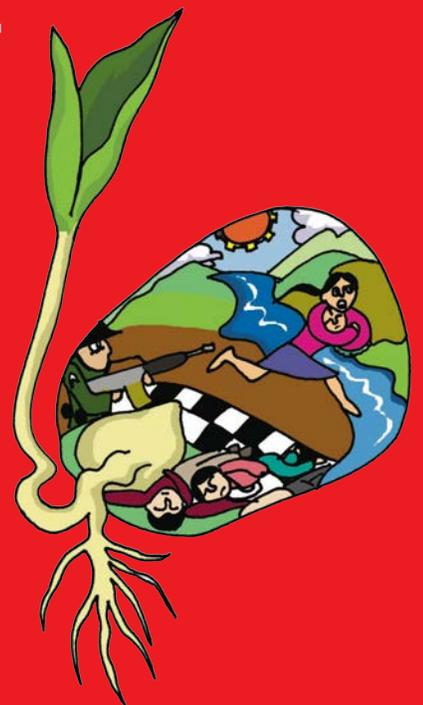




Association of Survivors of the Sumpul Massacre and Other Chalatenango Massacres

English Translation:
Strategic Plan 2018-2021



FECHA INOLVIDABLE EL 14 DE MAYO DE 1980

PARA LOS OJOS DE DON PANCHITO Y LOS
HABITANTES DE EL CASERIO DE LAS
ARADAS, CANTON YURIQUE, JURISDICCION
DE SAN JOSE OJOS DE AGUA, DEPARTAMENTO
DE CHALATENANGO, QUE SON TESTIGOS
DE LA VIL MASACRE DE MAS DE 600
PERSONAS ENTRE ELLAS MUJERES,
NIÑOS Y ANCIANOS INDEFENSAMENTE
POR LAS FUERZAS REPRESORAS
DEL GOBIERNO.

PARA TESTIMONIO DE EL PUEBLO
SALVADOREÑO.

CHALATENANGO, MARZO DE 1993

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Message From The Board Of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Association of Survivors of the Sumpul Massacre and Other Chalatenango Massacres pay homage to all our compañeros (comrades), male and female, fallen during the war in our region and in other parts of the country and to all the innocent victims whose blood was shed for a country of justice, peace, and freedom. We acknowledge that everything we have accomplished so far is the fruit of their sacrifice.

As an association of survivors, we acknowledge all the victims and survivors who are scattered around the world, and all who keep in their hearts the memory of their cruelly murdered loved ones.

We want to express our gratitude, admiration, and solidarity with brothers and sisters at the national and international level who walk along with us and support our struggle to realize our objectives and goals.

Our goals are clear and precise. We want to vindicate the honor of our victims so that truth, justice, and moral and material restitution prevail as the only path to a truthful reconciliation. We seek psychosocial support to process the trauma we have gone through. We want to keep alive our historical memory through the celebration of commemoration gatherings, the creation of books and audiovisual materials, and the documentation of the experiences of all the massacre victims in the department (province) of Chalatenango.

All our goals have a common end: that the present and future generations will know the truth about these events so that they do NOT happen AGAIN and we can finally solidify the foundations for true peace and justice.



Board Members, from left to right: María Dina Alas Calles, María Marta Tobar, Blanca Miriam Ayala Mejía, Mirian Dubon, ulio Hernaldo Rivera Guardado, María Wilma Mejía Alas and José Felipe Tobar Arce.

2.0

Historical Background

On May 14, 1980, hundreds of people from different communities gathered in Las Aradas, a small village in the district of Yurique, located on the banks of the Sumpul River, near the border with Honduras. Las Aradas is part of the municipality of San José Ojos de Agua in the Department (province) of Chalatenango, El Salvador. The people gathered there to seek protection from violence because they faced daily persecution by the Salvadoran military, the national guard, and a paramilitary organization called ORDEN (Nationalist Democratic Organization).

Felipe, then a 25-year-old campesino, met with the other campesinos and campesinas who had arrived at Las Aradas the same day. Ana, aged 12, was also there with her mother and her 15-year old sister. So was Yanet, a 19-year old woman accompanied by her father and her baby. They had all taken refuge in Las Aradas because it was a historically demilitarized space. On previous occasions, when they knew about a military or ORDEN operation in the area, they organized civilians to go across the Sumpul River and hide in the Honduran hills until the Salvadoran government troops left the region.

At approximately 7:30 in the morning on May 14th, the Salvadoran army initiated their military operation. They came from every direction. From his vantage point, Felipe saw a group of soldiers running and shooting through the hills. The noise of shots and grenade explosions was everywhere. Many families, along with their children, tried to escape. Some sought shelter behind stone fences to protect their children while others ran, terrified, to the Sumpul River. When Felipe reached the Sumpul, he could see that countless people had jumped in the river for fear of being captured, and many were drowning. The river was swollen because of heavy rains the night before, and the current dragged people away. Felipe also jumped in the river, but he was caught by a group of drowning women who latched onto him and made him sink beneath the water. With incomprehensible strength in the agony of death, Felipe dove to the bottom and was able to escape. He emerged to the surface coughing up the water he had swallowed, and he managed to make it across the river. When he could finally stand on his feet, with the water up to his chest, he saw the army on the shoreline gunning down the people who were still struggling in the river. He watched as people fell dead right in front of his eyes, and he felt thankful that God had allowed him to survive. Once on the shore, he climbed to the top of a ravine and watched as a group of soldiers killed the wounded people in the water and searched for others hiding in the bushes on the banks of the river. The gunfire frightened Felipe so much that he decided to walk further into Honduras.

