

JOINING FORCES TO BETTER SUPPORT AND PROTECT ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (EHRDs) IN EUROPE: PREPARATORY MEETING ON THE INITIATIVE OF A EUROPEAN FORUM FOR EHRDS

Brussels, 8 October 2024

1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

As highlighted in the HumanRights75 Regional Dialogue on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, organised by the UN Human Rights (OHCHR) Regional Office for Europe in cooperation with the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) on 20 October 2023 in Brussels, promoting and protecting civic space and environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs) is vital to help advance this right on the ground for all.

Against the background of reports documenting how EHRDs are increasingly targeted by attacks and shrinking civic space trends worldwide¹, the stakeholders meeting aimed at exploring the emerging challenges faced by EHRDs in the wider Europe region², providing an overview of existing support and protection mechanisms and identifying potential gaps and unaddressed needs, with a view to promote a joint reflection on actions to better support and protect EHRDs in Europe and gather feedback on the idea of creating a European Forum for EHRDs.

The meeting was convened by UN Human Rights in partnership with UNEP, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE, Aarhus Convention secretariat), the Council of Europe and the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), and in cooperation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention and the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, as part of their work to advance the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and to promote and protect civic space and EHRDs.

Approximately 80 participants participated in the meeting including representatives of civil society networks and umbrella organisations active in the support and protection of EHRDs, experts from UN, EU institutions and bodies, as well as academia (see List of Participants in the Annex).

2. SETTING THE SCENE: KEY CHALLENGES FACING EHRDs IN EUROPE

Participants acknowledged that the legal and policy framework on environmental standards at regional level is quite advanced and in principle conducive to creating an enabling environment for

¹For more information, please refer to the following reports, among others: UNECE, [State Repression of Environmental Protest and Civil Disobedience: A Major Threat to Human Rights and Democracy: Position Paper by the UN Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention](#), 2024; Front Line Defenders, [Global Analysis 2023/24](#), “Europe and Central Asia”, 81-95, 2023; Climate Rights International, [On Thin Ice: Disproportionate Responses to Climate Change Protesters in Democratic Countries, Climate Protesters Report](#), 2024.

²The meeting considered the overall situation of EHRDs in all the member States of the European Union, Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland, the Republic of Moldova, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and Ukraine.

EHRDs. Participants pointed in particular at the Council of Europe framework, including the European Convention on Human Rights and the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, and at the progressive development and strengthening of laws and policies on environmental protection, participation and justice at the level of the European Union. However, they also stressed that serious gaps exist in terms of effective implementation of legal standards, decisions and recommendations by States, which negatively affect EHRDs' work and protection. They therefore agreed that efforts to ensure effective implementation of legal standards, decisions and recommendations by States need to be stepped up. In this context, participants highlighted that more efforts are needed to ensure that international and EU standards and provisions are effectively implemented on the ground, including in terms of engagement with, and enforcement actions towards, Europe-based companies, whose activities have consequences both inside and outside the European region.

Also drawing the latest reports issued by the UN Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention³ and the UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights⁴, participants highlighted the four main dimensions of challenges currently faced by EHRDs:

- a negative media and political discourse, framing EHRDs as a threat to public order, security or economic stability;
- legislation and policy at national level that restricts the exercise of the right to access to justice, participation, freedom of peaceful assembly and association and freedom of expression;
- criminalisation and legal harassment;
- and lack of access to information by EHRDs, which undermines transparency and participation in decision-making.

Participants also pointed that, as regards EHRDs, specific protection gaps relate to the lack of adequate human rights protection and longstanding discrimination for particular groups such as women and girls, children, youth, peasants, persons with disabilities, and Indigenous Peoples: social, economic, cultural, and health data, community feedback, and Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems remain under-reflected in information-gathering, monitoring and reporting efforts, underlining the urgency of more efforts to mainstream non-discrimination and antiracism in EHRDs protection work.

Participants acknowledged that, while many challenges are shared across the wider Europe region, EHRDs are particularly at risk in non-EU countries as host-States of foreign companies, including EU-based corporations, with protection gaps and needs exacerbated by lack of or a weak legal standards and accountability mechanisms. Specific mention was made of the surge of repression of EHRDs across the Balkan region⁵.

