustainable urban development. So the residents built their city themselves. With little money and lots of ideas, El Alto helped itself. The people not only built their brick huts, but also took care of even took care of the roads and paths. Even the public university of El Alto, which currently has 86,000 students inscribed, emerged bottom-up. The first lecture halls on campus were built in 1989 from adobe bricks. Since then, the

academisation of El Alto has been progressing. This bottom-up urban development, which is still practised today, stands for resilience and collective strength in action. The principle of self-government required structures such as neighbourhood associations and

WEAKENED AND DIVIDED

Today, it is not only civil society in El Alto that is divided, but throughout the country. Social organisations are relegated to the sidelines instead of being consulted and involved, or they are exploited by political parties. This is hugely damaging to democracy in Bolivia. The digital era is causing traditional media in El Alto and throughout Bolivia to disappear. Some radio stations are barely fulfilling their educational mandate and are instead obeying the rules of the market.

NEW FORMS OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

Against this backdrop, EIRENE's partner organisations have had to adapt their strategies. Media work has therefore become a central component of the work of the Civil Peace Service (ZFD) in El Alto.

OMAK, for example, promotes social media initiatives by activists to raise awareness of violence against women. This is the first step in preventing violence. **We denounce power imbalances between the sexes and help those affected to defend themselves,** says Francisca Poma, who has completed courses run by the women's rights organisation OMAK and now produces radio spots.

Marilia Quispe notes that young people in El Alto are looking for alternative places to get involved. "They talk openly about violence and share their experiences." The Arte-i-Cultura creative competition, which FOCAPACI launched for the first time in 2020 during the pandemic, also contributed to this. The aim is to encourage young adults to think about the importance of democracy and peace. Young writers and songwriters who set socially critical texts to music are creating a new image and sense of self-worth. Experimental young entrepreneurs are rethinking the city, opening cultural pubs despite adverse conditions and thus creating spaces for dialogue and participation.

A CITY FULL OF CONTRASTS

The social divide between the 14 districts cannot be denied. Four of them have characteristics of rural settlements. Where there is greater prosperity, it is difficult to mobilise large masses; conflicts are of a different nature. Street politics is losing support here. In the outlying areas, many basic needs are not met. If the properties are not registered with the land registry, there is no financial assistance for investment in the development of neighbourhoods. Bureaucratic hurdles constitute a form of discrimination. Residents are protesting against this and organising marches.

The Stege sausage factory produces meat products in El Alto, and the factory of the pharmaceutical company Inti is also located in the metropolis on the Altiplano, the highlands on the edge of the Andes. However, these industries only offer permanent employment to a small portion of the population. Most Alteños and Alteñas try to make ends meet through informal street trading. What may seem chaotic to outsiders at first glance follows fixed structures and well-established procedures. The majority of women whom OMAK encourages to raise their voices earn their living by selling goods – be it homemade hair shampoos, knitwear, jewellery, cooked food, baked goods or fruit. Their day starts early when they go shopping at the wholesale market. Even on rainy days, they have to stand outside and offer their goods. This job requires a lot of time and energy. When the women arrive late for OMAK's workshops, it is usually because that business was not going so well. The saleswomen change locations between neighbourhoods every day. Anyone who wants a permanent, covered stall has to work their way up within the existing structures and join one of the associations – a form of self-organised economic participation that shapes the everyday lives of many. More recently, women receiving training from OMAK report that they are selling their products via digital platforms such as Marketplace, but these women, who are strong communicators, lack personal contact with customers.

AIRCRAFT, MINIBUSSES AND GONDOLAS

The international airport, which serves two large cities, is located in the El Altos urban area. La Ceja, a central district, is an important bottleneck where traffic flows from the highlands and lowlands converge and make their way down to La Paz. Traffic jams are a daily occurrence. A motorway and three cable car lines connect the cities. Minibuses and gondolas transport many passengers up and down every day – to work, shop or study.

It is not uncommon to hear Alteños and Alteñas say: Bajamos a la ciudad (We're going down to the city). They



Gondolas of the Mi Teleférico cable car above El Alto, a symbol of progress and the connection between tradition and modernity. Image: Pixabay

mean La Paz, forgetting that more people live where they live than in the seat of government. The fact that the city of El Alto did not break the 1 million mark in the last 2024 census, is probably due to the fact that many people travelled to their villages of origin for the census. At first glance, El Alto appears rough and Contradictory. Strong, cool winds prevail on the Alto, and the difference between day and night temperatures fluctuates by up to 20 degrees. There is a lack of green spaces. When asked about a safe place to spend free time, Gladis Calsina, a social worker from EIRENE's partner organisation SEPAMOS, mentions the cinema. And indeed, the cinema and fast food restaurants in the city's three shopping centres are crowded at the weekend. However, experiences of this kind are a luxury for many Alteños and Alteñas. More affordable, though not free, is renting an artificial turf pitch with friends to meet up and play football. Almost all neighbourhood associations have their own sports field. According to a newspaper report, El Alto received 249 football pitches with artificial turf during Evo Morales's term in office. Access control is usually the responsibility of the chairperson of the Junta Vecinal (neighbourhood organisation). In the best case scenario, the usage fee benefits the residents of the neighbourhood. In her youth, Gladis spent her free time

in various church communities, even though she is not baptised. Church communities' activities for children and young people continue to be popular.

“You can only enter Plaza Murillo (the square in front of the government building in La Paz) if you are wearing a suit and tie. In El Alto, everyone is welcome.”

These are the words of Gladis' father. The SEPAMOS social worker lived until the age of twelve in the Yungas, as the subtropical valleys north of La Paz are called, where citrus fruits, coffee and coca are grown. Then her parents decided that El Alto offered their children more educational opportunities. Gladis moved to the Paraíso 2 area with her two siblings. Her parents initially remained in the countryside. The children had to organise their daily lives in the city on their own. In 1997, the neighbourhood where the family still lives today lacked water connections, power lines and street lighting. But the river that runs a few metres from the property was crystal clear, Gladis recalls.

Rapid immigration has changed El Alto: there are mountains of rubbish and rivers are polluted. Social changes are also noticeable, with values such as the Andean cosmovision and the principle of reciprocity appearing less visible in some contexts.

Today, there is a great fear of becoming a victim of crime in the neighbourhood. Gladis and her family are also plagued by this feeling of insecurity. Daughter. "Laws are not enforced because there is hardly any police presence outside urban centres," she says, complaining that "the justice system is riddled with corruption." The city administration feels it has no jurisdiction over the violence and refers the matter to the Bolivian Ministry of the Interior. Once again, self-organisation and personal responsibility are called for, as these virtues are among the strengths of the Alteños and Alteñas. Against the backdrop of insecurity, the residents found a simple and inexpensive solution. Since 2019, the neighbourhood has had a WhatsApp group where they inform each other about suspicious activities. Life-size fabric dolls, reminiscent of scarecrows, hang in El Alto on lampposts and are intended to scare off burglars. Gladis believes that El Alto has retained its rural character in this respect too.