Ana y Yanet also ran to the river, where hundreds of people were drowning. Ana watched as her entire family was shot and wounded in the river, including her sister, who was dragged away by the current. Yanet struggled to hold her baby as she attempted to cross, and suddenly a surge of water pulled him from her arms. When she reached the shore, she ran downriver searching for her son among the bodies. When she found him, he was not breathing. Her father, who had also made it across the river, laid the baby face down on a large rock, pressed the water out of his lungs, and managed to resuscitate him. For Yanet, it was a miracle.



Mural of the River Sumpul Massacre in Arcatao, Chalatenango.

It is hard to fathom the kind of hatred that would lead the army to kill innocent children. But the massacre at Las Aradas was a meticulously planned military operation orchestrated by high ranking officers of the Salvadoran armed forces in conjunction with the Honduran armed forces, who had militarized the border and cordoned off the Sumpul River area the day before to prevent people from taking refuge in Honduras. Some Salvadoran families were already living in the homes of kind people who had opened their doors to them in the Honduran villages along the border, but the Honduran army forced them back to El Salvador. Only a few families were able to hide in the hills and avoid expulsion. In this sense, we must also recognize the culpability of the Honduran army, who handed over refugees to the Salvadoran army who then executed them.

By the end of the action, approximately 600 campesinos – including many women, children, and the elderly – were dead. The Sumpul River Massacre was an important moment at the beginning of El Salvador's civil war because it was one of the first military operations that left evidence of the violent counterinsurgency strategies adopted by the Salvadoran Armed Forces (UN Truth Commission for El Salvador, 1993). It also created the first group of internationally recognized Salvadoran war refugees as dozens of people fled to Honduran border villages. As the government unleashed their death squads across the departments (provinces) of Chalatenango, Cabañas, and Morazán, news of other massacres – including the El Mozote Massacre and the Lempa River Massacre – reached the international community, but many smaller massacres still remain undocumented. Eventually approximately 43,000 Salvadorans crossed the border into Honduras, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) established four refugee camps to shelter them: La Virtud, Mesa Grande, Colomoncagua, and San Antonio. Others remained in El Salvador (often under the protection of the guerrillas of the FMLN - Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front), attempting to avoid government army attacks by adopting a precarious form hiding and fleeing known as *las guindas*. In both forms of flight, campesinos were faced with terror, starvation, exhaustion, child abductions, frequent aerial bombardments, extrajudicial killings, and massacres.

Despite the official denials, survivor accounts of death squads and massacres by the Salvadoran government military were corroborated by the UN Truth Commission for El Salvador. In its final report *From Madness to Hope* (1993), the UN held the Salvadoran state responsible for 85% of war crimes, including the Sumpul River Massacre. The Commission registered a total of 22,000 complaints of “serious acts of violence,” and outlined institutionalized forms of violence ranging from repression and enforced disappearances to mass killing operations. Although the Truth Commission called on the Salvadoran state to pursue reparations and erect a national monument with the names of the victims of state violence, the government has not fulfilled this request. Instead, commemoration of the massacres were mostly left to survivors and Salvadoran civil society organizations. Local historical memory committees, survivors, and development organizations have engaged in a number of initiatives to recover and protect their communities’ histories: the documentation of testimonies; exhumations of family members at massacre sites; reunification of families who lost children to military abductions and illicit international adoptions; the establishment of historical murals, memorials, and small museums; and community events, such as pilgrimages back to the former refugee camps in Honduras, celebrations of community repopulations, massacre commemorations, and church masses for those who were murdered.

The Association of Survivors of the Sumpul Massacre and Other Chalatenango Massacres has emerged at an important time for Salvadorans. Survivors of the massacres in Chalatenango are growing older, knowledge about the civil war is waning, and many recommendations of the Truth Commission remain unmet. The Sumpul Association’s plans are essential to all of these efforts. Those who survived the massacres and engaged in political struggle during the war feel obligated to share their experiences with the youth of El Salvador, not only to avoid repeating the traumas of the war but also to recognize the democratic rights they gained through organized struggle: Many of the massacre survivors in Chalatenango have emphasized that only by continuing that struggle and commemorating their fallen family and comrades will they achieve their core goals: justice, education, and dignity for the victims.

3.0

Context and Philosophy

“...we are committed to remain walking alongside people...”

The primary goal of the Association of Survivors of the Sumpul Massacre and Other Chalatenango Massacres (Asociación de Sobrevivientes de la Masacre del Sumpul y Otras Masacres de Chalatenango) is to dignify all massacre victims and survivors in the region who were subjected to repressive state violence during the Salvadoran Civil War (1980-1992). Members of the Sumpul Association work to preserve historical memory of wartime massacres; recognize and appreciate the popular organization of campesinos and our struggles against state violence; and seek moral and material reparations for survivors.

