

We Are Speaking, Are You Listening ?

Survivor Collective Memory
Art Exhibition Nairobi 2023

DECEMBER 8 - 17

Je rêve qu'un jour

Je rêve qu'un jour je serai la Présidente du Congo afin de punir à haute voix les auteurs des viols et violences sexuelles qui sont utilisés comme un instrument de supériorité destiné à anéantir la femme et la société congolaise.

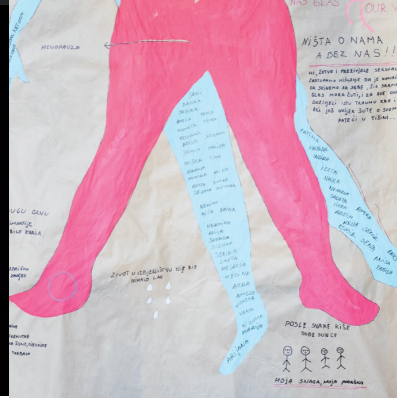
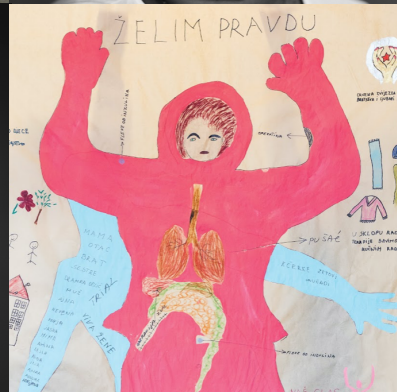
Je rêve qu'un jour je serai la Présidente du Congo pour être la voix des sans voix.

Je rêve qu'un jour je serai la Présidente du Congo pour rétablir la paix et garantir la sécurité à ma population.

Je rêve qu'un jour je serai la Présidente du Congo pour que les ressources de mon pays soient bénéfiques à ma population et non un instrument de tueries et de viols d'innocentes femmes qui partent aux champs à plus de 20km de leurs villages.

Je rêve qu'un jour je serai la Présidente du Congo pour valoriser les travaux des hommes et des femmes forts afin qu'ensemble, nous réussissions à construire un Congo digne et meilleur.

Je rêve qu'un jour je serai la Présidente du Congo pour lutter contre l'impunité qui règne aujourd'hui dans mon pays.



WELCOME TO THE SURVIVORS COLLECTIVE MEMORY EXHIBITION!

Our Mission

The Mukwege Foundation supports survivors' demands for a world where sexual violence as a weapon of war is no longer tolerated and bears consequences for individual perpetrators and states. We work for a future where survivors receive the holistic care and compensation they need to rebuild their lives. We create opportunities for survivors to speak out and be heard, and where they can organise to create change, influence policies, and demand justice and accountability.

SEMA, the Global Network of Survivors

In 2017, the Mukwege Foundation initiated SEMA - the Global Network for Victims and Survivors to End Wartime Sexual Violence - to mobilise survivors to participate in matters that concern them. It currently represents conflict-related sexual violence survivors from 26 countries. SEMA's Collective Memory Exhibition - 'We Are Speaking, Are You Listening?' - highlights the vast spectrum of survivors' experiences from the fight for accountability and justice, to the shame and pain of memory, to the healing journey of survivors and even to the joys of recovery.

Food for Thought: Note box

Throughout this art exhibition we encourage you to share your thoughts, experiences, comments and questions to create discussions. Scan the QR code on the right and enjoy the exhibition!