During my six years as a CPS peace worker, I had the opportunity to talk to many people in El Alto and, above all, to listen to them. In times of multiple crises, it was good to talk to Alteños and Alteñas and learn from them how they defy adversity and find ways to overcome difficulties instead of burying their heads in the sand.



About the author:

Esther Henning was an EIRENE expert at OMAK and FOCAPACI from 2019 to 2025, during which time she supported two ZFD projects, most recently "Violence Prevention and Social Cohesion in the Department of La Paz". Specifically, she supported and accompanied women's rights promoters in their work for the physical and mental integrity of Aymara women and helped to raise awareness of the projects.



After 15 years of effective peace work in El Alto, the Civil Peace Service is breaking new ground in the region. EIRENE is responding to challenges arising from the climate crisis in the Bolivian highlands and, in cooperation with its partners, will promote approaches to transforming conflicts around water pollution and scarcity as well as urban-rural migration.

BACK TO LIFE WITH JOY & EDUCATION – HELP STREET CHILDREN!



*The Maya Paya Kimsa day centre offers street children a wide range of activities. Boris Marca learned to play chess there and developed new self-confidence.
Image: ©EIRENE*

"Street children have deeply wounded souls. Through our work, we let the children feel how valuable and important they are." Janneth Perez Molina runs the Maya Paya Kimsa child protection centre in El Alto. She is convinced that loving care and professional therapy are the key to helping street children return to a normal life. The day centre, which is supported by EIRENE, offers homeless children and young people protection and a sympathetic ear for their fears and needs. Through a wide range of activities, street children develop new self-confidence. Many manage to return to school. Ways are worked out with the parents to help them provide better care for their children.

"Over the next three years, we want to reach 1,800 children. Many of them live on the streets, while others we want to protect from ending up there," says Janneth from Maya Paya Kimsa hopefully. Please help!

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COURAGE AND A NEW BEGINNING: ANDY'S JOURNEY INTO A NEW LIFE

Andy Beymar Flores Mendez from El Alto was involved in the day centre run by EIRENE's partner organisation Maya Paya Kimsa (MaPaKi). Today, he is doing international peace service in Germany with EIRENE. He knows first-hand the challenges that children and young people face in his hometown. That is precisely why he emphasises how important MaPaKi's work is for them.

When I heard about the EIRENE programme, I knew immediately that I wanted to apply for it. I wanted to do the same thing as the German volunteers who come to Maya Paya Kimsa," he explains. "Now I wanted to go to their country and experience what it's like to live in Germany." When he heard the news that he had been selected as a future volunteer, he was overjoyed and very proud. "It was a lifelong dream come true," says Andy. "I didn't want to tell anyone about it because I knew it could be emotionally stressful for some people around me. But for me, it was about discovering new things and sharing my culture with others."

The fact that he himself had previously been at the Maya Paya day centre Kimsa was a criterion for his selection.

The social workers at the centre knew him. They had accompanied and supported him through a difficult phase in his life over several years. This support helped him find a job as a young adult as a car mechanic. In his free time, he volunteered at Maya Paya Kimsa, helping out at street festivals and other events with other children and young people. For Andy, the Maya Paya Kimsa centre was a place where he found confidence and was able to develop his skills. "I have learned to always see the positive in everything bad," says Andy. "That has helped me to overcome challenges and believe in myself."

Maya Paya Kimsa means "three steps forward" in the indigenous Quechua language. The child protection centre works according to this

motto. The organisation in El Alto supports children and young people who live on the streets permanently or temporarily. Through a wide range of services such as therapy, learning and activities, individual ways are developed with street children to help them leave the dangerous life on the streets. Contact is also sought with parents and teachers. The Prevention work is an important part of the centre's activities. The aim is to prevent children and young people from slipping into precarious circumstances and ending up on the streets.

THE ROAD TO GERMANY
Arriving in Germany was a big adjustment for Andy. "I didn't know if I was doing everything right or if



Andy at the skate park in Unkel's Bürgerpark Photo: EIRENE

How can children be effectively protected from sexualised violence at home, at school and in the digital space? At the "Mil Colores" fair in El Alto, MaPaKi employees explain successful prevention concepts to families, children and teachers.
 Image: Maya Paya Kimsa



people were looking down on me," he admits. "But I've learned that it's okay to make mistakes and learn from them."

Andy currently works in the Bürgerpark Unkel near Neuwied am Rhein. The association promotes diversity and coexistence among people; it is a meeting place for young and old, for long-time residents and newcomers. Andy is involved in a variety of tasks there, from gardening to helping with children's and youth activities.

"What I like about this work is that I can get to know the context in which children grow up and what education is like here in Germany," he says.

The exchange between his own culture and German culture is an important part of Andy's voluntary service. "I have learned that if something is the way it is, it must be that way and that there is a reason for it," he explains. "What surprised me was the number of foreigners you meet in big cities like Berlin. I

never thought I would meet other Bolivians there." He really enjoys working in the Bürgerpark. After five months, through interacting with other volunteers and working on a variety of tasks, he already notices how much he is broadening his horizons and gaining valuable experience for his personal and professional future.

„DARE TO TRY NEW THINGS“

For the future, Andy hopes to continue helping others and sharing his experiences. "I'm still young and I still follow the same advice that used to seem boring to me when I was younger and that I didn't understand. But now I follow it in my own way."

His appeal to other young people is: "Dare to try new things, don't be afraid of being judged for who you are, where you come from and what you do. Just dare to do it. But always set yourself a goal you want to achieve and keep your eye on it." Andy's journey from El Alto

to Germany is an example of how important it is to give young people opportunities and support them on their way.

Find out how eirene.org and mayapayakimsa.org provide street children in Bolivia with protection, education and opportunities for the future – simply scan the QR code!