The Sumpul Association was established through an organic process. It is part of a long history of popular organization and struggle for social justice and political transformation. During the civil war, campesinos and campesinas in Chalatenango engaged in various forms of social organization to defend their lives, land, homes, and families. Organizations such as CRIPDES and CCR generated a strong sense of social responsibility that continues to structure our political and social lives today. The process of repopulation is one of the most important events in our history, a significant collective achievement that included contributions from Salvadoran popular organizations such as organic intellectuals, and religious leaders. After the war, many of us remained politically active, taking on community leadership roles and extending our work to institutional spheres like mayor's offices as the regional political power has been reconfigured.

With the support of Father Jon Cortina and other priests in the region, commemorations in the place of the massacre (where the village of Las Aradas once stood) began in 1992. To this day, the communities of Chalatenango participate widely in the commemorations, which are held on May 14th every year. After the commemoration in 2010, a debate about the need to take on a leadership role emerged among survivors and collaborators. We agreed that it was necessary to work on documenting testimonies, and educating and communicating with the general population.

That same year, the Legal Tutelage of the Archbishop's Office, known today as Human Rights Association María Julia Hernández, informed us that the legal process that began in 1992 was never closed and remained open in the Court of First Instance of Chalatenango. They encouraged us to re-activate the case including new legal proceedings, witnesses, and claimants.



Isabel Calles Mena, Las Minas massacre survivor.

In response to this new scenario, we held the first “The Sumpul Massacre Victims and Survivors Assembly” in Chalatenango on February 27, 2011. We agreed on a three-fold plan that included awareness and documentation of the massacre, re-activation of the legal process, and protection of the massacre site at Las Aradas.

After two years of work as the Victims Committee, which included an investigation and a topographic survey conducted by the Secretary of Culture of the President’s Office, Las Aradas was officially declared both a “historical site” and a “cultural asset” in 2012. It also established measures of protection for the site. This was the first official act of recognition of the importance of the massacre by a state office.

In **2013**, after several meetings, we decided to participate in the National Victims Census, sponsored by the Human Rights Division of the Ministry of External Affairs in conjunction with other human rights organizations. We formed a team that registered 300 families who were victims of the Sumpul River Massacre. Our goal was to break our historical silence and raise awareness among Salvadorans about the history of oppression, affliction and endurance of campesinos and campesinas during the terrible years of war. In the process, we engaged in various activities, such as: documenting the Chalatenango massacres; collecting survivor testimonies; accompanying individuals and families through the legal processes of exhumation and investigations of wartime massacres; establishing small monuments and memorials; sponsoring community events; and organizing massacre commemorations. Our purpose was to recover and dignify the history of struggle of our communities.

In **2013, 2014 and 2015**, thanks to the support of Christian Initiative Romero in Germany, we realized workshops with 80 massacre survivors and victims in different locations. They had the opportunity to write their memories and their “spoken portraits” of people they knew who died in the massacre, including family members, neighbors, and friends. This material, along with the drawings made by the participants, is the foundation of a book that is in the process

of production at Equipo Maiz. The book also includes a story about the operation and pictures taken by a Chilean journalist weeks after the massacre.



Maria Uberlinda Quintania, Los Raudas massacre survivor.

Since its inception, the Association has worked closely with the survivor community. We have organized community assemblies to identify local needs, prioritize social projects, and realize training workshops. All these community assemblies have provided guidance and have shaped the Association’s work philosophy, which is rooted in a profound solidarity among the massacre survivors and families, and is based on our shared experiences of suffering in our struggle for social justice against state oppression and violence.

In **2016** we acquired a land in Las Aradas, thanks to the financial support of the local, national, and international community. The deed is temporarily jointly held by three members of the committee. The same year we worked on a draft statute sanctioned by a general assembly of survivors in March 2017. The assembly also decided to expand its mandate to victims and survivors of other 58 community-identified massacres in Chalatenango.

In **August 2017**, we held a constituent assembly, which included other massacres’ representatives, to begin the legal process of registration. We also elected a new temporary Board of Directors (Junta Directiva) until the Sumpul Association’s bylaws were approved by the Ministry of Governance.

By emphasizing social justice, human rights, solidarity, collective work, local knowledge, and historical memory, the Sumpul Association is opening new paths of empowerment and justice for hundreds of survivors. We are also working to educate a new generation of Salvadorans about the history of the war, and to fulfil the still unmet recommendations of the 1993 United Nations Truth Commission for El Salvador that the victims of state-sponsored atrocities be properly commemorated.