Taking stock of recent reports by FRA⁶ and the European Commission⁷, participants acknowledged how the challenges faced by EHRDs interrelate to overall trends of shrinking of civic space in Europe:

³ UNECE, *State Repression of Environmental Protest and Civil Disobedience: A Major Threat to Human Rights and Democracy - Position Paper by the UN Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention*, 2024

⁴ UNGA, *Access to Information on climate change and Human Rights - Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change*, 2024

⁵ For more information please refer to: Balkan River Summit, *Joint Statement from the River Protection Community in Support of Environmental Defenders in the Balkans*, 2024 and its related [press release](#)

⁶ EU Fundamental Rights Agency, *Fundamental Rights Report 2024*

attacks by non-State actors as well as state interference are increasingly threatening civil society, with an alarming rise in legal harassment and Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs) against civil society and HRDs; restrictions on peaceful assembly, including disproportionate policing measures and the criminal prosecutions of protesters, multiply and are often linked to climate protests; proliferation of online hate speech favours the stigmatisation and the use of damaging terms to portray environmental and climate activists. Furthermore, the lack of proper funding and of political and public support turns out to be a significant challenge for civil society and HRDs, including EHRDs, in Europe.

3. MAIN SUPPORT AND PROTECTION MECHANISMS AVAILABLE TO EHRDs IN EUROPE

Participants acknowledged the existing support and protection mechanisms for HRDs, and EHRDs, in the region. Particular reference was made to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee and the Aarhus Convention Rapid Response Mechanism in the form of a Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders⁸, as well as Special Procedures mechanisms of the United Nations Human Rights Council, in monitoring trends and attacks, offering political support to EHRDs and promoting accountability.

The prominence of civil society-led initiatives on HRDs protection was acknowledged throughout the meeting. Civil society protection networks play a critical role in offering immediate support, monitoring threats, and ensuring the safety of at-risk defenders, as well as capacity building initiatives for EHRDs and civil society organisations.

Good practices and noteworthy initiatives led by civil society

FIDH-OMCT Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders ⁹	The mission of the Observatory is to ensure effective protection and support to HRDs, including through prevention and early-warning, awareness raising, capacity building of and direct assistance to HRDs and local groups
Climate Activist Defenders ¹⁰	Climate Activist Defenders aims to protect the lives and well-being of frontline climate justice activists (CJAs) working under oppressive and dangerous conditions
Climate Whistleblowers ¹¹	Climate Whistleblowers (CW) supports whistleblowers with legal, security, and network resources, ensuring their disclosures are impactful and safe. They provide pre-and post-disclosure support, secure communication, and help amplify whistleblower narratives for greater societal impact
International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) Academy ¹²	The ISHR Academy is a capacity building initiative which helps HRDs strengthen their advocacy skills with the UN

⁷ European Commission, *2024 Rule of Law Report*

⁸ For more information please refer to: [How to make a complaint to the Special Rapporteur | UNECE](#)

⁹ For more information please refer to: <https://observatoryfordefenders.org/>

¹⁰ For more information please refer to: <https://climateactivistdefenders.org/>

¹¹ For more information please refer to: <https://www.climatewhistleblowers.org>

¹² For more information please refer to: <https://academy.ishr.ch/>

ProtectDefenders.eu ¹³	ProtectDefenders.eu is the European Union Human Rights Defenders mechanism, led by a Consortium of 12 NGOs active in the field of Human Rights. It protects HRDs at high risk and facing the most difficult situations worldwide, including through urgent assistance, the creation of shelters, temporary relocation, capacity building and coordination among protection actors
Front Line Defenders ¹⁴	Front Line Defenders (FLD) is an international human rights organisation with the specific aim of protecting HRDs at risk. It responds to HRDs' protection and security needs by providing support through grants, capacity building, visibility, networking, and advocacy, at the international, regional and local levels
Global Climate Legal Defense (CLIDEF) ¹⁵	CLIDEF is an organization providing legal advice, coordination, and funds for legal defense and strengthen a community of diverse lawyers and legal organizations to serve the climate movement
Protection International, FOCUS Observatory on Public Policies for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders ¹⁶	Online platform aimed at monitoring, analysing and promoting good practice in policy developments that governments and other state authorities adopt for protecting HRDs
The Coalition Against SLAPPs in Europe (CASE) ¹⁷	CASE is a coalition of non-governmental organisations from across Europe united in recognition of the threat posed to public watchdogs by Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs)
The Leaders Network for Environmental Activists and Defenders (LEAD) initiative ¹⁸	LEAD is an initiative advocated and promoted by a coalition of EHRDs, civil society and other actors which proposes the creation of a platform that would bring together and connect EHRDs and facilitate their dialogue and engagement with representatives of governments, academia, media, multilateral institutions, and the private sector, to advance the protection of EHRDs and strengthen opportunities for participation in multilateral climate discussions.