● Sound Installation

● Poetry

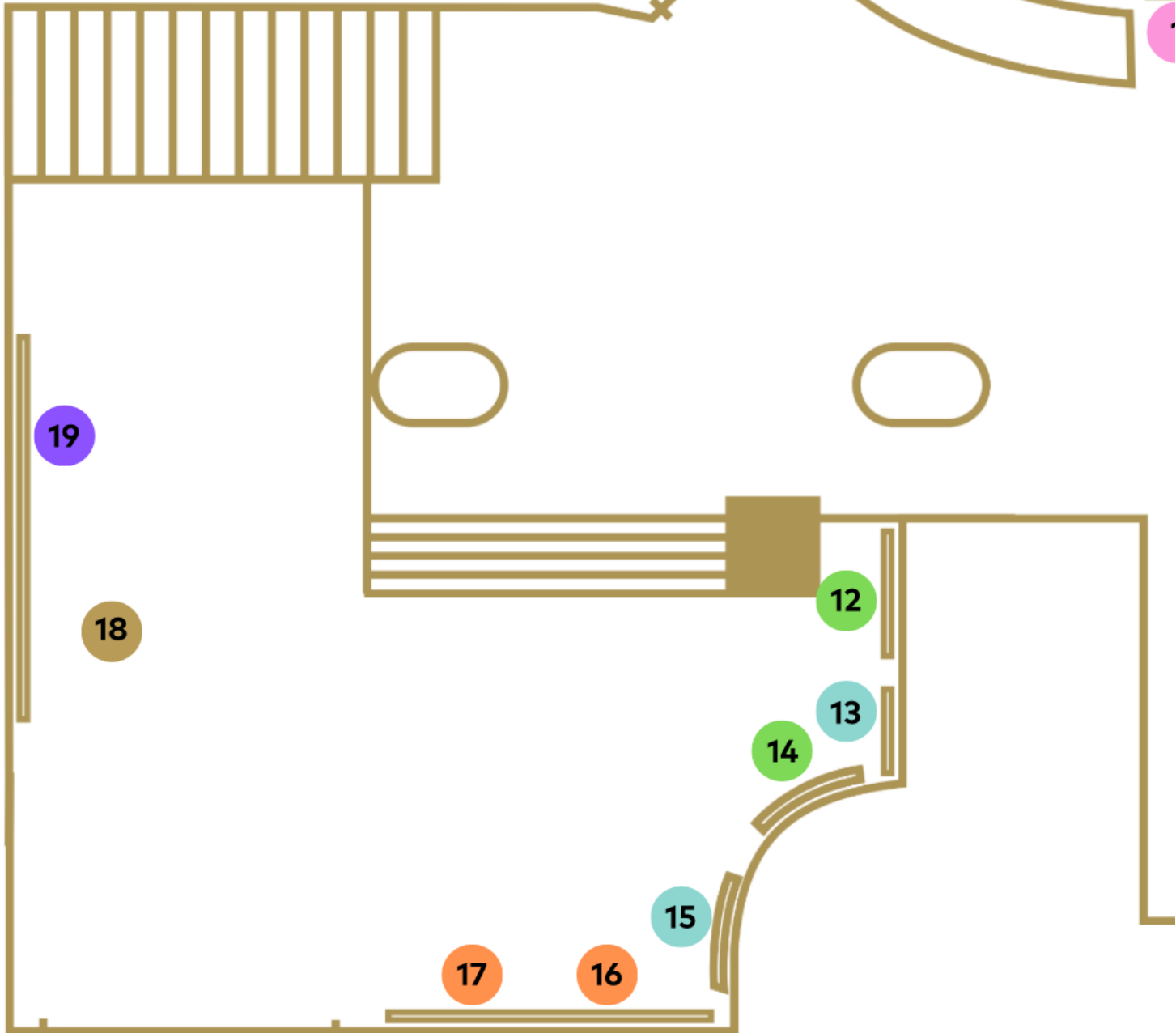
● Photography

● Documentary

● Quotes

● VR Installation

● SEMA Map



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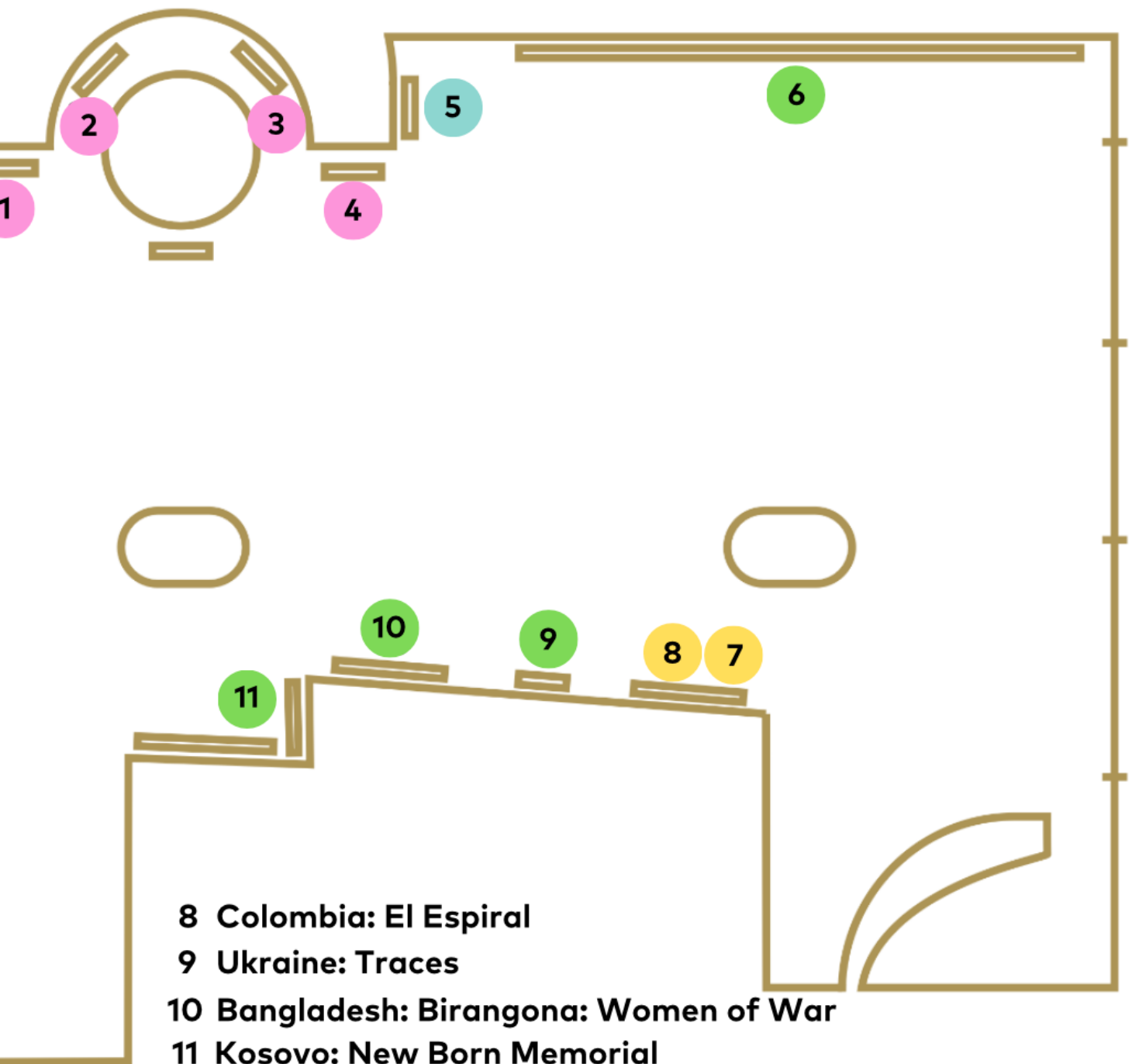
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GLOBAL, SEMA

Title: Little Bird and Solidarity

ARTIST: SEMA, MUKWEGE FOUNDATION AND MAKE MUSIC MATTER

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: GLOBAL, 2018 & 2022

Make Music Matter works in countries that have been deeply scarred by conflict, HIV/AIDS, and violence against women. Music has always helped people around the world to overcome hardship by providing comfort and consolation, and by helping them to directly address the most divisive issues their communities face. These songs are the fruits of the Music Therapy Programme, a project which helps survivors to recover from traumatic past experiences through music.

In 2018, SEMA members wrote and recorded the song 'Little Bird', which has become SEMA's anthem. They have performed it live at public events in Geneva and The Hague, and with the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2022, SEMA members recorded and launched a new song 'Solidarity'. This song was created in collaboration with the singer and survivor Ambassador, Marie Daulne (also known as Zap Mama).



SOLIDARITY



Original version Title: Solidarity

Solidarity x10

All together now, **solidarity x2**
We say this in solidarity, **solidarity x4**

War must stop, war must stop,
Go to the field and fight,
Don't use my body to fight,
Children are the seeds,
Parents are the leaves,
The nation is the tree,
We need solidarity.

It's a new day, solidarity,
One voice, solidarity x2

Restoration,
Justice, one voice,
Reparations, one voice,

Solidarity for my sisters,
For my mothers,
SEMA network one more, **solidarity x3**
We say this in solidarity,
Solidarity x4



Original version Title: Little Bird

Tumeamua kuvunja ukimia,
Tulijitiya pamoja ili tu achie watoto
wetu,
Dunia bila ujeuri na ubakaji,
Tolingi kimya.

Chorus:

**Im just a little bird, who will touch the
sky (x4)**
La, la, la, la, la, la (x6)

Away, from the fears you fly,
Away, from a wound your eyes,
Away from the lies she flies,
But like a bird she's frail,
Yet her truth prevails,
Proud as a bird sing again,
After a raging storm has destroyed the
lands,
Proud as a flower bloom again,
After the pain and corruption.

Ataina min kul elbuldan,
Nahnu kasarna elqutban.
Mutafiqina bil quloob,
Mutwahidina bil juhood.