The first large-scale project of the Sumpul Association after being officially recognized is raising funds to establish a memorial park in Las Aradas, at the site of the Sumpul River Massacre, which we purchased from a private owner in 2016. In collaboration with local, national, and international supporters, we are working on the memorial park design while continuing to

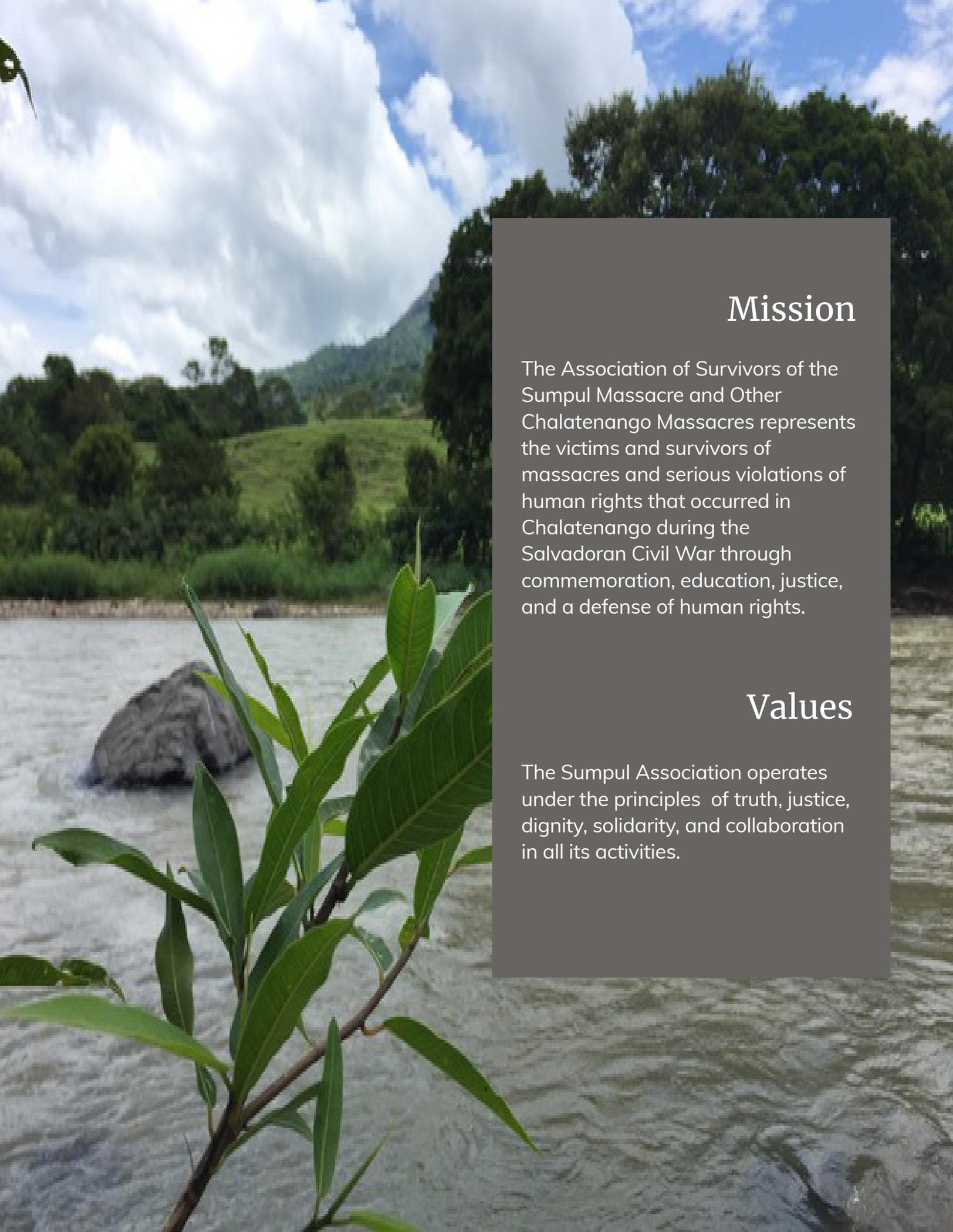
preserve memory through the documentation of testimonies, the mapping and preservation of additional massacre sites across the region, and the development of programs for education and justice.



Miriam Ayala, Sumpul River massacre survivor.



Women sing during the commemoration of the 38th anniversary of the Sumpul River massacre. May 2018.



Mission

The Association of Survivors of the Sumpul Massacre and Other Chalatenango Massacres represents the victims and survivors of massacres and serious violations of human rights that occurred in Chalatenango during the Salvadoran Civil War through commemoration, education, justice, and a defense of human rights.

Values

The Sumpul Association operates under the principles of truth, justice, dignity, solidarity, and collaboration in all its activities.

Overall Objectives:

1

To unite and represent victims and survivors of massacres and serious human rights violations occurred in the Department of Chalatenango in the late 1970s and during the civil war from 1980 to 1992 in order to defend their human rights, particularly their right to truth, justice and reparations.

2

To commemorate the victims of the Sumpul River massacre in Las Aradas and other places with the participation of survivors. We will work in conjunction with other entities that support our claims and promote our historical memory such as ADESCOs, parishes, schools, universities, museums, mayor's offices, and other local and national organizations; we will facilitate access to the sites, especially for the elderly; and we will encourage the active participation of the youth and children, and other organizations and cultural groups in Chalatenango.