<https://eirene.org/projekt/hilfe-fuer-strassenkinder-bolivien>

PEACE NEEDS A FUTURE

– WHY CUTS ARE THE WRONG SIGNAL NOW

BY Jennifer Menninger und Ginger Schmitz, Plattform Zivile Konfliktbearbeitung

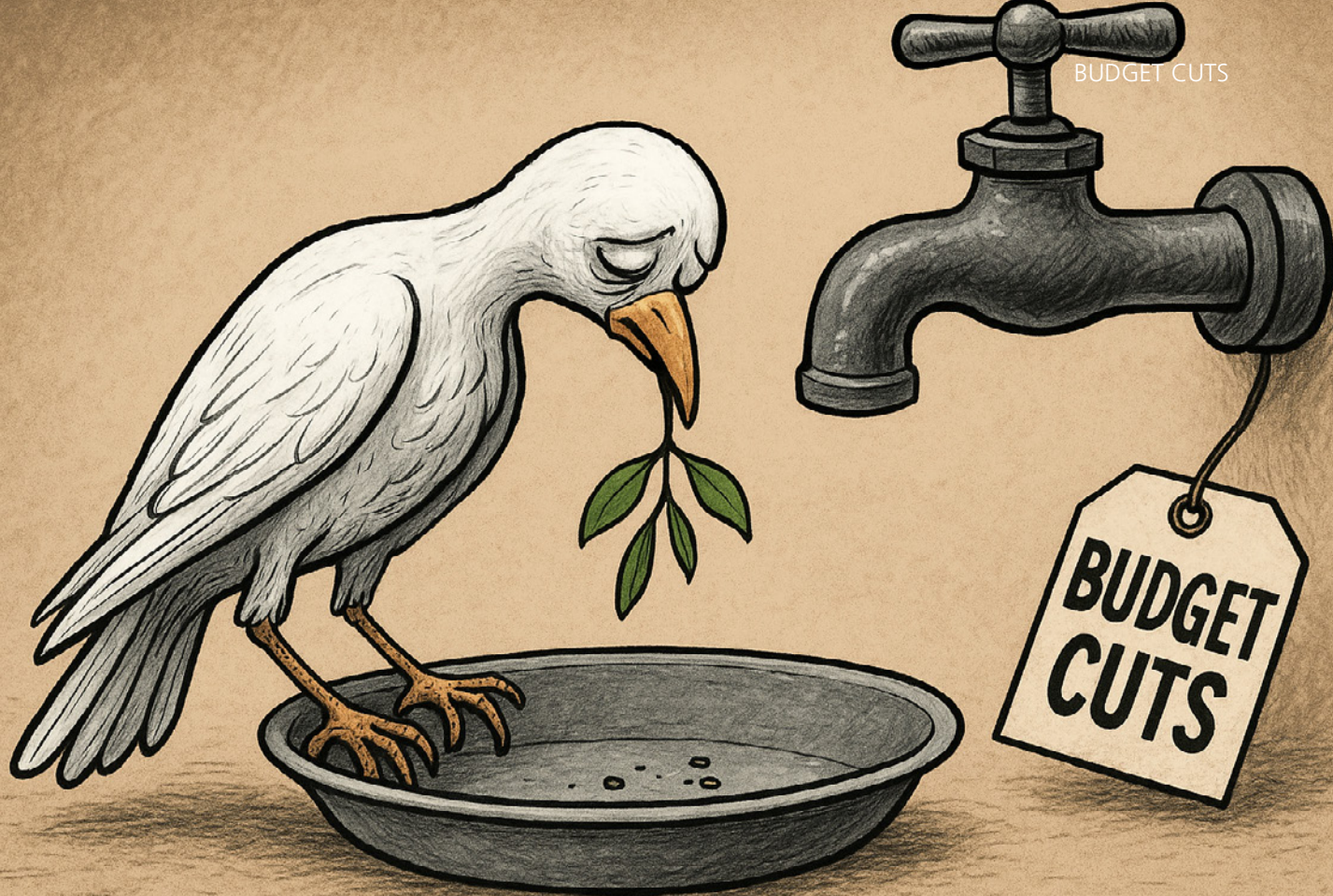
With the 2026 federal budget, the German government is facing a decision that will determine the direction of its peace policy. While crises and conflicts are escalating globally, the draft budget envisages further cuts in crisis prevention, peacebuilding and humanitarian aid. Funding is declining even though needs are increasing – a contradiction that is difficult to explain in terms of peace and security policy.

The 2025 Peace Report has clearly shown that violent conflicts are increasing worldwide, lasting longer and being resolved less frequently. At the same time, the climate crisis, social inequality and fragile statehood are exacerbating existing conflicts. More than 100 million people are fleeing their homes – a historic high. In view of these dynamics, strengthening civilian instruments would be the order of the day. Instead, the German government is continuing its policy of cuts and is once again reducing key budget items in the Foreign Office and the BMZ.

Funding for crisis prevention, stabilisation and peacebuilding is falling from 565 million euros (2023)

to 327 million euros (2026). The BMZ's budget for crisis management and reconstruction is also shrinking significantly. This is not only a break with its own peace policy guidelines and the National Security Strategy, which promise to strengthen civilian instruments, but also with international commitments – such as the promised increase in climate financing or the agreed target of spending 0.7% of economic output on development cooperation. In 2024, the 0.7% target was not met for the first time in five years. In view of the global challenges we face, this trend must not be allowed to continue.

Of course, we are aware of the pressure under which the current budget negotiations are taking place. The Financial leeway is limited, and priorities must be set. The call for increased funding for crisis prevention and peacebuilding is therefore not a call for unlimited resources. However, the sums involved here are marginal in relation to the overall budget – but their impact is enormous. Improvements would therefore not only be possible, but also wise. Every additional euro spent on civilian crisis prevention saves many times that amount in



future costs for humanitarian aid, reconstruction and, in some circumstances, military intervention.

Those who cut back on prevention today will pay the price tomorrow in terms of escalation, suffering and reconstruction. Studies show that investments in civil crisis prevention and peacebuilding are effective and economically . They prevent conflicts from escalating and reduce the causes of displacement. The current course, on the other hand, jeopardises Germany's credibility as a reliable international partner and weakens its ability to assume global responsibility.

In addition to sufficient funding, the field also needs better framework conditions. The current funding system is complex, bureaucratic and, for many civil society actors, associated with many uncertainties and risks. A reform of grant law through the introduction of a Foreign grant law could remedy this situation: less administrative burden for both sides, greater impact.

However, the current development is more than just a financial problem: it marks the possible dismantling of a peace policy infrastructure that has been built up over

decades – by ministries, implementing organisations and, above all, civil society. Once these structures have eroded, they cannot be restored in the short term. The revision of the guidelines "Preventing crises, managing conflicts, promoting peace" has been suspended for months. This is paralysing the field – and sending the signal that civil peace promotion is of secondary importance.

The ongoing focus on military security policy gives the impression that civilian peacebuilding is a "fair-weather issue" – important in peaceful times, dispensable in crises. In fact, however, current developments show the opposite: without investment in civilian conflict management, long-term peace and sustainable human security cannot be achieved. Peace is not a luxury, but the basis for international capacity to act.

Added to this is a dangerous shift in public discourse. In an increasingly polarised debate, political forces on the extreme fringes have instrumentalised the term "peace" for their own purposes. They empty it of meaning and reduce it to simple solutions and deals, instead of linking peace with justice and the preservation of values and the

international order.