Chorus

If we have the bright future fly away,
Come on fly away,
Come on fly away,
I say ye-ah, ye-ah,

Todo cura, todo sana,
Todo lleva,
Medicina dentro,
Llevo agua, llevo viento,
Llevo el universo a dentro.

Chorus





KENYA

Title: We Rise

ARTIST: JAQUELINE MUTERE

Written by Jaqueline Mutere, SEMA member from Kenya, for the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) Conference in 2022, on behalf of the SEMA network; this poem speaks

profoundly of the power of togetherness and it resonates with strength, resilience, and hope in the face of unspeakable adversity.

We Rise

Poem by Jaqueline Mutere

Our world, our words, we rise!!!

I was the wail in a night, in a day of hideous injustices,
When evil sought to devour me, my essence, my garden!!

I cut into the depths of centuries of the unsaid.

My pain tightens my voice, my chest,

My cry went up ... take me out of trouble,

Before the sun is up, my cry for help comes to your ear, I have hope

And... I rise

Centuries of the unsaid is now laid bare, ... because

We speak

Freedom !!..... Makes my voice light,

A secure future I create for my children defines hope!

My voice says.... No more war, it says peace, its says healing

For this dream we hope.

Together, we unite, to love, to feel, to walk, to speak, to stand, to resist and insist !!

We rise!!

We speak with our tears, our pain

Then

The light pierces the darkness, the garden sees light, and has life!!

No more stigma, no more fear, no more shame!!

Wickedness does not win!! They are shamed to cause the pain

We heal, we sit, then stand to hold hands and resist.

Our words, heal our world, our songs, our solidarity, our resilience is our fist,

We rise!!

We are alive,

The secret garden has healed, has life and light

...We rise!!

You may have heard about us...

But we are present here today, in living color to speak, to act

And you will see and hear what defines courage, hope and resilience!!

So this is the story....

"that life doesn't get easier or more forgiving, we simply get stronger and more resilient." ...

"the oak fought the wind and was broken, the willow bent And survived."

And because we are here together,

...We rise!!



KENYA

Title: The Tree

ARTIST: CHILDREN OF GRACE AGENDA

Grace-Agenda
Grace for full recovery

JUSTICE FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND THE CHILDREN BORN

Acknowledgement

Rehabilitation

Restitution

Compensation

Accountability

Satisfaction

The Tree

I am A Tree

Surrounded by many others just like me,
I started as a seed planted differently,
But im just as beautiful as the others you see,
Dear Kenyans,
Help me and my Mama forget the pain, Stop the
pointing finger help us Live again'
Pour Faith and Love in my soil , that I may live
again.
Naipenda Kenya Yetu Na wewe Je??

**REPARATIONS, SELF-AGENCY AND
MEMORIALIZATION**

Grace Agenda is a community-based organisation in Kenya that was established as a response of personal experience of rape during the post-election violence of 2007-2008.

This poem written by children born of rape inspires the walk toward justice, healing, memorialisation and reparation.





GLOBAL, SEMA

Title: Breaking the Silence: Turning Pain into Power

ARTIST: SEMA, MUKWEGE FOUNDATION AND RACHEL CORNER, 2022

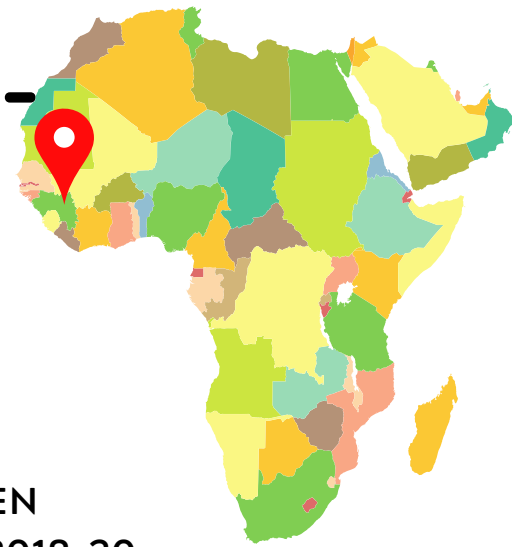
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: GLOBAL

In 2022, SEMA members collaborated with the documentary photographer, Rachel Corner, to create a series of photo portraits and testimonies of their personal journeys as activists and change-makers. The resulting portraits were curated by the survivors and were

compiled into a book – Breaking the Silence: turning pain into power – and a photo exhibition, marking the 5th anniversary of the SEMA global network. The exhibition toured the world, from London to New York, via The Hague and Rotterdam.







GUINEA

Title: La Justice

ARTIST: MAKE MUSIC MATTER, MOISE KEOULEN
GBANAMOU AND SURVIVORS FROM GUINEA, 2018-20

The song "La Justice" was written during music therapy sessions with survivors of the Conakry stadium massacre on 28 September 2009 and the support of Make the Music Matter. The survivors worked with psychologists

from Panzi Hospital (the hospital set up by Dr. Mukwege in eastern DRC) and a local artist to write the lyrics, calling for justice and this opening of a trial, which finally took place on 28 September 2022, 13 years after the events.

Version originale

C'était le 28 septembre au stade que j'allais réclamer la paix et ils m'ont torturé, poignardé et nous voilà handicapées

**Au nom de toutes les victimes oh nous réclamons la justice,
Il ne suffit pas de vouloir la justice, vouloir la justice oh oh
Il ne suffit pas de vouloir la justice, vouloir la justice oh oh**

Chorus

**Non non non non, disons non à l'injustice
Non non non non, disons non à l'injustice**

**Mon mari m'a quitté parce que je suis une victime
Il m'a laissé 5 enfants à ma charge et il a quitté la maison.**

**Je dois les nourrir les petits
Les scolariser mais je n'ai pas de moyens**

**Oh oh oh je veux la justice
La justice**

**Il ne suffit pas de vouloir la justice, vouloir la justice oh oh
Il ne suffit pas de vouloir la justice, vouloir la justice oh oh**

Chorus

**Non non non non, disons non oh oh
Non non non non, disons non oh oh**

**Il ne suffit pas de vouloir la justice, vouloir la justice oh oh
Il ne suffit pas de vouloir la justice, vouloir la justice oh oh**

Chorus



English version

It was on September 28th at the stadium that I was going to ask for peace and they tortured me, stabbed me and here we are disabled

In the name of all the victims we demand justice,
It's not enough to want justice, want justice oh oh
It's not enough to want justice, want justice oh oh

No no no no, let's say no to injustice
No no no no, let's say no to injustice

My husband left me because I am a victim
He left me with 5 children to support and left home.
I have to feed them little ones
Educate them but I don't have the means

Oh oh oh I want justice
Justice

It's not enough to want justice, want justice oh oh
It's not enough to want justice, want justice oh oh

No no no no, let's say no to injustice
No no no no, let's say no to injustice

No no no no, let's say no oh oh
No no no no, let's say no oh oh

It's not enough to want justice, want justice oh oh
It's not enough to want justice, want justice oh oh

No no no no, let's say no to injustice
No no no no, let's say no to injustice



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Title: Letter to My Child

**ARTIST: POEM - DESANGES KABUO; FILM PRODUCTION -
BERNADETTE VIVUYA, 2020**

In this short documentary, SEMA member Desanges Kabuo writes a poignant letter to her child, whom she did not choose to have but now loves fiercely. Bodies that have been used as battlefields often bear not only the scars of rape, but also of children. These mothers and their families are often stigmatised by the very communities that should be welcoming and supporting them.