3

To promote the investigation, documentation and dissemination of historical events through the recovery and protection of any documents, testimonies, photographs or objects related to the massacre in Las Aradas and other massacres and human rights violations perpetrated in the Department of Chalatenango.

4

To create and manage a memorial park in the village of Las Aradas, in the district of Yurique, municipality of Ojos de Agua, department of Chalatenango, by acquiring, managing, maintaining, and enhancing the sites of the massacre, thus promoting the participation and voluntary work of the local communities. To safeguard the dignity of its surroundings, which the Secretary of Culture of the President's Office's declared as historical site and part of the cultural heritage of El Salvador, and to protect the Sumpul river in its natural state in order to preserve the memory of those who were killed and drowned in it.

We also aim to identify and protect other massacre places and sites to establish monuments, parks, museums and other memorials of the victims and human rights violations occurred in the region.

5

To collaborate with legal processes initiated by survivors or their descendants. To ensure that state and justice authorities treat them with dignity and respect.

6

To seek moral and material reparation, individually and collectively, from state entities to victims and survivors; to propose measures related to health care, psychological care, dignified housing, work, education, and exhumation processes for a proper burial of the victims.

7

To coordinate and collaborate with other social organizations in the promotion of a Salvadoran society of peace, justice, human rights, historical memory and solidarity with the most vulnerable so that the past violent events do not reoccur.

4.0

Strategic Planning Process

The Board of Directors of the Sumpul Association worked with representatives from Western University (Canada), CRIPDES (El Salvador), and SalvAide (Canada) to lead a consultation process that was accomplished in four phases.

Phase 1

Participatory Consultation Workshops with the Sumpul Association and Mental Health Needs Assessment

After initial discussions with members of the Committee of Survivors of the Sumpul River Massacre (the organization that preceded the Sumpul Association), a team of facilitators from the Committee, Western University, CRIPDES, and SalvAide conducted a full day of consultation workshops with 50 massacre survivors and regional community leaders in July 2017. After an introductory session, the participants were split into three groups that rotated through three discussion topics: commemoration, education, and justice. Each discussion lasted approximately one hour.

Through shared stories and testimonies, the goal was to better understand the survivor community's priorities in each of these key areas:

- to assess the Association's work and highlight what it does well and how to improve its service to the community
- to understand how the Association can deepen and expand the overall impact of its work as an advocate – both regionally and nationally – for commemoration, education, and justice
- to understand how the experiences of massacre survivors guides the work of the Association
- to hear the ideas and dreams that members have for the future work of the Association

The Sumpul Association developed a summary of the workshop results published in a report (in both Spanish and English) entitled "Commemoration, Justice, and Education: A Summary of Workshop Discussion, July 16, 2017." This report has been a guiding document throughout the preparation of the Strategic Plan.

In late July 2017, a delegation from Western University returned to the community to conduct a mental health needs assessment. The assessment explored how historical memory workshops and survivor testimonies can function as a leverage for mental health and collective healing in low-resource communities impacted by the war.

Phase 2

Constituent Assembly of the Sumpul Association

In August 2017, the survivor community of all the massacres across Chalatenango gathered in San José Las Flores for a general assembly in which the Association of Survivors of the Sumpul Massacre and Other Chalatenango Massacres was formally established (replacing the Committee of Survivors of the Sumpul River Massacre). After a discussion about the goals of the Sumpul Association, the assembly adopted its bylaws, and elected the seven members of the Board of Directors. In addition to representatives from Western University, CRIPDES, SalvAide, CCR and the Human Rights Association Dra. María Julia Hernández, the group was joined by two Belgian-Salvadoran architects, Harold Fallon and Evelia Macal, who have committed themselves to working collaboratively with the community in the architectural design of the Sumpul River Massacre Memorial Park.





Phase 3 Developing the Strategic Priorities

In November 2017, the strategic planning team from the Sumpul Association, and representatives of Western University, CRIPDES, and SalvAide engaged in one full day of strategic planning workshops with the Sumpul Association’s Board of Directors. Workshops topics included the history and philosophy of the organization, outlining key actors, project priorities, and lines of work. The following day, the team held a full day of consultation discussions with various members of the massacre survivor community in which they explored the role and value of the Sumpul Association, strategic priorities, and short, medium and long term lines of work for the Sumpul Association. The team consolidated the results of these consultations and engaged in follow-up discussions with the Board of Directors in February 2018.



Phase 4

Implementing Our Strategies

The final step of the strategic planning process is designed to implement the plan and ensure that the Sumpul Association meets its strategic priorities. To this end, a management plan was developed and finalized in February 2018, which clearly articulates the tactics, responsibilities, and timelines to meet the desired goal for each of the Sumpul Association's strategic priorities.



Massacre site in Laguna de San Ramón township.

5.0

Strategic Priorities

This section of the strategic plan will outline the five strategic priorities of the Sumpul Association for the next three years and will provide insight into the specific ways in which they will be achieved.



