

# A YEAR AT A GLANCE

2020



THE  
**KARIBU**  
FOUNDATION



**A PRESENTATION OF THE  
KARIBU FOUNDATION AND  
OUR PARTNERS IN 2020**

# A WORD

## FROM THE SECRETARIAT



Eilert L. Rostrup  
Director



Tyler Dale Hauger  
Information and  
Project Advisor

How much are we able to take in? Many of us have perhaps even become somewhat desensitized by now to the continued and repeated information about the cost and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic that has changed the world in 2020. We hear about the dramatic figures related to the infected, hospitalised, and deaths. We also now hear of the statistics on how the distribution of vaccines is developing. And we hear daily updates on how the pandemic has already begun to affect our societies and global reality in a broader scope: related to food supply and hunger, unemployment and increased poverty, financial crisis and increased debts, anti-democratic control mechanisms and restrictions for civil society actors, militarisation and security measures, and a lot more. It is a lot to wrap our heads and hearts around, yet these issues have impacted the very way that we think, feel, and act.

In this dramatic year, there is even a greater need to tell the stories of the brave initiatives and actors who have challenged injustice despite of (and in response to) the global pandemic. In this year's "A Year at a Glance," we profile some of these stories. Even under harsh restrictions that have been placed on them (both health regulations, but also extended abuse of power and political austerity), movements in the South have demonstrated their deep commitment to progressive, justice-based and human rights focused activism. And they have done so by exploring and utilising new methods and digital approaches. Yes, there's been an overwhelming amount of webinars and internet consultations (which comes with a number of opportunities and limitations), but the clear effort to lift peoples' alternatives and the strong popular belief that "Another World is Possible" has never been closed down.

In this year's publication, Hellen Wangusa from Uganda also reflects on how activism and civil society can relate to the new social, political and economic reality (see page 10). Based on her vast knowledge of what the reality on the ground is in the Africa region, she identifies some of the challenges arising from the very extraordinary year that we have all been through in 2020. The post-COVID-19 'new normal' is impossible for her and anyone of us to predict, but social movements

must nevertheless be ready for this situation. It requires renewed urgency and creative energy in our activism.

Like Hellen Wangusa, many of us anticipate an immediate future that will likely include new and more forceful restrictions on the ability of civil society to act, increased and hardened injustices, widened inequalities, and a rapidly closing space to confront and challenge power.

While this expected reality will be tremendously hard, it can also challenge us to develop innovative and genuine transformative approaches to our well established institutions and programmes. To present alternatives that build equitable and just societies, and to step into the unknown, may require a new form of courage for many of us around the world (both in the North and in the South). In order to become real actors for change in this new reality, we might be forced to critically question our own practices, governing structures, decision making processes, alliances and dependencies.

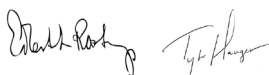
At the start of the year, perhaps we all should commit to a few core drivers of change that could help us in the search for truly transformative activism in 2021. For example, that we always:

- explore what we can learn and bring forward from both our successes and our failures
- see and actively seek out those who are not at the table (women, youth, stakeholders in a situation, and from many other marginalised groups)
- uncover and address the inherent power dynamics in all situations, and commit to collaboratively challenge that power

We could probably add more to this list. But the reality is that the COVID-19 pandemic has given heightened attention to a number of critical global challenges. We must all work together to find new solutions, new ways of thinking, and new catalysts for change. We must allow our minds to be opened to new approaches as we jointly struggle for a transformed and just future.

We stand in solidarity with the movements that bravely continue to find creative solutions and are serving as change agents in the “new normal” in 2021.

Stay well and safe.




**THE KARIBU  
FOUNDATION  
supports  
voices from the  
Global South  
who provide  
alternatives to  
the dominant  
paradigms  
of power,  
distribution, and  
development.**



PHOTO: OFEL CANTOR OF THE ECUMENICAL BISHOPS FORUM (EBF) JOINS A MANILA PROTEST AGAINST THE "ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2020" THAT WAS SIGNED BY FILIPINO PRESIDENT DUTERTE IN JULY 2020.