Nevertheless they dominate debates and thus contribute significantly to narrowing the political space for dialogue on peace policy. That is why the Civil Conflict Management Platform is currently calling on members of the German Bundestag to stop the cuts and treat civil peace promotion as what it is: a central pillar of German foreign policy.

Creative ideas and clear messages from the peace community are needed to show that civil approaches work: in prevention, conflict transformation, reconstruction and social cohesion. Promoting peace means shaping the future – and taking responsibility, especially in times of crisis.



About the author:

Jennifer Menninger has been a consultant at Plattform ZKB since June 2024, where her responsibilities include member communications, organising events and representing the platform in networks and working groups. Previously, she was the managing director of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She completed her master's degree in Gender, Culture, and Social Change at the University of Innsbruck.



About the author:

Ginger Schmitz has been Managing Director of the ZKB platform since April 2018. In this role, she is a member of the German Federal Government's Advisory Board for Civilian Crisis Prevention and Peacebuilding and the Steering Committee of the Peace and Development Working Group FriEnt. Before joining the platform, she worked as a research assistant in the German Bundestag and for GLZ, among other things. She completed her master's degree in political science, ethnology and sociology at the University of Münster.

PLACES OF DEPLOYMENT

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Contact: Michal Haaks
under: haaks@eirene.org

MACINTOSH & NONVIOLENT MONKS

As a young man, Christian Kopf refused military service and became involved in non-violent resistance in Latin America as an EIRENE volunteer. The encounters and experiences he had during this time shaped him and his future path in life. Today, he holds a senior position in the financial sector and explains in an interview with EIRENE how he got there from his original career aspiration of becoming a journalist.

Where did you do your voluntary service and why did you decide to volunteer with EIRENE?

Christian Kopf: I chose the Couvent de Corbusier near Lyon, in the Monts du Lyonnais in France. The placement location, Espace Barthélémy de Las Casas, was an association based in a Dominican convent.

The fact that the association had come to the rather apolitical convent was due to the Dominican friar Tito, who had been persecuted and tortured in Brazil by the military dictatorship of the time. He was exchanged for a Swiss ambassador who had been kidnapped by resistance forces and was taken to the Couvent de Corbusier.

However, the torture had such traumatic consequences for him that he took his own life. This experience had a profoundly politicising effect on the Dominican community. They began to protest against visits to France by military dictators from Brazil, Chile, etc. And they began to work in solidarity with Latin America.

You deliberately chose your place of assignment because of its connection to Latin America and because you wanted to be a journalist at the time. Where did your motivation to get involved with Latin America come from?

I spent part of my childhood there. My father worked in Colombia in the early 1980s as a development aid worker,

as it was called at the time. That was a period that had a profound impact on me. After finishing secondary school, I wanted to do something something related to Latin America.

And at Espace, I had the opportunity to help design the monthly magazine Échanges. The production costs at the time were horrendous. Basically, the newspaper was bankrupt because the expenses could no longer be covered.

How were you able to contribute in the face of impending bankruptcy?

I suggested introducing a Macintosh computer typesetting system. I was vaguely familiar with it from my year as an exchange

student in the USA. The investment of 17,000 DM was really expensive at the time, but it paid for itself within three months.

It is not common for EIRENE volunteers to get directly involved in such processes at their places of assignment. How would you describe yourself as a young person?

It was certainly brave. Looking back, I have to say that I wouldn't do the same thing today. And I'm still amazed

that François Biot, who was the head of my placement at the time, agreed to it. I was just a volunteer from Germany who had turned up out of the blue, arrived at this large convent and proposed a huge IT investment that I myself was not yet familiar with. It was quite a daring move.

Your voluntary service at the time was a form of community service.

Why did you refuse to do military service?

It was basically politically motivated. I considered the East-West confrontation to be very dangerous, especially in view of the many nuclear missiles. And the idea that, as a West German soldier, I should shoot at East Germans who speak the same language, have the same culture, and live 200 kilometres further east on the other I had already met East Germans while travelling in Prague, and it never occurred to me to shoot at them. just because they lived under socialist regimes.

Christian with other EIRENE volunteers on his departure course in the winter of 1990/1991.



The district military recruitment office was not convinced by my refusal. So I should have been drafted anyway. I come from a very pietistic area in the



Christian in seiner „Zelle“ im Couvent Le Corbusier.

Westerwald. So I wrote in a second letter, "Jesus Christ is the Lord of my life, and he forbids me to take up arms," an absolutely standard phrase, and my refusal was then accepted. Ridiculous!

What are your most memorable experiences from your voluntary service in France?

I was allowed to take part in a trip to Chile. The Espace Barthélémy de Las Casas association supported the nonviolent resistance of liberation theology-oriented movements in Latin America against the military dictatorships there. Among others the Izquierda Cristiana party in Chile. Their followers were repeatedly subjected to persecution and torture in their fight against Pinochet. Ways were found to bring them to France for asylum.

I arrived at the Couvent de Corbusier in early 1991, when Chile was in the midst of political change. Pinochet had lost the referendum on another term in office, and so a democratisation process. The people

from the opposition, who were part of the Espace Barthélémy de Las Casas had supported for years were suddenly in government. And then François Biot, the director of Espace, said, "Now let's go and visit our friends in Chile."

So we set off on a big study trip to Chile and I got to know some very impressive people. We visited the La Victoria settlement in Santiago, together with a Chilean activist who had lost two of

her sons in the fight against the dictatorship. We met employees of the Catholic human rights organisation Vicaría de la Solidaridad. Gabriel Valdés, whom we had supported, was suddenly president of the Senate. We were invited to Valparaíso and had lunch with him in the Senate. After a while, he got up and said goodbye. That day, he still had to negotiate the transfer of Erich Honecker, who had fled to the Chilean embassy in Moscow at that point.

Later, we met Salvador Allende's widow, Hortensia Bussi. We met Mapuche indigenous people, who were active in the resistance against the dictatorship, and visited Pablo Neruda's house in Isla Negra. We learned a great deal about Chilean politics and about the spirit of optimism that prevailed at the time after 17 years of brutal dictatorship. That was probably the most impressive part of the trip.

What insights did you gain from your trip to Chile?

Human rights are never neutral. Respecting them is central to positive political change.

EIRENE

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Bewerbungsbogen aus dem Jahr 1990

During your time at EIRENE, your career aspirations were to become a journalist or development aid worker, but today you work in the financial sector. Why is that?

Nach meinen 18 Monaten
 FrAfter my 18 months of
 voluntary service, I toyed with

the idea of studying graphic design, but then decided on economics. I saw this as offering me more options to continue my involvement with Latin America through my studies.