Fundraising

The Sumpul Association will engage in variety of fundraising efforts to support its basic operations, general assemblies, the development of education and justice programs, and, in particular, the design and erection of the Sumpul River Massacre Memorial Park. It will also strengthen its internal competencies by implementing its first Strategic Plan, hiring process facilitators and training its board members in effective and honest management of resources.



Commemoration

The Sumpul Association will promote and carry out massacre commemorations, support church masses for victims, preserve and protect massacre sites, create a central registry with names of massacre victims, and advocate for the recognition and documentation of additional community-identified massacre and killing sites in Chalatenango.



Education

The Sumpul Association will raise awareness of the wartime experiences of campesinos in Chalatenango with an emphasis on intergenerational learning, popular education, and formal documentation. Future projects include community calendars with massacre commemoration dates, documentary films, survivor testimonies, production of a book, photo archives and exhibitions, community theatre, and training for members of the Association.



Justice

The Sumpul Association will support restorative justice processes by accompanying families in the legal process of exhumation of bodies, educating the community about their legal rights, advocating for symbolic recognition and economic reparations for survivors by the state, and promoting truth and reconciliation.



Building Memorials

Over the next three years, the Sumpul Association will focus on the design and construction of the Sumpul River Massacre Memorial Park. To this end, it will establish various paths to the site, train local guides, and promote historical memory guided visits. We will also begin planning for a historical memory route that connects massacre sites, murals, chapels, and museums across Chalatenango.

5.1 Strategic Priority: Fundraising

Located in a low-resource setting and with a newly expanded mandate to represent massacre survivors from across the department of Chalatenango, the Sumpul Association requires funding to sustain its basic operations. With funding from private donors, foundations, and government grants, the Sumpul Association can facilitate communication and promote its activities, develop educational programs, and accompany survivors in their pursuit of justice and reparations. Most of the Sumpul Association's members are subsistence farmers and many of them leave their daily activities and travel for over an hour to attend general assemblies. Even a modest amount of funding could provide transportation for dozens of members who wish to be engaged in the activities of the Sumpul Association.

The purchase of the land at Las Aradas, the site of the Sumpul River Massacre, was a major achievement for the Committee that preceded the Association. Through a combination of local fundraising efforts (for example, selling pupusas in the square) and donations from international donors (particularly the Canadian NGO SalvAide), the deal was finalized in October 2016. The next stage – the development of the Sumpul River Massacre Memorial Park on the newly purchased site – will require more substantial fundraising efforts at the national and international level. The Sumpul Association is committed to raising funds through a variety of mechanisms, including private

donors, foundations, NGOs, and government grants and/or matching funds. In addition to fundraising for the memorial site, the Sumpul Association will work to strengthen its internal capacities through training to implement its first Strategic Plan, manage effectively and honestly, and be accountable to the community. Due to geographical and time limitations of board members to expedite the proposed plan, the institution requires the hiring of two community facilitators who will coordinate and expedite the education, communication and justice processes, and will systematize information about commemorations, massacres and victims.

Goal Statement

The Sumpul Association will engage in variety of fundraising efforts to support basic operations, general assemblies, the advancement of its capacities, and the development of education and justice programs, and, in particular, the design and erection of the Sumpul River Massacre Memorial Park.



Strategies

- 1 Ethically diversify our revenue generating partnerships to ensure financial stability.
- 2 Initiate a fundraising campaign that will support our basic activities and programs, as well as the construction of the Sumpul River Massacre Memorial Park.
- 3 Evaluate and understand our financial capacity.
- 4 Hire two process facilitators to expedite our actions.



5.2 Strategic Priority: Commemoration

In 1993, the United Nations Truth Commission for El Salvador published its final report, *From Madness to Hope: The 12-Year War in El Salvador*. The report emphasized the need to commemorate the victims of state-sponsored massacres through national memorials as a condition of reconciliation and reconstruction, but no government has yet complied. Members of the Sumpul Association and organizations such as CCR and CRIPDES have filled this void in Chalatenango through various activities such as the placement of a small plaque at the site of the Sumpul River Massacre in 1993, yearly pilgrimages and commemorations on the anniversary of the massacre, supporting smaller-scale regional massacre commemorations and church masses for victims, and documenting local knowledge about the history of regional massacres. In its most recent research, the Sumpul Association has documented 58 community-identified sites of massacre and killings.

Along with this activities, the board members will continue to promote local historical memory, increase attendance at

commemorations, create a central registry of victims and survivors, and involve the broader community – especially the youth– in the preservation of history about the war era.

Goal Statement

The Sumpul Association will promote and carry out massacre commemorations in Chalatenango, which may include religious acts for victims. It will preserve and protect massacre sites, create a central registry with names of massacre victims, and advocate for the recognition and documentation of additional community-identified massacre and killing sites in Chalatenango.

Strategies

- 1 Preserve the massacre sites through physical and legal protection.
- 2 Engage in the commemoration of Chalatenango massacres victims.
- 3 Identify and map all regional of massacres sites.
- 4 Create a community calendar with all the massacres, the names of the victims, and the dates of commemorations.