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND GLOBALLY PROTESTED THE LAW, RAISING THE ALARM THAT IT LEGITIMIZED UNLAWFUL ARRESTS AND DETENTION, UNDERMINED THE DUE PROCESS OF LAW, RAN CONTRARY TO PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION, AND IN EFFECT CANCELLED BASIC RIGHTS STIPULATED IN THE PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION'S BILL OF RIGHTS.



STAND  
for civil liberties  
Oppose  
rising tyranny.  
#JunkTerrorBill

# GRANTS SHARED IN 2020

## THE KARIBU FOUNDATION HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS AND PROJECTS IN 2020:

### **Badayl Alternatives**

<https://badayl.org/>  
Goa, India

Support towards documentation and advocacy related to "Palestine Updates".

### **Ecumenical Voice for Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines (Ecu-Voice)**

<https://ecuvoicephilis.wordpress.com>  
Manila, Philippines

Support towards mobilization and advocacy related to the UN's Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the UN Human Rights Council.

### **Eglise Evangelique des Amis au Rwanda (EEAR)**

<https://friendschurchrwanda.org/>  
Kigali, Rwanda

Support towards regional gathering with focus on building a nonviolence movement for sustainable peace and justice in East Africa.

### **Fundación Ciudadanía Inteligente (FCI)**

<http://www.ciudadaniai.org>  
Santiago, Chile

Support towards pan-Latin American School of Digital Activism and digital advocacy campaigns in times of COVID-19.

### **IBON International**

<https://iboninternational.org/>  
Manila, the Philippines

Support towards a multi-country initiative on strengthening Southern people's power for climate justice and amid the COVID-19 pandemic

### **Iraqi Social Forum (ISF)**

<http://www.iraqicivilsociety.org/>  
Baghdad, Iraq

Support towards mobilization initiative for peace, tolerance, reconciliation and bridge-building in Iraq

### **Mesarvot**

<https://www.mesarvot.org>  
West Jerusalem, Israel

Support for campaigning and assistance to imprisoned Israeli youth who refused to be enrolled in the military.

### **New Profile**

<http://newprofile.org/english>  
Ramat HaSharon, Israel

Support towards advocacy and workshops for anti-militarist teachers in schools.



PHOTO: MARCELO LEITES (WSCF-LAC) MEETS WITH KARIBU STAFF AND FRIENDS DURING HIS TWO WEEK STAY AT THE KARIBU OFFICE IN OSLO FEB/MARCH 2020. MARCELO SPOKE WITH A NUMBER OF KARIBU'S PARTNERS GLOBALLY ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH STRUGGLING FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE, BEFORE QUICKLY RETURNING TO ARGENTINA AS LOCK-DOWNS RELATED TO COVID-19 BEGAN.

## Norwegian Social Forum (NSF)

<http://www.globalisering.no>  
Oslo, Norway

Support to South participation at the 2020 Norwegian Social Forum, "From Crisis to Struggle".

## People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS)

Manila, the Philippines

Support towards global, digital efforts aimed at lifting rural people's rights and the right to food during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Stop the Wall Campaign

<http://www.stophthewall.org>  
Ramallah, Palestine

Support to digital efforts for the World without Walls initiative, aimed at dismantling walls in the post COVID-19 world.

## Yes to Life, No to Mining Southeast Asia

<http://www.yestolifenotomining.org/>

Support towards efforts to challenge destructive extractive projects and bring forward alternative models in Southeast Asia.

# RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic brought a lot of personal and collective suffering to people all over the world in 2020. The impact of the pandemic especially hit civil society groups in the South, both in terms of lock down and restrictions on activities and mobility, but also towards the financial situation for many movements.

In this unique year, Karibu worked closely with our partners and grantees to re-organized our grant-making so that we could serve as a relevant support for partner organisations and networks in this time of crisis. This included a review of Karibu's grant making policies, changes to the requirements for approved and already initiated grants, and extraordinary financial support to assist in sustaining key organisational functions of some partner organisations who face significant financial pressure during and through the COVID19 pandemic.