At the end of my studies, I had to decide where to go professionally. At the time, I

was in a long-distance relationship with my now wife, who lived near Frankfurt. I wanted to move in with her. And What is there in Frankfurt? Finance! That's how I ended up in this industry, somewhat unplanned. I started working as a fund manager for Latin America in Frankfurt. Later, I was responsible for markets in emerging and developing countries at an asset management company in London.



Mentor and confidant: François Biot, Dominican monk at Couvent Le Corbusier



Impressive architecture: the Sainte-Marie de la Tourette monastery near Lyon in France. Image: Fred Romero Flickr user corno. fulgur75

Many people have reservations about the financial sector. What is your view on this?

I think my work has contributed to a lot of investment in poorer countries. Increased prosperity has improved the lives of many people; for example, child mortality has fallen dramatically. At the same time, this prosperity has been brought about by the adoption of the Western economic model, which is not sustainable in the long term. That is why environmental destruction has also increased massively in these parts of the world. The worsening climate crisis which we are living

today, is also attributable to this; this conflict preoccupies me.

After my time in London, I received a job offer from Union Investment in Frankfurt. Today, I am responsible for fixed income fund management management, i.e. fixed-income securities. We want to offer people from the middle of society opportunities to build up assets in order to close the pension gap that arises because our The pay-as-you-go pension model is no longer viable due to demographic change. I think it is absolutely right to give everyone in society access to wealth creation.

How do you view your voluntary service and the EIRENE peace service today?

The older I get, the more more I realise how the combination of Christian spirituality, social engagement and

communal life at EIRENE has shaped me. I remained connected to EIRENE long after my voluntary service and was able to volunteer for several years volunteered for several years newsletters for several years.

At EIRENE, I remember Paul Gentner – and the then managing director Jean-Luc Tissot. Jean- Luc accompanied us volunteers in France and Belgium and was an important mentor to me. I think what sets EIRENE apart is its work with people.

And that has an impact beyond the day itself.

The interview was conducted by Stefan Heiß.

You can listen to the full interview in the EIRENE podcast "Let's talk about peace"

<https://soundcloud.com/eirene-friedensdienst/macintosh-monche-hortensia-bussi-christian-kopf-im-gesprach>



About the person:

After completing his voluntary service with EIRENE, Christian Kopf found his professional home in the financial sector. Today, he holds a management position at Union Investment in Frankfurt.





DISABILITY IS NOT INABILITY

When Sabine Schwickerrath arrives at the Lebenshilfewerke Trier workshops in the morning, Samuel Wandira is already there. Punctual as ever. The workstations are prepared, the materials are neatly laid out, and Samuel greets every employee with a friendly smile. "He really has everything under control," says Sabine. "Although he doesn't speak much German yet and I'm not fluent in English myself, we understand each other perfectly. Most of the time, I don't have to explain anything to him; he immediately sees what needs to be done and then acts proactively."

Since May of this year, Samuel from Uganda has been supporting the Lebenshilfewerke team as part of an International Peace Service in Germany (IFDiD). His

commitment, energy and positive attitude are an asset to everyone. His colleague Michael Standard took an instant liking to him, and the two were inseparable on a company outing. Sabine is also impressed: "He even took part in a de-escalation conference that was offered here in-house. That shows that the educational aspect of his work is important to him." Before Samuel came to Germany, he had no experience with people with disabilities and worked at Child Restoration Outreach Uganda, where he worked with street children.

When asked what motivated him to come to Germany, Samuel answers without hesitation: "I wanted to get to know a new culture, have adventures and experience how people live and work here." He has always been particularly fascinated by German punctuality, time management and, of course, the Bundesliga have always fascinated him.

His daily routine in Trier is varied. He prepares tools and materials, accompanies some employees to the toilet and helps out in various areas of work to ensure that everything runs smoothly. These are tasks that require concentration, patience and empathy: qualities that Samuel excels at. He is particularly happy about the joint activities with his work group. "We went to the dinosaur park and went hiking, which was really fun," he says with a smile. "But the best thing is how friendly the people here are. It's always a pleasure to work with them."

Samuel quickly noticed that work in Germany is organised differently than in Uganda. Here, he says, a



Samuel and Michael Standard on the company outing. The two have become friends, and Michael Standard stays almost constantly by Samuel's side, such is the closeness of their bond.

©EIRENE



"Samuel is always ahead of schedule, has everything under control and gets things done independently without me having to explain much. His friendly manner is well received by everyone."

Sabine Schwickerrath, Hauptamtliche Lebenshilfe Trier

lot of attention is paid to time management, and he is impressed by how people with disabilities are supported. This is a great advantage for society. He was particularly impressed by what the employees in the workshop can do. **That was an eye-opener for me: disability is not inability, because disability does not mean incapacity.**

At first, the German language and the food were a challenge for him, but now he takes both with humour. "In Uganda, we have a lot of time," he says with a laugh, "but in Germany, people seem to be chasing after time." In recent months, Samuel has learned a lot about himself. "With God, anything is possible," he says. Convinced. His experiences in voluntary service have also changed his view of justice and solidarity. "I have learned to stand up for the truth, even if you sometimes find yourself alone. Diversity is key to social change." His advice to other young people considering a year of voluntary service abroad is clear: be open, stay flexible, adapt quickly to , think positively and trust in God. When Samuel walks through the city centre of Trier, the weekly

market reminds him of his home. "Especially on Fridays and Saturdays, when so many people are out and about, which reminds me of the lively markets in Uganda, where everyone shops and chats. And if he had one wish to change something in Trier, he would wish for people to eat more naturally grown food, just like in Uganda.

With his openness, energy and warmth, Samuel brings a piece of his world to Lebenshilfewerke Trier. He reminds everyone who works with him of a simple but important truth: diversity enriches, and commitment knows no language barriers!

by Damaris Becker



A YEAR AT LA PUENTE IN THE USA

Cäcilia Dohmes is doing her voluntary service at La Puente in Alamosa, Colorado. There she supports people in precarious life situations, works at the Crisis Prevention Centre, helps out in the coffee shop and looks forward to her time of service with confidence. Here she describes her daily work:

I myself help out at the Crisis Prevention Centre three days a week. This is a contact point for people who are either at risk of homelessness or want to get out of it. For example, we support people who are losing their homes due to rent arrears, or help them find jobs. We also provide financial assistance for heating and electricity costs for those who cannot pay their bills themselves. I myself sit at the reception desk of the centre. I answer clients' initial questions and refer them to the appropriate contact persons. I really enjoy this work, even though it can be difficult at times to witness the existential crises that many people are facing. At the same time, however, it is enriching to see that they are being helped and that they are not alone in their crises.