5.3 Strategic priority: Education

Education about the Salvadoran Civil War is at a critical stage. Survivors are aging and intergenerational education is essential to the process of healing and reconciliation. Schools have not yet adopted a common curriculum about the history of the war, and some teachers avoid the topic entirely. The Sumpul Association will advocate for the incorporation of the history of massacres in the formal school curriculum, and will also support many forms of popular education (commemorations, exhibitions, public events, theatrical re-enactments) and international learning. As a result of the workshops with the survivor community, we identified a need for educational workshops to train the members of the Sumpul Association in various areas, so the Sumpul Association will continue to facilitate educational workshops for survivors.

Goal Statement

The Sumpul Association will raise awareness of the wartime experiences of campesinos and campesinas in Chalatenango with an emphasis on intergenerational learning, popular education, and formal documentation. Future projects include community calendars with massacre commemoration dates, documentary films, survivor testimonies, the production of a book, photo archives and exhibitions, community theatre, and development workshops for the members of the Sumpul Association.

5.4 Strategic priority: Justice

The Sumpul Association recognizes the importance of justice for massacre survivors in the post-conflict processes of truth-seeking, dignity for victims and survivors, reconciliation, and collective healing. With recent changes to the Amnesty Laws in El Salvador, survivors have a new opportunity to bring to justice both material perpetrators and intellectual authors of wartime massacres and killings. The Sumpul Association recognizes that the function/role of justice is to ensure that these kinds of atrocities do not happen again in El Salvador.

In 2010, the Sumpul River Massacre Victims Association and the Legal Tutelage of the Archbishop's Office in San Salvador, now Human Rights Association Legal Tutelage Dra. María Julia Hernández began a collaborative relation. In 1992, Legal Tutelage initiated a legal process that included five massacre survivor claimants, but the process remained stagnant although it was never closed. The case is still open in the Court of First Instance in Chalatenango. Since 2011, new claimants and witnesses have been incorporated to the process, and new proceedings have been requested, particularly, a call to testify to senior military officials responsible for the massacre. The process has progressed slowly therefore the Sumpul Association will take actions of mobilization and pressure to the judicial body. During the meetings and assemblies with survivors, we also identified a place where remains of victims are buried. This information was incorporated to the process. The Public

Prosecutor's Office carried out an inspection, and the judge has received an exhumation request with the expert opinion of the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, which will take place in the next two years. In the future, the Sumpul Association plans to document and initiate new legal actions against massacre perpetrators for other known cases. These perpetrators are still in the country, have public positions, and even live in communities close to the victims.

Goal Statement

The Sumpul Association will support the access of the survivors to justice, truth and reparations by supporting existing (or future) legal processes through mobilization and political pressure; by promoting the investigation and reflection on restorative justice, transitional justice and victim rights; by accompanying families in the legal process of exhumation of bodies; educating the community about their legal rights; by advocating for symbolic recognition and economic reparations for survivors by the state; and by promoting truth and reconciliation thus promoting reconciliation based on truth and justice.

Strategies

- 1 Advocate for symbolic recognition and economic reparations for survivors by the state.
- 2 Accompany survivors in legal processes and take the necessary actions to press forward with these processes (such as site inspections by the authorities, exhumations, mobilizations to courts and the General Prosecutor's Office of the country to press for expedite processes.)
- 3 Initiate other legal actions before the courts of justice provided that it is legally feasible and required by members of the Sumpul Association.
- 4 Develop training and education workshops on legal issues and victim rights, as well as spaces of reflection about restorative and transitional justice for survivors.



5.5 Strategic priority: Building the Sumpul River Massacre Memorial Park

The design and construction of the Sumpul River Massacre Memorial Park is the largest-scale project undertaken by the Sumpul Association over the next three years. The Sumpul Association's first goal – purchasing the land where the government army massacred 600 campesinos and campesinas on 14 May 1980 – was realized in the fall of 2016. Over the next eighteen months, the Sumpul Association worked closely with scholars from Western University (Canada), the architects from Belgium, CCR, CRIPDES and SalvAide, to make multiple visits to the massacre site and implement design consultation workshops with the survivor community. Unlike many memorials to important historical events, which are designed through a top-down process in a highly-politicized national context, the Sumpul Association is committed to realizing the ideas and suggestions of the survivors themselves.

Currently, visiting the site requires a two-hour hike through rough terrain. For aging survivors who can no longer make the journey for annual commemorations, accessibility is an urgent and important next step. As design consultations continue in 2018, the community will continue to develop their ideas for a memorial park that includes a monument to the victims, a building or shelter for commemoration activities, 600 trees planted to

commemorate the victims and murals. The construction of the memorial will require intense and targeted fundraising efforts over the next year. Eventually, the Sumpul River Massacre memorial park will become part of an historical memory route that connects multiple municipalities and various massacre and killings sites across Chalatenango.

Goal Statement

Over the next three years, the Sumpul Association will focus on the design and construction of the Sumpul River Massacre Memorial Park. To this end, it will establish paths to the site, will train local guides, and promote historical memory visits. We will also collaborate with the planning for a historical memory route that connects massacre sites, murals, chapels, and museums across Chalatenango.