Karibu also endorsed the statement from FundAction, "**Call for action: Philanthropy in times of pandemic**" (<https://fundaction.eu/call-for-action/>).







1. Members of the delegation of Filipino experts from the Ecumenical Voice for Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines (EcuVoice) network stand in front of the UN building in Geneva. The delegation travelled to Geneva in February to address the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), who was meeting to take a look at the current human rights situation around the world.

2. Israeli activist Sahar Vardi is arrested in West Jerusalem during a protest against police violence. The protest was held in tandem with mass demonstrations against police violence globally following the killing of George Floyd by US police and other police killings worldwide. Credit: Oren Ziv, ActiveStills

3. Uganda climate activist Vanessa Nakate Speaks during video feed at the 2020 norwegian social forum, "from crisis to struggle". Despite travel restrictions due to the pandemic, vanessa provided an important south voice to discussions on climate justice moving forward. Credit: Sindre Deschington



# VOICES FROM THE SOUTH

**"VOICES FROM THE SOUTH"  
IS KARIBU'S MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER, WHICH HIGHLIGHTS  
ALTERNATIVES FROM GRASSROOTS  
ORGANIZATIONS AND THE  
NETWORKS WE ARE SUPPORTING.**

**HERE IS A SELECTION OF ARTICLES  
AND QUOTES FROM 2020:**

**LEARN MORE AT:  
[KARIBU.NO/STAY-CONNECTED/NEWSLETTER/](https://karibu.no/stay-connected/newsletter/)**



**JOEY TAU,  
PAPUA NEW  
GUINEA**

**FEBRUARY 2020**



ON PACIFIC RESISTANCE TO **BLUE COLONIZATION...** ▲

**"PACIFIC PEOPLE, WHO  
HAVE CONTRIBUTED THE  
LEAST TO THE CAUSES  
OF CLIMATE CHANGE  
ARE ALREADY BEARING A  
DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN  
IN TERMS OF THE EFFECTS."**

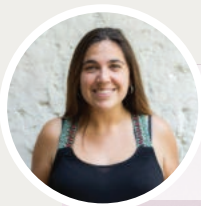


**TOURISM  
ACTION AND  
ALERT FORUM**

**AUGUST 2020**







**CATALINA  
BALLA,  
CHILE**  
JUNE 2020



Photo: Victor Garcia from Unsplash

ON COVID-19 AS AN EXCUSE  
TO GIVE UP OUR DATA AND  
OUR PRIVACY... ▲

"COVID-19 IS NOT AN EXCUSE  
TO COLLECT UNNECESSARY  
DATA, OR TO NOT IMPROVE  
THE PROTECTION PRACTICES  
AND ETHICAL DEVELOPMENT  
OF TECHNOLOGY FOR THE  
PUBLIC INTEREST."



**YES TO LIFE, NO  
TO MINING**  
SEPTEMBER 2020



ON THE MINING INDUSTRY  
PROFITING FROM THE  
PANDEMIC... ▲

"ECONOMIC "REACTIVATION"  
MUST NOT PROMOTE MORE  
MINING, BUT SHOULD,  
INSTEAD, ACKNOWLEDGE AND  
BOLSTER COMMUNITY-BASED  
INITIATIVES."



**SAHAR VARDI,  
ISRAEL**  
MAY 2020



◀ ON TAKING  
BACK OUR  
COMMUNITIES  
FROM TOURISM  
POST COVID...

"TOURISM  
MUST SERVE  
SOCIETIES AND  
COMMUNITIES AND  
FIT IN THE LARGER  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
CAPACITIES OF ALL  
PLACES WHERE IT  
OCCURS."

ON OPPRESSIVE  
MEASURES  
CARRIED OUT IN THE  
NAME OF COVID-19 ▶

"WE WERE  
ALREADY  
EXPERIENCING THE  
RAPID SHRINKING  
OF SPACE  
GLOBALLY. THE  
GLOBAL PANDEMIC  
MAY HAVE GIVEN  
A NEW BOOST TO  
THE EFFORT TO  
RESTRICT CIVIL  
SPACE."