This film was made by Bernadette Vivuya, a Congolese visual journalist and film-maker based in Goma, Eastern DRC. She works on issues related to human rights, the environment and the exploitation of raw materials, bearing witness to the resilience and transcendence of the inhabitants of this conflict-affected region.



UKRAINE

Title: Traces (Film stills)

ARTIST: ALISA KOVALENKO, IN PRODUCTION FOR 2024



These film stills are glimpses into the powerful film *Traces*, a psychological multi-portrait film that sheds light on the harrowing experiences of six remarkable women who survived sexual violence and torture during Russia's aggression in Ukraine. Their stories, etched with the deep scars of trauma, serve as a testament to the indomitable human spirit's capacity to find strength amid adversity and transform post-traumatic experiences into post-traumatic growth.

Traces offers a profound and unflinching exploration of the lives of these survivors, all of whom are part of SEMA

Ukraine. These stills offer a glimpse into the courage, resilience, and unwavering determination of these women who refuse to remain silent. Their stories are not just records of unspeakable crimes but a testament to their commitment to truth and justice, as they bravely share their experiences to preserve their collective memory and advocate for a better future. "*Traces*" is an emotionally stirring and vital work that reminds us of the strength that can emerge from the darkest of experiences. It is not only about capturing the horrors of crime, but also about the path through pain and trauma to healing.





BANGLADESH

Title: Still image from the theatre play "Birangona: Women of War"

ARTIST: KOMOLA COLLECTIVE, 2013

In August 2013, the Komola Collective travelled to Bangladesh to film Birangona women's firsthand accounts of the 1971 Bangladesh War of Independence in order to produce a research and development theatrical piece based on their footage. More than

200,000 women were raped and tortured during this conflict, and were then silenced. The production uses physical performance, choreography and animation interwoven with films of the real Birangona women's accounts to tell their stories.





BURUNDI

Title: Why Were We Silent & How Do We Break the Stigma of Sexual Violence

ARTIST: FROM ANONYMOUS SURVIVORS - SHARED BY TEARFUND BURUNDI AND THEIR PARTNER MATANA DIOCESE, 2014

Originating from survivors in Burundi, these poems are a call to action to faith leaders. They seek to address the silence and stigma surrounding conflict-related sexual violence within religious and

community spaces. The words of the survivors echo the experience of silence, stigmatisation, and the courageous journey to break free from it.

Why Were We Silent?

We were silent because we were afraid that we would be judged.

We were silent because we have gone to our pastors and they have judged us.

We were silent because of the stigma that stays with us wherever we go.

We were silent because if we speak, we have nowhere to go.

We are not being silent any longer.

Too many people are suffering because we have been silent and you have been silent.

We ask you today to join us in breaking the silence.

We survivors are creating a platform to speak out.

Share our voices, faces, and experienced wisdom.

We are asking you to join our movement.

Speak out against violence.

Violence against women is against Christian values.

It Must End.

How do We Break the Stigma of Sexual Violence?

We do it by speaking out, but without you and your churches,
we cannot change things.

You are powerful and influential.

You must help us do this work. We want to work hand in
hand with you.

We are more than willing to come speak to
your congregation, to be the voice and faces of rape in
South Africa.

We ask you to open doors for us.

We want to enter your
church with our truth as the real survivors, not just
marginalised women.

We have been harmed, but we are
more powerful to change the world.

We are fighting for ourselves and every other woman who is
still silent.

WILL YOU FIGHT WITH US?



KOSOVO

Title: New Born Memorial

ARTIST: KOSOVO REHABILITATION CENTER FOR TORTURE
VICTIMS (KCRT), FISNIK ISMAILI, 2008



In 2020, as Kosovo celebrated its 12th anniversary of independence, the "New Born" monument took on a special significance. This iconic structure, which symbolizes the birth of the state of Kosovo and the dawn of hope for a new life, was dedicated to a profoundly special social category: Sexual Violence Survivors from wartime. That year's acronym, "Never Ending Wars Bring Oppression Rape & Neglect," paid homage to all victims of sexual abuse during global conflicts.

For these survivors, the end of the war did not signify the start of a new life, but rather the beginning of new suffering, characterized by marginalization, contempt, and unfounded blame. It was a moment for

society to challenge prejudices and unfair treatment against this vulnerable group.

Visually, "New Born" was predominantly adorned in black, symbolising the destruction and emptiness left in the wake of every conflict. However, the monument's letters, particularly the "W," were adorned with elements of hope and freedom, represented by flowers, birds, and butterflies. These symbols depicted the fragile yet resilient nature of survivors who continue their struggle. The positivity and hope emanated from these letters, extending through the other characters to signify the inevitable truth that goodness will prevail.

Each black letter contained poignant stories and sentences from sexual violence survivors worldwide, creating a moving and heartfelt tribute to their strength and resilience. "New Born" stands as a powerful testament to the enduring spirit of survivors and the possibility of healing and renewal, even in the face of unimaginable trauma.



Photo: Arben Llapashtica





CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Title: Break the Silence

ARTIST: SURVIVORS FROM TWO CAR NETWORKS (MOSUCA AND CNAV-CA) AND GAD, A LOCAL ARTIST, 2023

This song was written in a music workshop that enabled survivors to convey messages about sexual violence to Central African society. The message of the slam that was recorded by the survivors was: "It is time to break

definitively the silence because we are called women to save souls." These lyrics were composed by the survivors under the supervision of the local artist Gad (lyrics on the next page).



Version originale

Femme d'ici femme d'ailleurs, Il est temps que tu cesses tes pleurs, reprends tes droits au respect et à l'honneur, si tu as tant souffert alors pourquoi te taire?

Femme tu es une-mère une-sœur une-âme-sœur, mais c'est toujours toi qu'on maltraite quand il y'a la guerre, il est temps que tu brises le silence pour qu'enfin la justice soit faite.

Femme lève-toi écoute-moi, hier t'étais une victime aujourd'hui tu es une survivante, battante et compétente dame de fer qui sait tout faire, alors tu ne dois plus te taire.