Strategies

- 1 To execute an annual fundraising campaign to erect the Sumpul River Massacre Memorial Park.
- 2 Continue to work in partnership with national and international ally organizations in a participatory design process for the memorial.
- 3 Collaborate with the mayor's offices and other appointed authorities in the planification of a historical memory route across Chalatenango.
- 4 Initiate a dialogue with MARN to declare the Sumpul River basin and Las Aradas a protected natural area.



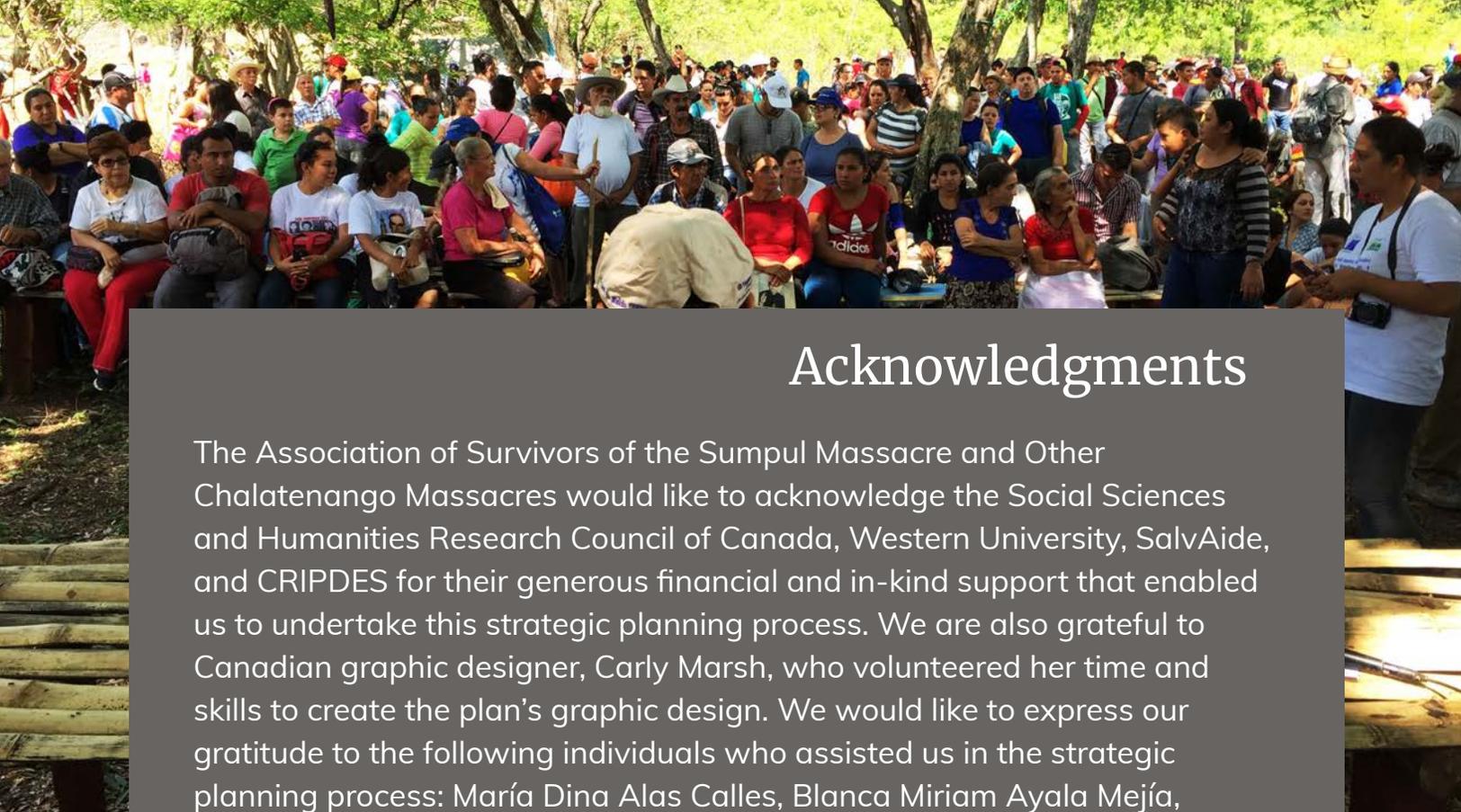
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Strategy Implementaion

The Sumpul Association is committed to implementing our strategic priorities and achieving our goals. As advocates for massacre survivors, we play an important role in the community, facilitating commemoration, education, and justice. The Board of Directors will continue to provide the necessary leadership to fulfil our organizational mandate, and to ensure that the broader survivor community understand our strategy and relate to our goals. As we move through 2018 and into our three-year plan, we will seek the implementation of each of its elements in our everyday work.

As part of our strategic planning process, we have developed a management plan that provides a guide for the next three years. Our management plan articulates lines of work, strategic priorities, responsibilities, and tactics that will help us achieve our goals. We will put our ideas into action.

The Board of Directors and the survivor community are excited about the next three years and the direction the Sumpul Association is heading. We have many important projects on the horizon and we thank you for being part of this history.



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