Photos: (top) March Against Mining in Argentina, 2020. Photo: Nicolas Palacios. (left) Julie Simongo of the United Peoples Organization of Didipio.

# STRUGGLING FOR JUSTICE IN A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

*Karibu speaks with former Africa Coordinator for the UN Millennium Development Goals, Hellen Grace Akwii-Wangusa (Uganda), about working for justice in a year of COVID-19, what we have learned, and what social movements will need to focus on moving forward.*

**“We have had to learn to think differently to address the big, systemic challenges around us.”**

**Hellen Grace Akwii-Wangusa**

**Karibu:** How have the effects of the global pandemic left an impact on you personally?

**Hellen Grace Akwii-Wangusa:** For those of us who survived it, 2020 will certainly leave a permanent mental and emotional tattoo. The year has been ‘dressed’ in challenges, trauma, opportunities and the biggest disruptions of everyday life, routines, personal and professional life. The impact on social and political life, as well as the economy, continues to be unpredictable.

At the same time, it has also forced every fabric of society to generate coping mechanisms and opportunities for innovation and urgent need for ideological and systemic change.

**Karibu:** What types opportunities for innovation and coping mechanisms are you thinking of?

**Hellen:** Rural communities in the South, for example, had to re-think the idea of resilience through this crisis as this pandemic has hit us all differently. Many young professionals have reverted to non-commercialized and non-consumerist modes such as home-schooling. Nations that invest in creating household contexts for home schooling and experiential learning have demonstrated the resilience of the methodology and curricular. Rural communities have also utilized community-based health care and herbal medicines, as



PHOTO: ACTIVISTS FROM MESARVOT (ISRAEL) ORGANIZE A PROTEST OF SOLIDARITY WITH HALLEL RABIN, CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR TO THE ISRAELI MILITARY, IN FRONT OF THE MILITARY JAIL WHILE SHE WAS IMPRISONED THERE. THEY FOLLOWED STRICT SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES WHILE CONDUCTING THEIR CREATIVE PROTESTS.

alternatives to clinical therapies and technologies are not made available to them during this crisis. Both these areas have led to positive results in mental and physical health despite the crises.

**Karibu:** Does this opportunity for new ways of thinking also relate to social movements and civil society organizations?

**Hellen:** Yes, civil society organizations around the world have had to think differently around their own existence. It was clear that many organizations were at the brink of simply disappearing and the work which had been built over years or decades would vanish much to the detriment of communities and beneficiaries. We had to mobilise flexible funding, work for adaptive activities and time schedules, and find new ways of partnership and interactions that were not affected by “physical or social distancing”. The year has redefined work,

work space and timelines.

But it has given us a moment to reflect on how we can have new opportunities for impact. This year, global and regional networks to step-away from preformulated strategic templates and working plans that we usually have. It has caused us to stop, to reflect, and to share across borders via digital platforms. While we have still had to deliberate our strategies, deal with the cancellation of critical events and meeting points, and provide essential front-line social services for the most vulnerable and marginalized people, we also had to learn to think differently to address the big, systemic challenges around us. We have been able to think big together!

**Karibu:** What global trends do you think social movements will need to pay close attention moving forward?

**Hellen:** We live in an economic system of control, exploitation and a permanent desire for profit, and the events of this year has now contributed to even higher levels of wealth concentration, social inequality and ecological devastation. Capitalism is likely to take on new and desperate forms that condemns a large part of humanity to

**“We must refuse to see these challenges before us as an ‘automatic’ that no one can change.”**



hunger and exclusion. I think we will need to find even more creative and strategic ways of fighting these trends.

We will also need to look more concretely at how democracy is changing as a result of this pandemic. What is democracy, really, and what is it now? Sixteen African countries, for example, held elections through the course of the year, under what was being described as democratic. Yet political campaigns and elections in my continent this year have been largely characterised by incumbents clinging to power and using state machinery to repress the opposition.