On the other two days of the week, I work in the La Puente coffee shop. The organisation is partly funded by government grants and donations. The rest of the money is generated by running several second-hand shops and the coffee shop. My tasks here are very varied: I work at the cash register, mix drinks and prepare food. I particularly enjoy serving the guests and chatting with them.



NEW PATHWAYS FOR CHILDREN IN UGANDA

Santino Koop has been volunteering for over two months with EIRENE's partner organisation Salem Brotherhood in south-eastern Uganda near Mbale. Salem Brotherhood runs a hospital, a nursing school, a sewing workshop, a carpentry workshop, a tree nursery, a guest house, a primary school and a children's home.

After our volunteer group's journey to Uganda was a bit bumpy and flight cancellations gave us an exciting day in the Egyptian capital of Cairo, I feel like I've arrived safely in this lake-rich country in East Africa, which I think is perfectly described as the "Pearl of Africa". During our three-week language course in Kampala at the beginning of our trip, I learned the Luganda language and got to know the wonderful Ugandan culture of hospitality, spending an unforgettable time with a host family in the country's vibrant capital. Everyday things like riding a boda-boda (motorcycle taxi), taking cold showers, washing clothes by hand, boiling drinking water and using toilets without flushing, as well as the constant attention and calls of "Muzungu, Muzungu" as a white person on the street, slowly became normal.

In Salem, I was warmly welcomed into the wonderful local community. My area of work is the SALEM Children's and Babies' Home, where around 30 babies, children and young people, as well as some adults with disabilities, live in a family-like community with five carers. The youngest resident is two-month-old baby Sandra, while the oldest residents are around twenty years old. The children's stories and the reasons why they came to Salem are very moving and tragic. Some of the children were abandoned on the street by their parents when they were babies. Often, the Mother died during childbirth and father did not accept the child. Joseph, a disabled man, was found as a child in a wooden box on the street; the mother of two-month-old Sandra died at the age of 16 during childbirth. Many of the children who come to Salem as babies would probably not have survived without being taken in and, in some cases, receiving necessary emergency medical care at Salem Hospital. Nevertheless, attempts are made to find out where the children come from and, if possible, return them to relatives, provided that the necessary conditions are met. Sometimes the relatives know nothing at all about the existence of the children, and some of them actually find a "new" family when the search is successful.

In my daily work, I support the team at the children's home, help with cooking and work in the garden. We play, sing and dance with the little ones. Corn, beans, manioc and peanuts are grown in the children's



A group of people at the Salem Brotherhood facility in Uganda. Foto: Santino Koop

home's field, and bananas, matoke, spinach, chillies and tomatoes grow in the adjacent garden. There are also avocado, papaya and mango trees, as well as some chickens, ducks and turkeys. Cooking is done over an open fire, and poscho (corn porridge) with beans is usually eaten. If the children have malaria or fall ill in any other way, I accompany them to the hospital in Salem, where they usually recover after only a short time.

I am in a constant learning process in Salem. The beauty of the country and the Mount Elgon region, as well as the enormous charity of the people, fill me with joy. Overall, despite the difficult situations many people face, I am in a place of positive change and charity. This positive work drives me and fills me with joy.

NICARAGUA: THE TRUTH FIRST!

The Colectivo de Derechos Humanos "Nicaragua Nunca Más" (CNM+) will not be silenced. It is one of the most important and courageous voices for Nicaraguans who have experienced brutal human rights violations in their homeland to the public's attention. The EIRENE partner organisation, based in the Costa Rican capital San José, was founded in 2019 by Nicaraguans who were forced to flee their country. Since the beginning of the repression by the Ortega government, they have been collecting and documenting cases of torture, expulsions, illegal expropriations and other forms of human rights violations. Together with other organisations, they present the cases to international bodies. With its new campaign, "Primero la verdad" (First the truth), the Colectivo aims to increase political pressure.

"Bringing the truth to light is the first step towards redress and justice," is the motto of the campaign, which CNM+ has launched together with five other non-governmental organisations. Via an anonymised

Platform, Nicaraguans are invited to share their experiences of physical and emotional suffering. "Everyone should be able to bear witness to human rights violations they have experienced or observed. No voice and no memory should be forgotten," says Juan Carlos Acre, human rights defender at CNM+. The call is clear: unite voices, protect

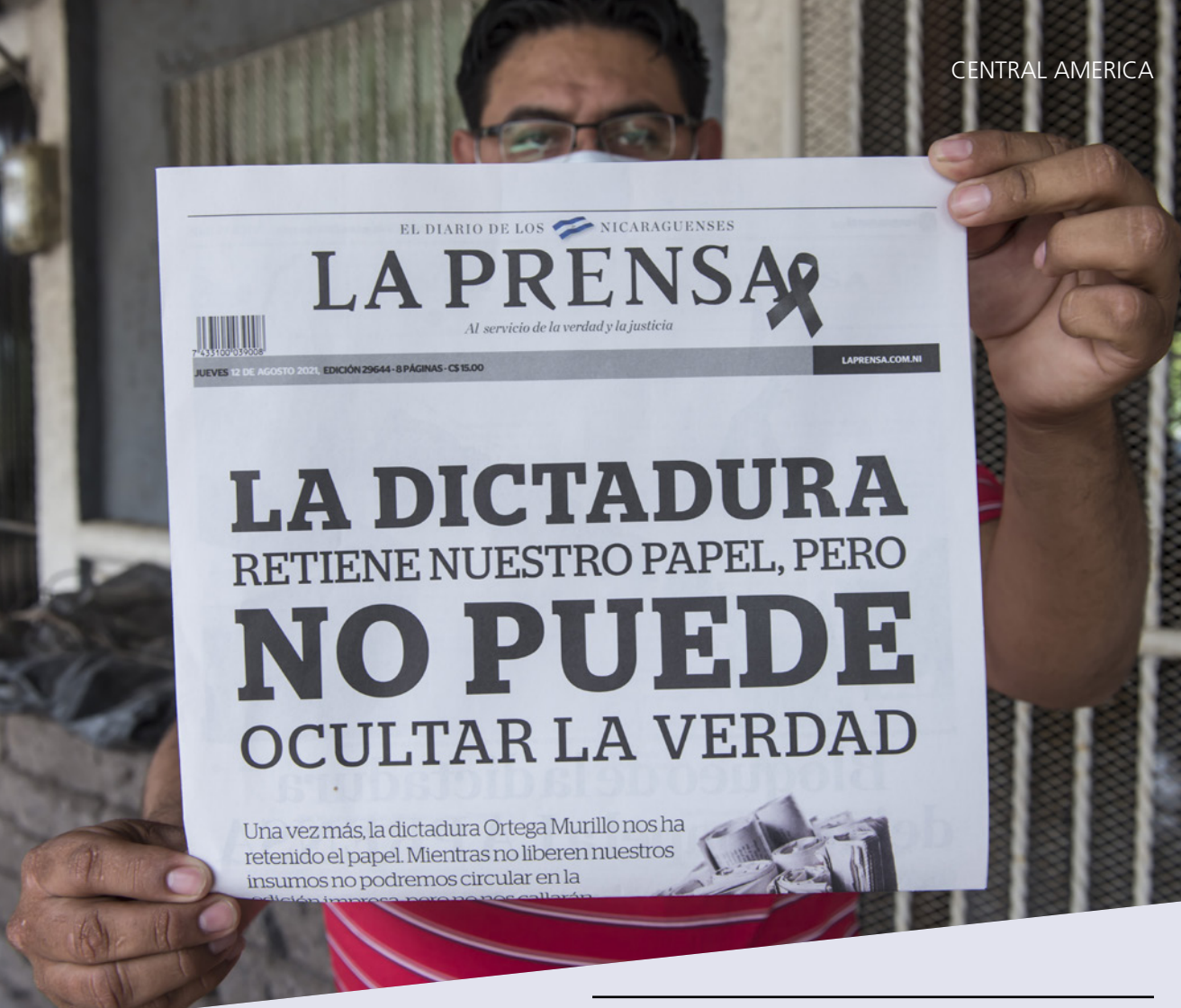
those who testify, and carry the truth into all possible spaces, from neighbourhoods to international forums.