The role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) was also emphasised during discussions. In this respect, the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) underlined the commitment of European NHRIs to step up their engagement in this area, mentioning for example

¹³ For more information please refer to: <https://protectdefenders.eu/>

¹⁴ For more information please refer to: <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en>

¹⁵ For more information please refer to: <https://www.climatelegaldefense.org/>

¹⁶ For more information please refer to: <https://www.focus-obs.org/>

¹⁷ For more information please refer to: <https://www.the-case.eu/>

¹⁸ For more information please refer to: <https://ecnl.org/news/leaders-network-environmental-activists-and-defenders-lead-effective-climate-action>

how, as an outcome of the ENNHRI Workshop on EHRDs¹⁹, work has been started on developing guidelines for NHRIs on how to address and communicate on civil disobedience from a human rights perspective. ENNHRI also pointed to good practices from their members²⁰, such as the “right to defend rights” monitoring tool²¹ developed by the Danish NHRI, which uses human rights-based indicators to track the enabling environment for HRDs.

Discussions also pointed at the role of FRA in monitoring and reporting trends, strengthening networks, raising awareness of protection mechanisms and providing referral pathways to help EHRDs access protection and justice.

In relation to the legal and policy framework for HRDs protection, participants pointed to several initiatives existing within the EU external action, building on the EU Guidelines on HRDs²², and also noted positive developments in terms of internal EU policies such as the EU anti-SLAPP initiative²³, as well as dedicated funding for initiatives on civic space promotion and protection. However, they also emphasized that there is untapped potential in EU efforts on the protection of EHRDs within the region, for both EU and non-European defenders at risk. In this context, participants drew attention to recommendations addressed by civil society to EU and regional policy makers to strengthen the regional protection system for HRDs, as outlined for example in the recent “Pathways paper for a Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders and Civil Society Organisations in Europe”²⁴, coordinated by an informal civil society coalition led by the European Civic Forum and Civil Society Europe.

4. NEEDS, GAPS AND WAYS FORWARD FOR THE SUPPORT AND PROTECTION OF EHRDs IN EUROPE

Taking stock of challenges and existing frameworks and mechanisms on protection of EHRDs, discussions shed light on major protection gaps and needs for EHRDs in the region and brought to the front a number of recommendations on how to address them.

Lack of accountability of national authorities

Participants consistently denounced the low accountability of national authorities as regards EHRDs protection both as regards attacks and interferences by State actors, and in terms of their obligations to protect EHRDs from threats and attacks by non-State actors.

Participants thus called for a strengthened role of international and regional actors, building on and leveraging States’ international obligations towards HRDs, as outlined in the UN Declaration on HRDs²⁵, while taking into account the evolution of challenges and new emerging threats²⁶. This shall

¹⁹ ENNHRI, *Workshop Outcomes Report: Protection of Environmental Defenders and Their Freedoms of Expression, Peaceful Assembly, and Association Across Europe*, 2024

²⁰ For more information please refer to: <https://ennhri.org/human-rights-defenders/>

²¹ For more information, please refer to: [The right to defend rights monitoring tool | The Danish Institute for Human Rights](#)

²² For more information, please refer to https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-guidelines-human-rights-defenders_en

²³ For more information, please refer to https://commission.europa.eu/news/new-eu-rules-protect-against-strategic-lawsuits-against-public-participation-enter-force-2024-05-03_en

²⁴ European Civic Forum, *Protection Mechanism Pathways Paper*, 2024

²⁵ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders*, 1998

include a closer monitoring of States' compliance with international and regional standards, building on civil society monitoring efforts; as well as a more outspoken attitude in holding governments accountable, for example through joint statements by international human rights mechanisms, and a strengthened political engagement on the side of the EU.