But this was not only the case in Africa. We also saw a clear emergence of “Putin-istic” and “Trump-istic” tendencies where incumbents aim to keep a firm grip on power, including manipulating constitutions and enacting laws to close civil space and retain power around the world. The United States continues its aim of being seen as a so-called mature democracy, but it is splitting itself into racist, religious, socio-economic and ideological conflicts while its leaders demagogically advocate “the national interest” above all other considerations.



BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE TEAM AT IBON INTERNATIONAL, AS THEY PREPARE FOR THE GLOBAL CONVERGENCE FOR PEOPLE'S CLIMATE ACTION. THE DIGITAL EVENT BROUGHT TOGETHER ACTIVISTS FROM BOLIVIA, INDONESIA, KENYA, NEPAL, PHILIPPINES, AND SENEGAL. THE EVENT WAS ORIGINAL INTENDED TO BE HELD IN PERSON, BUT WAS ADAPTED TO A NEW DIGITAL FORMAT GIVEN THE RESTRAINTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.



LEAH VALENCIA OF ECUVOICE MEMBER “THE CHURCH PEOPLE’S RESPONSE IN THE PHILIPPINES” SPEAKS AT AN EVENT IN SUPPORT OF JEEPNEY DRIVERS WHO WERE SEVERELY AFFECTED BY THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN. THE JEEPNEY IS THE MOST POPULAR MEANS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN THE COUNTRY.

We need to find ways to confront this state violence, as it is naturalized around the world as a valid way to resolve conflicts. We must refuse to see these challenges before us as an “automatic” that no one can change.

### Is there any wisdom that can we take with us into 2021?

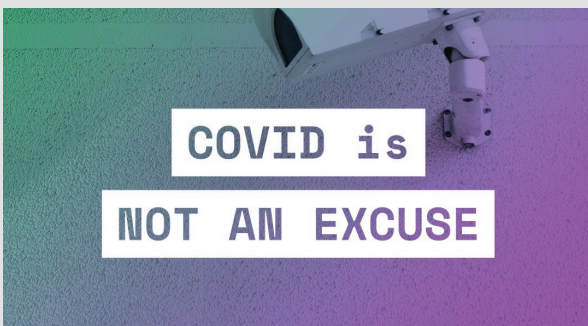
**Hellen:** Even though this year has highlighted failed relations and violence at individual, domestic and national levels, it has also helped people co-create a culture of solidarity, trust and burden-sharing. The year has forced people to find time for family and re-learn how to relate. It has enabled people find ways to find comfort in the uncomfortable, and to find creative ways of doing things despite all the challenges around us.

I sincerely hope that we can take with us the hope that we found in the laughter, the tears, and the struggle from 2020. Especially in the little things. And I hope we can take with us the sense of renewed urgency that we need to find innovative ways of doing our activism in order to secure a more just world. ■

# MAKING DEMOCRACY VIRAL IN TIMES OF COVID-19

A series of digital campaigns in Latin America lift democratic concerns of the reach of COVID-19.

A group of resilient and diverse activists from across Latin America, led by **Fundación Ciudadanía Inteligente (FCI)** in Chile, worked collaboratively across borders to develop a series of digital campaigns to preserve/restore democracy during COVID-19 times. The films were produced in Spanish, Portuguese, and English - and the materials were seen by around 250.000 unique viewers per campaign. The campaigns and videos can be found at <https://ciudadaniai.org/en/blog/>