Wali zingo na lango zia mbito, zia toto, londo mo dékongongo téné ti néngongo ti mo, pourquoi faire de mal à une femme sans arme et sans défense, et si c'était ta femme?

Femme d'ici femme d'ailleurs, Il est temps que tu cesses tes pleurs, reprends tes droits au respect et à l'honneur, si tu as tant souffert alors pourquoi te taire?

Quelle cruauté de voir nos mères nos sœurs maltraitées, violées jusqu'au point de perdre leur dignité quand les hommes font la guerre, non plus jamais ça.

Je vous le dit en vérité, ces atrocités doivent s'arrêter, le viol est un crime sale, et les coupables doivent répondre de leurs actes devant un tribunal.

Femme tu es la flamme, les blâmes et les larmes ne font qu'ajouter ta souffrance, alors Je-dois tu-dois nous-devons brisé le silence pour mettre fin à nos souffrances.

Femme d'ici femme d'ailleurs, Il est temps que tu cesses tes pleurs, reprends tes droits au respect et à l'honneur, si tu as tant souffert alors pourquoi te taire?

Wali tu lui as donnée ton amour pour le pire et le meilleur, mais il te donne des coups durs et des pleurs, à cause des mythes et des croyances stupides, nos-mères nos-sœurs subissent en silence.

Depuis quand le mal est devenu légal ? Depuis quand la femme doit encaisser tous les coups de l'homme sans chercher secours au tribunal ? L'anarchie est devenue totale dans une société qui perd ses pédales.

Unissons nos voix, construisons une mémoire collective afin de sauver des vies, ensemble disons non aux violences faite aux femmes en temps des conflits, non plus jamais ça,

Il est temps de dire haut ce que d'autres pensent bas et de rompre définitivement le silence car c'est pour sauver des âmes qu'on nous appelle des femmes.

Femme d'ici femme d'ailleurs, Il est temps que tu cesses tes pleurs, reprends tes droits au respect et à l'honneur, si tu as tant souffert alors pourquoi te taire?

Gad le slameur



English version

Women from here, women from everywhere, It's time to stop crying, regain your right to respect and honour. If you've suffered so much then why keep silent?

Woman, you're a mother, a sister, a soul sister, but you are always the one who is mistreated when there is war, it's time for you to break the silence, so that justice can be finally done.

Woman, stand up and listen to me, yesterday you were a victim, today you're a survivor, a fighter and a competent iron lady who knows how to do everything, so you must no longer remain silent.

Wali zingo na lango zia mbito, zia toto, londo mo dékongo téné ti néngo ti mo, Why harming an unarmed, defenseless woman, and what if she was your wife?

Women from here, women from everywhere, It's time to stop crying, regain your right to respect and honour. If you've suffered so much then why keep silent?

It's cruel to see our mothers see our mothers and sisters mistreated and raped to the point of losing their dignity when men go to war, never again.

I'm telling you the truth, these atrocities have to stop, rape is a dirty crime, and the guilty parties must be held accountable for their actions in a court of law.

Woman you are the flame, blame and tears only water down your suffering, so I-must, you-must, we-must break the silence to end our suffering.

Women from here, women from everywhere, It's time to stop crying, regain your right to respect and honour. If you've suffered so much then why keep silent ?

Wali, you have given him your love for better or for worse but he gives you hard knocks and tears, because of myths and stupid beliefs, our mothers, our sisters, suffer in silence.

When did evil became legal ? When did women have to take all the blows from men without seeking help in court? Anarchy has become total in a society that is losing its grip.

Let's unite our voices, let's build a collective memory to save lives. Together let's say no to violence against women in times of conflict, never again.

It's time to say out loud what people are thinking quietly and to break the silence once and for all, because it's to save souls that we're called women.

Women from here, women from everywhere, It's time to stop crying, regain your right to respect and honour. If you've suffered so much then why keep silent ?



IRAQ

Title: Nobody's Listening: The Forgotten Voice of Sinjar

ARTIST: NOBODY'S LISTENING VR, 2023

A unique narrative set in Kocho village, Sinjar, enables the virtual reality users to hear from a young Yazidi woman abducted and suffered sexual enslavement by ISIS, her brother, who survives a massacre, and an ISIS fighter who attacked the village.

This room-scale interactive experience transports viewers to northern Iraq using a blend of 360 documentary film-making, stunning Yazidi artwork and the latest virtual reality technology.





BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

Title: Body maps by two SEMA members

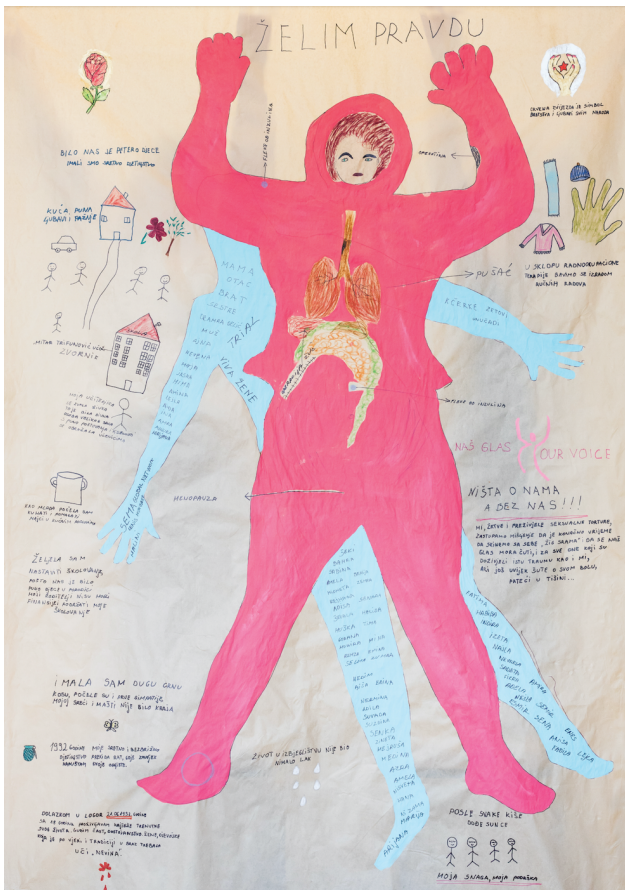
ARTIST: B. (BRATUNAC) AND M. (ZVORNIK), 2021

