Two weeks that changed Sweden

by

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This is the story about a society that two years ago woke up from peaceful dreams into a nightmare that was reality.

Disaster had come to us and it was not in a remote country.

This time we could not simply turn off the TV to avoid the scenes.
• Sweden, sparsely populated,
• 9 million people
• High standard of living
• Awareness of the world around us
But, we are out of reach for
Any natural disaster

We have not been at war for
200 years
These facts have greatly influenced the organisational structure of the Swedish society

*public institutions
*foreign policy
*defence policy
*research
Then, the last week of 2004, when 20 000 Swedes spent Christmas along The shores of Thailand and Sri Lanka.....

A tsunami........

What is a tsunami???????
Chaos, total chaos

Swedes may be hurt, Swedes can have died!!!

2000 Swedes are missing!!!!
Pictures like these were shown.....
540 Swedes died
Parents lost their children
Children lost their parents
Swedes woke up

We are vulnerable!!

We are un-prepared!!

We are part of the world!!
And then, two weeks later.....
Thousands of homes without electricity
Without heating
Without telephone

FOR WEEKS!!!
In the aftermath:

• Greater concern for others outside our borders
• Greater concern for sharing the burdens
• Greater concern for promoting relevant science

* New Government approach to safety for society
* Establishment of a Swedish "Disaster Resilience Centre"
* Political turbulence
Thank you!