

## Dr. Alexander and Dr. Galina Goncharenko from Russia

His public protest against the Russian war in Ukraine was one provocation too many. Just in time, the couple was able to evade arrest.



The Goncharenkos at Hamburg City Hall

Alexander Goncharenko has been fighting for human rights for decades. He was chairman of an NGO for the protection of civil rights and editor of a human rights magazine. In 2011, he received the Human Rights Award of the Moscow Helsinki Group.

Similarly, Galina Goncharenko: The cardiologist has been a member of the women's organization „Nadezhda“ (Hope) for ten years and is committed to the equality for women. „One of the main problems of the Russian women's movement is the low number of female deputies in parliaments. This is also one of the causes of the current wars.“



Surprise meeting with Dmitri Muratov, Editor-in-Chief of Novaya Gazeta

As early as April 2022, Alexander Goncharenko had denounced Russia's military aggression against Ukraine with a poster „No to war!“ and a blog entry „I cannot and will not remain silent!“

When the prosecutor's office initiated proceedings for allegedly spreading false information and denigrating the Russian army, the Goncharenko couple had to leave Russia.



In Hamburg, the two physicians found a new important task. For their project „Psychological Support for Ukrainian Refugees“ they were able to enlist the cooperation of a Ukrainian psychologist as well as the Workers' Samaritan Federation Hamburg (ASB) under the leadership of Günter Arndt. „Even though our Hamburg project is not the only one offering psychological help to victims of the Russian war of aggression, we know that there can never be enough of such offers, considering the situation in Ukraine.“ The first two-day seminar was held in early September with ten Ukrainian participants. As a network of mutual help, it was very well received.

### Editorial



Martina Bäurle

In the beginning there is always disbelief.

*„Restless we sit like this,  
as close to the borders as possible.  
Waiting for the day of return,  
observing every smallest change  
beyond the borders ...“*

Just as Bertolt Brecht described his life in exile in Denmark, enforced by Nazi terror, most of our guests feel the same way when they arrive in Hamburg.

But our network is large, and we have many ideas to help our guests find new audiences, new readers, and new tasks. We help them to establish a film production company, to look for a follow-up scholarship, a place to study or to implement aid projects.

None of this can overcome the grief of losing one's homeland. The countless hurdles on the way into our society often do not make it easy for our guests to remain strong.

Even more admirable are the efforts of many to contribute their professional talents and human qualities for the benefit of their host country.

Our guests rarely talk about exile. They prefer to think of their stay in Hamburg as a creative sabbatical. Another word for the hope of being able to return home soon.

Sincerely yours,  
Martina Bäurle



© Kumanan Kananpathippillai

## Kumanan Kananpathippillai

The 30-year-old photojournalist Kumanan Kananpathippillai belongs to the minority of Tamils in Sri Lanka, who – 14 years after the official end of the civil war – are still treated as „second-class people“ by the Sinhalese majority.

As such, they suffered serious war crimes. Tens of thousands of extrajudicial executions, countless disappeared and injured – these are the atrocities for which no perpetrator has been held accountable to this day.

Kumanan demands justice for his people. Wherever injustice happens to Tamils, he has been there with his ca-



© Olaf Wunder

mera since 2013. His impressive photo reports tell of Hindu-Tamil places of worship that are being demolished with the help of the military and replaced by Buddhist temples. Of Tamil land being expropriated for Sinhalese settlement projects. Or of the daily vigils of the „Mothers of the Disappeared“: Again and again, the young photojournalist experiences the arbitrariness of the regime, which hardly cares about the concerns of the Tamils even during the current economic crisis.

His solo exhibition entitled „Album of Persecution – Justice, Dispair, Tears“ has so far been shown in Sri Lanka, France and Germany. He has also participated in international photo festivals in London, New York and Canada.

After years of intimidation, subpoenas, physical attacks, attempted arrests and threats, he is now looking forward to his time-out in Hamburg, which he also wants to use for new experiences and ways of coming to terms with his past. He is particularly impressed by the German path to a culture of remembrance that does not forget the country’s history in order to learn from it for the future.

## News

### Stanislav Aseyev

On orders from Kiev, Ukrainian journalist Stanislav Aseyev had to break off his scholarship in August and return home. Instead of presenting his book „Bright Path“, published by Edition Suhrkamp, at the Frankfurt Book Fair, he will be transferred to the front with his unit in the near future. We are in great concern.



© Jannis Große

### Antonio Ablon

The Philippine Bishop Antonio Ablon is leaving for Stuttgart after three years with the Seamen’s Mission in Hamburg. There he will take up the leadership of his own diocese. We wish him happiness and support!



© Friedrun Reinhold

## Sponsors

The Hamburg Foundation for Politically Persecuted People would like to thank the sponsors.



## Donation account

**Hamburger Sparkasse:**  
BIC: HASPDEHHXXX  
IBAN: DE 5320 0505 5010 2225 0359

**Hamburger Stiftung für politisch Verfolgte**  
Osterbekstr. 96, 22083 Hamburg  
Telefon: 040/42863 5757  
Kontakt@Hamburger-Stiftung.de  
www.Hamburger-Stiftung.de

## Imprint

**Chairman:** Dr. Peter Tschentscher,  
Erster Bürgermeister der Freien und Hansestadt Hamburg

**Honorary Chairman:** Dr. Klaus von Dohnanyi

**Executive Director:** Dr. Carsten Brosda

**Board of Directors:** Dr. Christel Oldenburg, Anja Reschke, Ann Kathrin Scheerer, Dr. Hariolf Wenzler, Albert Wiederspiel

**Managing director:** Martina Bäurle