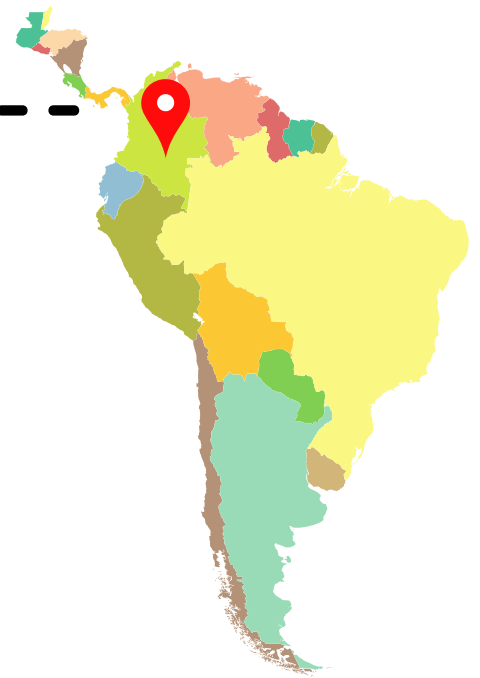
These body maps were created by two SEMA members during a body mapping workshop where the survivors of wartime sexual violence conveyed their life experiences using art as a medium. Through this process, the workshop participants worked on strengthening their individual capacities and affirming values, as it allowed them to observe

their life in its entirety and not solely through lived trauma.

Each map created during the workshop presents a drawing of one of the survivors' bodies, made up of two life-sized silhouettes. The first silhouette shows the physical changes to the body before and after the traumatic experience, while the second is inscribed with the names of all the people who are a part of their personal network of support. Survivors used the remaining surfaces to describe and illustrate the most important events and experiences in their lives, from childhood to the present day, but also their hopes for the future. Body maps are read counterclockwise, starting with the symbol in the top left corner and moving downward.

This workshop was organised by the War Childhood Museum in 2021 and this work was shown in the Speaking Out exhibition dedicated to and co-produced with survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and children born of war in BiH (Sarajevo, Mostar) and Serbia (Belgrade).





COLOMBIA

Title: El Espiral

ARTIST: TAMBORERAS DEL CAUCA, 2016

Tamboreras del Cauca is a group of 46 women living in the department of Cauca who survived the armed conflict and turned to art for individual and collective healing. They form an organisation whose aim is to prevent sexual violence and invites people to report the crimes they suffered in the Cauca region and the country. With the support of NGOs, they attended healing and emotional recovery workshops to

create a collective memory with the construction of the sound drums, with specific purposes, such as forgiveness, reconciliation, love and healing. It is in this context that this song has been written, describing the warrior woman, the weaver, the dreamer and the sower as an emotional seed for other Colombian women and those affected in the world by armed conflicts.



Versión original: Español

Title: Tamboreras

En estos tiempos donde el miedo nos gobierna, donde callar es lo que nos enseñan. Romperé el silencio, es resistir, es luchar y golpear de vuelta

Es respirar hacia el centro, al centro del corazón

Es respirar hacia el centro, al centro del corazón

Soy la semilla, soy la sembradora, soy el sueño y la soñadora

Soy la semilla, soy la sembradora, soy el sueño y la soñadora

Es respirar hacia el centro, al centro del corazón

Es respirar hacia el centro, al centro del corazón

Soy el tejido, soy la tejedora, soy el sueño y la soñadora

Soy el tejido, soy la tejedora, soy el sueño y la soñadora

Es respirar hacia el centro, al centro del corazón

Es respirar hacia el centro, al centro del corazón

Soy la guerrera, soy la luchadora, soy el sueño y la soñadora

Soy la guerrera, soy la luchadora, soy el sueño y la soñadora

Es respirar hacia el centro, al centro del corazón

Es respirar hacia el centro, al centro del corazón

Soy el tambor, soy la vibración, soy la voz de mi corazón

Soy el tambor, soy la vibración, soy la voz de mi corazón

Que laté y seza el amor hacia la fuerza en mi corazón

Que laté y seza el amor hacia la fuerza en mi corazón

Soy el tambor, soy la vibración, soy la voz de mi corazón

Es respirar hacia el centro, al centro del corazón

Es respirar hacia el centro, al centro del corazón

English version

**In these times where fear rules us,
where silence is what we are taught. I
will break the silence, it is to resist, it is
to fight and strike back**

**It's breathing to the center, to the
center of the heart
It's breathing to the center, to the
center of the heart**

**I am the seed, I am the sower, I am the
dream and the dreamer
I am the seed, I am the sower, I am the
dream and the dreamer**

**It's breathing into the center, into the
center of the heart
It's breathing into the center, into the
center of the heart**

**I am the fabric, I am the weaver, I am
the dreamer and the dreamer
I am the fabric, I am the weaver, I am
the dream and the dreamer**

**It's breathing to the center, to the
center of the heart
It's breathing to the center, to the
center of the heart**

**I am the warrior, I am the fighter, I am
the dreamer and the dreamer
I am the warrior, I am the fighter, I am
the dreamer and the dreamer**

**It's breathing to the center, to the
center of the heart
It's breathing to the center, to the
center of the heart**

**I am the drum, I am the vibration, I am
the voice of my heart
I am the drum, I am the vibration, I am
the voice of my heart**

**Let the love beat and spread toward the
strength in my heart
I am the drum, I am the vibration, I am
the voice of my heart
I am the drum, I am the vibration, I am
the voice of my heart**

**It's breathing to the center, to the
center of the heart
It's breathing to the center, to the
center of the heart**



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Title: Testimonies of survivors from two CAR networks
(MOSUCA and CNAV-CA)

ARTIST: MAJOR SHOW, 2022

These portraits and testimonies were taken and compiled in 2022, by a local photographer in Bangui as part of a collective memory project. The project aimed at breaking the silence around CRSV in the Central African Republic, gathered 20 survivors to take part in different workshops such as music

therapy, theater, drawing classes and making handicrafts with recycled material. This project was implemented by the Mukwege Foundation in collaboration with La Maison de la Mémoire and funded by the Robert Bosch Foundation.



NADINE

Je remercie Dieu de m'avoir gardée en vie.
Je veux oublier ce que j'ai vécu mais c'est impossible.
En vous racontant, vous comprendrez que c'est impossible d'oublier.
Cela s'est passé dans la ville de Grimari.
Ils sont entrés et ont commencé à brûler des maisons.
Ils ont pris ma petite sœur et d'autres membres de la famille, ils les ont enfermés dans une maison et ils y ont mis le feu. Ils y ont mis le feu sans avoir pitié. Malgré les pleurs, les cris, ils ont laissé la maison et tout ce qu'elle abritait, brûler.
Ils ont tiré sur ma mère qui s'enfuyait. Quant à moi et certaines de mes sœurs, ils nous ont laissées en vie après avoir fait de nous, ce qu'ils voulaient. Je ne peux pas le décrire.
On parle du 11 mai comme étant la Journée nationale des Victimes, mais le 11 mai, non, ce n'est pas à cette date que ces horreurs sont arrivées. Il y a aussi beaucoup de choses que les gens ne peuvent pas imaginer. La douleur qu'on ne peut pas décrire, le mal qu'on a vu et que l'on ne peut pas décrire avec des mots.
Je ne peux pas changer le passé mais une chose est certaine, depuis ce jour, ma vie n'est plus celle que j'avais imaginée.
Je survis et j'ai pour ambition de suivre une formation dans l'espoir de mieux me prendre en charge.





DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Titles: 4 poems (original version in French)

- 1) Where is the State?
- 2) Letter to my rapist
- 3) Because of him
- 4) When our families encourage

ARTIST: SURVIVORS FROM THE MOVEMENT OF SURVIVORS OF
SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN DRC, 2019

These poems were written by survivors from the National Network for Survivors of Sexual Violence in the DRC to raise awareness about CRSV in the DRC and were showcased at an exhibition organised on June 19, 2019 in Bukavu.

Je rêve qu'un jour

Je rêve qu'un jour je serai la Présidente du Congo afin de punir à haute voix les auteurs des viols et violences sexuelles qui sont utilisés comme un instrument de supériorité destiné à anéantir la femme et la société congolaise.

Je rêve qu'un jour je serai la Présidente du Congo pour être la voix des sans voix.

Je rêve qu'un jour je serai la Présidente du Congo pour rétablir la paix et garantir la sécurité à ma population.

Je rêve qu'un jour je serai la Présidente du Congo pour que les ressources de mon pays soient bénéfiques à ma population et non un instrument de tueries et de viols d'innocentes femmes qui partent aux champs à plus de 20km de leurs villages.

Je rêve qu'un jour je serai la Présidente du Congo pour valoriser les travaux des hommes et des femmes forts afin qu'ensemble, nous réussissions à construire un Congo digne et meilleur.

Je rêve qu'un jour je serai la Présidente du Congo pour lutter contre l'impunité qui règne aujourd'hui dans mon pays.

A cause de lui

Pourquoi me pointes-tu du doigt ?
Ai-je choisi mon sort ?

Rappelles-toi que j'ai un jour été comme toi
Innocente et heureuse de vivre

Je me rappelle de ma liberté à cette époque-là
Aujourd'hui ce n'est que nostalgie

Cette vie-là se trouve actuellement à des années lumières
Comparativement à ce que je vis actuellement

Aujourd'hui je marche la tête baissée
Comme un voleur pris en flagrant délit

Jadis j'ai marché la tête haute comme une reine
Faisant son entrée spectaculaire

Ma dignité, mon honneur
Ils se sont envolés à cause de lui

Qu'est-ce qui me reste ?
Juste un horrible souvenir

Souvenir, dont je remuerai ciel et terre pour qu'il
disparaisse

A cause de lui je suis enfermée
Enfermée pour toujours par mes propres souvenirs.





UGANDA

Title: Quote from a SEMA member

ARTIST: GRACE ACAN, 2023

A SEMA Member and Founder of Women's Advocacy Network Uganda, Grace Acan is also the author of Not Yet Sunset, a book about the story of her childhood, abduction and life in Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) captivity. Grace was abducted in school by the LRA in

1996 and was marched to South Sudan. She endured close to nine years of forced labour, hardship and violence at the hands of the rebels.



MALI

Title: Quote from SEMA members

ARTIST: ASSETOU AND AISSATA, 2023

Assétou and Aïssata are both part of the IFDDH network (Women's Initiative for the Defence of Human Rights).





FILM SCREENING: SEMA

Screened only
on DEC 13
Auditorium

Title: SEMA Movie

**ARTIST: MOVEMENT OF SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE
DRC; FILM DIRECTOR: MACHARIE EKWA, 2019**

This film features the stories of two women who fell victim to the ongoing sexual violence facing the Democratic Republic of Congo. Written collectively by the Movement of Survivors in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the film will take you through their heartbreaks as well as their fight to find hope and justice.

The majority of the acting roles are played by the survivors themselves. In order to create a truly powerful film, they bravely reenacted their own traumas. The survivors took on these parts consciously, realising the benefit of artistic expression as part of the healing process.



SEMA

A movie by

National Movement of Survivors of Rape and Sexual Violences in DR Congo





FILM SCREENING: COLOMBIA

Screened only
on DEC 13
Auditorium

Title: Fragmentos

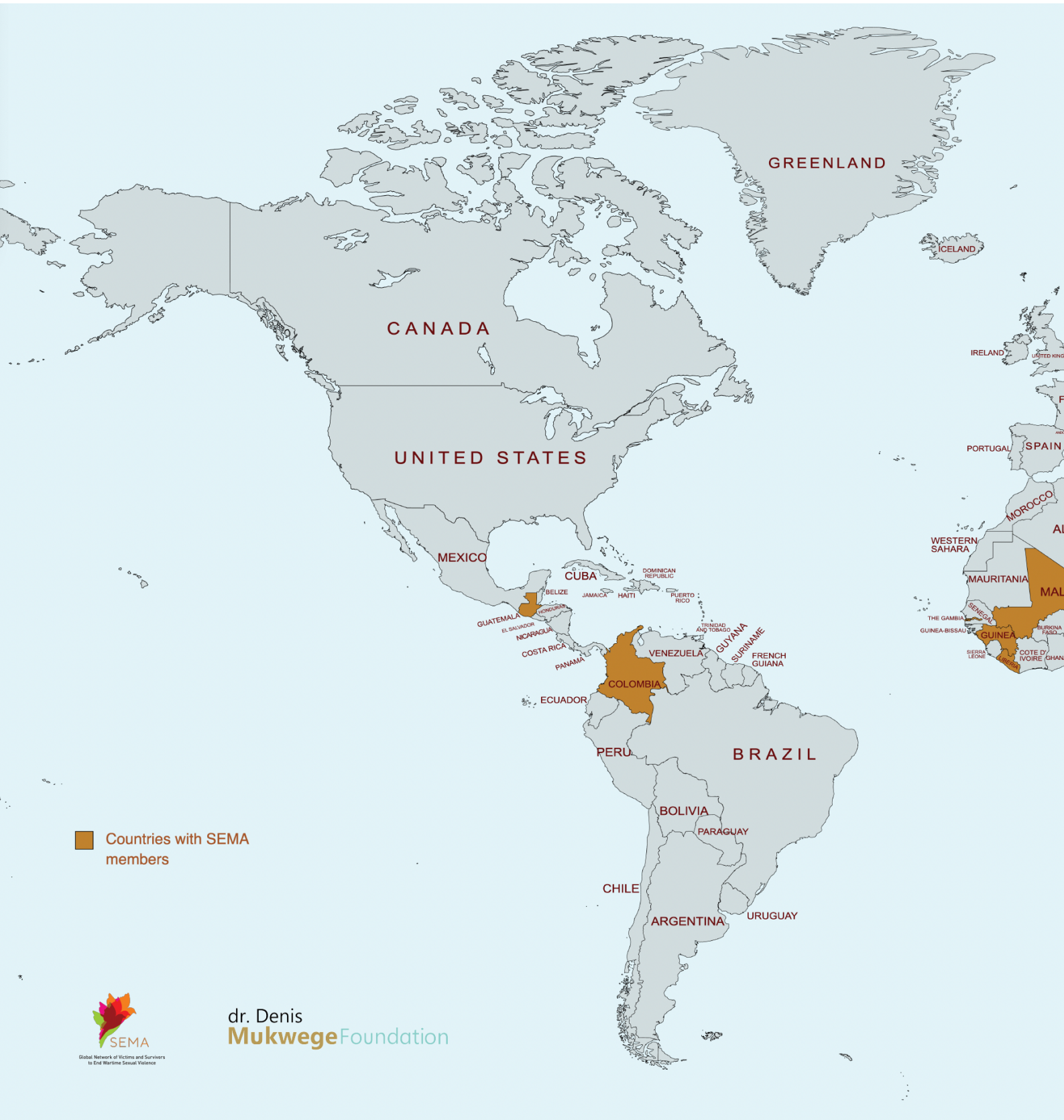
ARTIST: DORIS SALCEDO, MAYTE CARRASCO, 2020