Over the past three years, CNM+ activists have collected testimonies from displaced and tortured people. They were presented to the Human Rights Council in Geneva and the UN General Assembly in New York, among others. With success! Under pressure from CNM+ and its allies, there is now a dedicated working group within the UN bodies that investigates and prosecutes human rights violations in Nicaragua.

"As I speak to you, more than 30 people have disappeared."

CNM+'s advocacy work is more important than ever. According to research by CNM+, the number of forced evictions now stands at 830,000 people. Around 250,000 asylum applications have been filed in Costa Rica. Around 500,000 people have fled to the United States. Religious freedom has also been severely restricted since 2018. Of the 5,609 civil society organisations that have now been banned, 1,294 are church institutions alone.

On 23 September 2025, members of CNM+ were invited to the 60th meeting of the UN Human Rights Council to Geneva. Juan Carlos Arce, spokesperson for CNM+, warned that systematic human rights violations will only



A man holds up a newspaper with the words "The dictatorship takes our paper, but it cannot silence the truth."

Photo: Oscar Navarrete

get worse. This is because Ortega's regime has withdrawn from the most important international protection mechanisms. "As I speak to you, more than 30 people have disappeared. Dozens of relatives of political prisoners live in fear and terror because they too are being persecuted and have been sworn to silence," Arce reports.

by Anne Dähling

In addition to its political work at the international level, CNM+ also provides concrete everyday support to refugees arriving in Costa Rica. This is because most of the displaced people have nothing. CNM+ staff assist them as best they can in finding accommodation and work and in obtaining the necessary documents.

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POWER-SENSITIVE PARTNERSHIPS

NGOs from the Global South their voices



Moumouni Magawata speaks about partnerships at the general meeting

Image: Vitaliy Zalizhchyker

Representatives of EIRENE attended a conference in Hanover. Partner organisations came together in the summer to reflect on working practices with EIRENE and inequalities in development cooperation. Partnerships based on equality are only possible if there is an awareness of colonial continuities and a joint effort is made to overcome them. The conference was an important milestone in this direction and provides guidance for further action.

"We had donors who did not respect us and simply exercised their power over us," reports Regina Bafaki on the sidelines of the conference. She heads the women's rights organisation ACFODE in Uganda for over ten years and thus has a wealth of experience in development cooperation. "We often have to implement decisions made in the Global North without being consulted beforehand. It must be recognised that we in the Global South have power: we have the knowledge, we have the experience, and we have a clear understanding of our context."

Since 2017, EIRENE has been officially undergoing a process of change to combat racism, which is affecting

Listening, understanding, acting together – a moment of partnership on equal terms.

Image: Vitaliy Zalishchyker



all areas of the peace service's work. In this context, it is also important to review cooperation with civil society organisations in Africa and Latin

America and to eliminate injustices as far as possible.

"The biggest challenge is to speak openly and critically with each other in an existing relationship of dependency." Sandra Sabatella, a full-time employee at EIRENE, played a key role in preparing the

conference. "We wanted to take a participatory approach, giving partner organisations the space and freedom to set the direction. They know better than we do where there are problems in our cooperation and where injustices exist. All EIRENE partner organisations, both from Africa and Latin America, were invited to participate in the process. The response was much greater than we had expected. They selected members for the six regions in which EIRENE is active, who travelled to Germany in the summer."

„It is the first time that we have been invited by an international organisation to such an important event: the General Assembly," says Moumouni Magawata. The partner conference was deliberately scheduled around EIRENE's Whitsun meeting. This gave the representatives the opportunity to get to know the

EIRENE association at first hand. to speak with members, present their work in panel discussions and workshops, and participate in the general meeting. Moumouni Magawata works for the Nigerien organisation Karkara, which promotes agriculture and opportunities for young people. For him, the conference was an important moment to recalibrate the power imbalance between EIRENE and its partner organisations.

MILESTONES FOR THE FUTURE

"We wanted to avoid setting a predetermined agenda, as this would have once again emphasised our position of power over the partner organisations. Instead, we invited the regions to define the agenda together. To this end, an online meeting was held in advance, with more participants from the regions joining than the six representatives who later attended the conference. We were also open-minded about the results," says Sandra, summarising the findings of the days in Hanover. Three core areas of cooperation were defined: communication and transparency regarding processes, information exchange, sharing of risks in the work and networking among the partner organisations.

COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPARENCY

"Sometimes we sent financial reports to EIRENE and got no response. So we thought: "Everything will be fine."

And then suddenly, months later, very detailed questions came up, but we were already knee-deep in other processes in our work. Getting back up to speed takes a lot of energy." Tranquilina works for a women's rights organisation in Central America. Her descriptions show that there is often a lack of transparency between EIRENE and government agencies in Germany. Who wants what and when? When is which report due? When will it be reviewed? Many steps, especially those related to government funding for project work, are like a black box for partner organisations. In their day-to-day work, they are repeatedly surprised by sudden requests with short deadlines, which place an extra burden on their capacities. It was therefore very important to understand how the reports are processed in Germany and how deadlines outside EIRENE's sphere of influence are set.