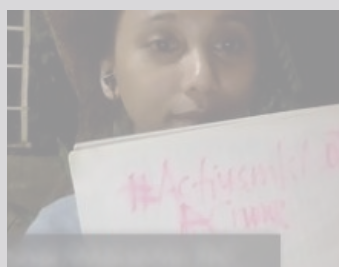
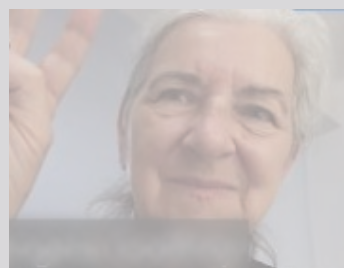
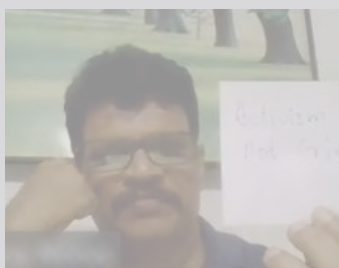
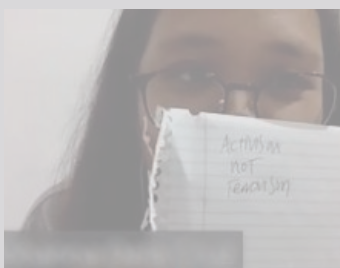
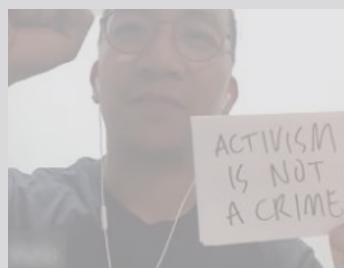
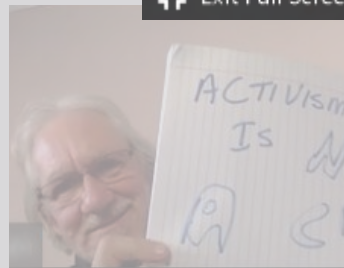
# KARIBU SPACE

Karibu means “welcome” in Swahili.

Although so many physical spaces have been restricted amidst a global pandemic, Karibu partners and friends around the world have been meeting every few weeks since March 2020 for an online meeting point coined the “Karibu Space”.

The Karibu Space is welcoming space where activists have strategized, debated, dreamed, and collaborated across continents, regions and thematic silos – all with the aim inspiring each other to continue the struggle for a more just world.

As of December 2020, the “Karibu Space” is now held as a monthly conversation and collaboration space between activists and movements.





# WHO WE ARE

## OUR BOARD IN 2020:

---

Agnar Gillebo (chair, finished term in 2020)

Peder Nustad (vice-chair)

Heidi Finskas

Gina Lende

Kasper Landmark

Titus Tenga (finished term 2020)

Ingrid Stolpestad (elected 2020)



## OUR STAFF:

---

Eilert L. Rostrup (director)

rostrup@karibu.no

Tyler Dale Hauger

(information and project advisor)

tyler@karibu.no

Federico Orioli

(information and project advisor)

substitute, sept 2019 - jan 2020)

## OUR ADMIN SUPPORT:

---

Endre Havnås (financial manager, Mallin Ltd)

Anne-Grete Røed

(accountant, Mallin Ltd)

Gregers Barfod (properties manager, Mallin Ltd)

## OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVES:

---

- To provide economic support to organizations and networks in the South that work for a just world

- To strategically cooperate with these organizations and networks, support network-building processes, and convey the thoughts and experiences of our partners to various arenas in the North.

## OUR PARTNERS:

---

Karibu seeks to partner with faith-based and secular organizations and networks of the Global South that provide alternatives to the dominant paradigms of power, distribution, and development.

Projects that Karibu supports are primarily related to the areas of information exchanges, mobilizing efforts, legislative and research efforts, bridge-building, dialogue, and capacity building.

More info: [www.karibu.no/who-we-are/what-we-support/](http://www.karibu.no/who-we-are/what-we-support/)

 KaribuFoundation

 @KaribuFnd

<https://www.karibu.no>

**Cover: 2020 will be remembered for a number of obvious challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. But the situation also provided a moment for important, digital collaboration between movements around the globe.**

**A digital roundtable on the interconnections between the struggle against increasing racism, supremacy, destruction of democracy, and colonial policies brought together Bertha Zúñiga (Honduras), Vijoo Krishnan (India), Sônia Guajajara (Brazil), and Jamal Juma (Palestine). The session was moderated by Rita Abu Ghosh (Palestine). The session was the first of a series of webinars organized as part of the “World without Walls” movement, organized by the Palestinian “Stop the Wall Campaign.”**



## **THE KARIBU FOUNDATION**

Kirkens Hus  
Rådhusgt. 1-3  
0151 Oslo  
Norway

karibu.no