The short film tells the story of the creation of the memorial "Fragmentos, Espacio de Arte y Memoria" in the heart of Bogotá, Colombia out of 37 tons of weapons voluntarily surrendered by the former guerrilla FARC-EP, in fulfillment of their commitments to the Peace Accord.

The memorial was created by survivors of sexual violence in Colombia and it serves as a counter monument deliberately creating an intimate, reflective and commemorative space where Colombia's violent past can be reinterpreted for a hopeful future.

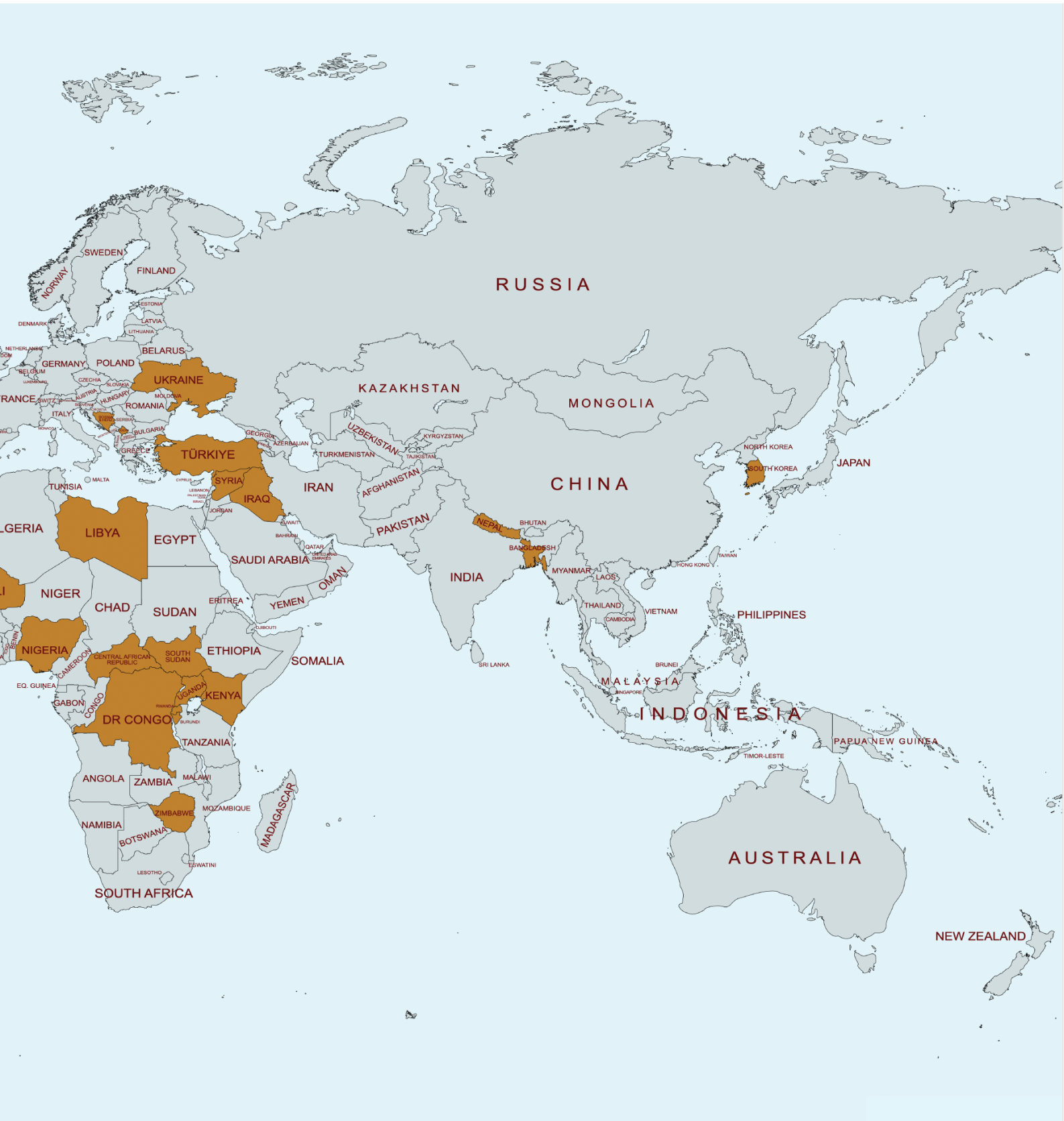


SEMA WORLD MAP



■ Countries with SEMA members





The Mukwege Foundation would like to thank the following partners that have made this exhibition possible:

SEMA, the Global Network of Victims and Survivors to End Wartime Sexual Violence, and all its members that have participated in the exhibition.

All of the artists and institutions that have collaborated to this exhibition namely Bernadette Vivuya, Alisa Kovalenko, Tear Fund Burundi, Nobody's Listening, War Childhood Museum.

Our Nairobi-based curator, Angela Muritu.

The Robert Bosch Foundation for its generous support.

The Alliance Française in Nairobi, for opening their doors to us.

We hope you enjoyed the exhibition. If you would like to support survivors, consider donating to the Mukwege Foundation. Your support shows survivors that the world has not forgotten them and gives them dignity and hope for the future.



MF Donation page

If you would like to get further in touch, don't hesitate to visit the Mukwege Foundation and SEMA websites. You can also drop an email at info@mukwegefoundation.org or at sema@mukwegefoundation.org.



MF website



SEMA website