SHARING RISKS

Peace work takes place in contexts where conflicts are resolved through violence. This entails risks that are primarily borne by the employees of the EIRENE partner organisations. The dangers to life and limb to which they are exposed on a daily basis should be given greater prominence. For example, consideration should be given to how EIRENE can provide better insurance cover for car accidents, which have occurred repeatedly in the past.

NETWORKING OF CIVIL SOCIETY

"Authorities are making more and more arbitrary bureaucratic requests, and important registration

processes are being delayed or tied to requirements. Pressure on civil society is growing in all regions. Much of this reminds me of the beginnings of state repression, as it began in my home country years ago. Today, civil society is completely banned, and many live in exile or are imprisoned." Tranquilina, whose name has been changed due to political persecution, was horrified to discover that the reports of state arbitrariness matched her own experiences. This makes it all the more important that the Partner organisations find space to network and thus strengthen each other. Because whether in Burundi, Mali or Bolivia, people who are committed to peace in their communities often face the same challenges. With solidarity and a sense of global community, these challenges can be overcome more easily!

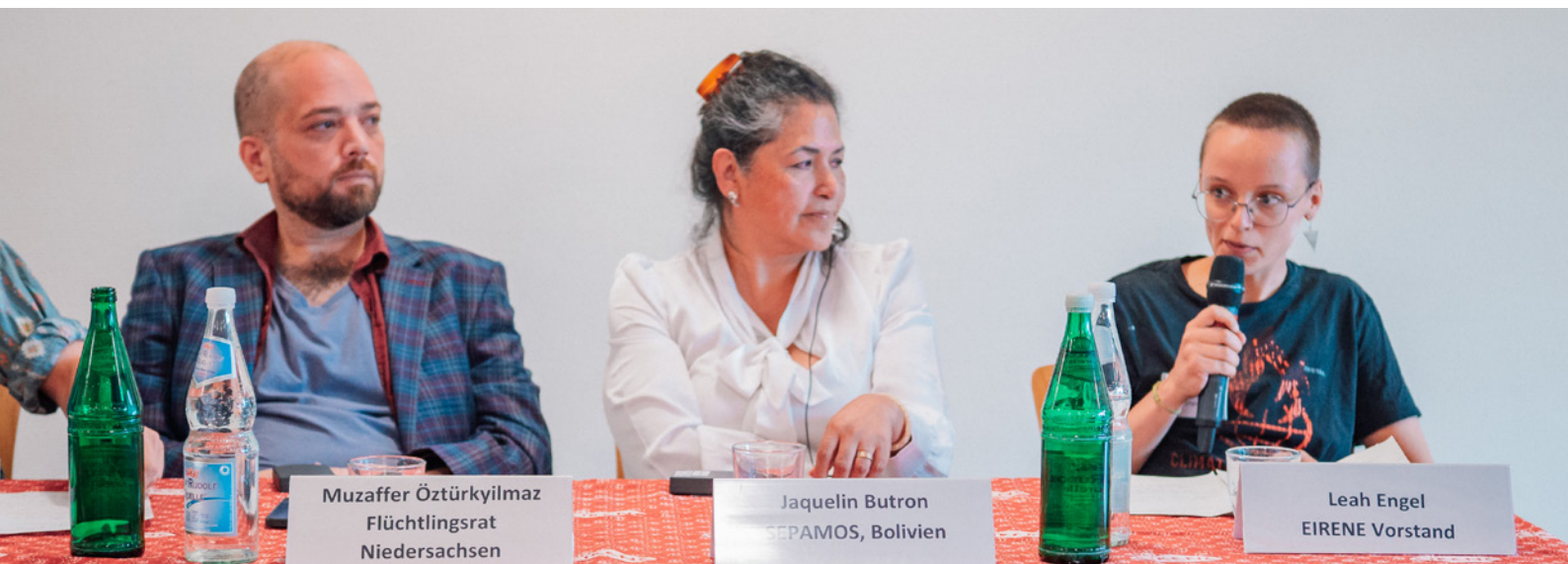
by Stefan HeiB

Representatives of partner organisations and the EIRENE team "International Peace Cooperation" at the conference in Hanover. Image: Vitaliy Zalizhchyker



Human rights defender Braulio Abarca (CNM+) from Nicaragua together with Sandra Sabatella (EIRENE) and women's rights activist Regina Bafaki (ACFODE) from Uganda.

Image: Vitaliy Zalishchyker



Panel discussion on the topic "The world is falling apart. What are our answers?" – Leah Engel from the EIRENE Board (right) in discussion with Jaquelin Butron (SEPAMOS) from Bolivia (centre) and Muzaffer Öztürkyilmaz (Refugee Council of Lower Saxony) (left). Image: Vitaliy Zalishchyker



Productive working atmosphere – EIRENE members and international volunteers in a brainstorming session.

Image: Vitaliy Zalishchyker



Thank
You

At the end of September 2025, our seminars for international volunteers were held in Vallendar. While the mid-term seminar was held for international volunteers, the returnee seminar was aimed at volunteers who had returned to Germany from abroad.

The focus was on topics such as sustainability and climate, and the groups also spent time together at a harmonious AGAPE celebration, which included salsa dancing. The atmosphere was consistently positive, and there is great anticipation for the next seminar in January.

Thank you all for your commitment and the great atmosphere!

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PROMOTING PEACE TOGETHER WITH THE EIRENE FOUNDATION

The EIRENE Foundation strengthens the non-violent peace service EIRENE and creates a reliable basis for long-term engagement in crisis regions. Since its establishment in 2000, it has been committed to ensuring that peace work remains independent, supportive and effective. Every endowment and every loan helps to enable projects for justice, understanding and sustainable peace.

"In a time of increasing social division and militarisation, the non-violent peace service EIRENE needs a stable financial basis more than ever. The EIRENE Foundation contributes to this."

— Josef Freise, Member of the Board

With an endowment, a bequest or an interest-free loan to the EIRENE Foundation, you are making a lasting

investment in peace and justice and ensuring EIRENE's independence and ability to act.

Further information and endowment and loan agreements can be found at eirene.org/stiftung or contact Ali Al-Nasani on 02631 837911

al-nasani@eirene.org and

Anne Dähling 02631 8379 18, daehling@eirene.org

We would like to thank everyone who supports the Peace Service with their contributions.



NEW PEACE WORKERS



Marcela Cano has been responsible for supporting volunteer services in Costa Rica and Bolivia since October 2025. As an education officer, she also organises all training courses within the framework of the volunteer programme.



Starting in November, Boris Edoh will support EIRENE partner ORCADE in Burkina Faso as a peace expert. ORCADE advocates for the equitable and fair extraction of natural resources, particularly gold mining.



Albert Nimbnoman Nagreogo has been working at the Maison de la Presse du Burundi and AFJO since November. He supports training courses, advises on radio debates and raises the media profile of peace projects.



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