Weak legal frameworks for protection at national level

Participants highlighted the importance of international and regional actors to promote national laws that protect EHRDs, their family members and communities²⁷, building on initiatives like the EU anti-SLAPP directive and the 'Model National Law on the Recognition and Protection of HRDs' advocated by civil society and endorsed by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders in 2016.²⁸

Addressing the misuse of laws, such as defamation and counterterrorism measures, was also deemed essential, along with the need to more effectively engage companies and industry federations to promote accountability against attacks on EHRDs and to foster transparency and public participation.

Fragmented and scattered nature of the current EHRD protection landscape in the region

Participants regretted the fragmented and scattered nature of the current protection landscape at regional level, in particular in terms of limited coordination among protection actors at national, regional and international level.

Against this background, participants urged for improved coordination between various protection actors, emphasising the need for collective protection and stronger synergies to promote "inter-movement solidarity" not only among civil society, but also involving other actors such as NHRIs, universities, student unions, trade unions and local authorities. At international level, participants called for more cooperation and coordination among international independent mechanisms, to create a more unified and responsive system. In this respect, the practice of inter-mechanism meetings was commended for fostering collaboration among diverse international and regional mechanisms and bodies, including UN Special Rapporteurs.

A central recommendation made by participants was an action to enhance institutional capacity and promote synergy between protection actors and mechanisms at national level, particularly through the continued implementation of the 2023 UN Guidance Note for Resident Coordinators and Country Teams²⁹, which was highlighted as a critical tool for in-country support. Participants discussed the idea of training EU representations and embassies across the region, in cooperation with the EU, as a way to bolster awareness and response mechanisms.

Participants also agreed on the value added of the creation of a regional protection and rapid response system, combining a centralized framework with national/local protection hubs for HRDs, including

²⁶ In June 2024, the Declaration+25 Project was launched by a consortium of civil society organisations to work together to keep the Declaration (and the Declaration+25) a powerful, up-to-date, and effective tool for protecting and supporting the right to defend rights. The outcome is an advocacy document which highlights the areas of the Declaration that could be further elaborated in light of current challenges, and outlines a number of recommendations in that respect. For more information, please visit: <https://ishr.ch/25-years-un-declaration-on-human-rights-defenders/>

²⁷ On the concept of "collective protection", please refer to [Protection International, Collective Protection Paper](#), 2024

²⁸ For more information, please refer to <https://ishr.ch/defenders-toolbox/resources/model-law/>

²⁹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), [Guidance Note for UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams: Supporting Governments To Better Respect, Promote and Protect EHRDs](#), 2023

EHRDs, as advocated by the civil society coalition led by the European Civic Forum and Civil Society Europe.³⁰

Insufficient attention to protection needs of specific categories of EHRDs

Participants consistently voiced concerns over the insufficiency of tailored support and protection approaches in the current protection landscape. In this respect, participants recommended policy makers and protection actors at international, regional and national levels to pay more attention to intersectional issues such as discrimination based on age, gender, race, among others as well as lack of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities. Participants considered it essential to create a more inclusive protection framework, recognizing the compounded situations of vulnerabilities that marginalized EHRDs face, by developing support tailored to those groups in vulnerable situations. Special attention should be given to young EHRDs, bridging the intergenerational gap in decision-making and strengthening youth participation, as also emphasized in the newly adopted Council of Europe's Recommendation to member States on young people and climate action.³¹ More efforts to promote participation of persons with disabilities in environmental activism was also highlighted as critical, with calls for making protection platforms and resources more accessible to ease and promote their engagement.

Need for more effective tools to deal with online threats

Participants observed how, in line with a general trend affecting all HRDs, EHRDs face increasing digital repression, including malicious cyber activity, online censorship, arbitrary or unlawful online surveillance, harassment, smear campaigns, disinformation, and doxing. They therefore urged policy makers to pay more attention to these challenges, and support targeted protection tools helping to raise EHRDs' awareness about online threats and to prevent and counter them.

Protection against reprisals

Participants drew attention to the need to step up efforts to protect EHRDs from reprisals, which continue to occur including in the context of EHRDs' engagement in international and regional fora on environmental and climate policy making. Participants therefore encouraged OHCHR to take a more active role in this respect.

Lack of self-recognition as HRDs

Participants stressed that many frontline activists working to defend human rights impacted due to environmental degradation and climate change do not recognize themselves as HRDs and, as a result of this lack of self-recognition, they are often unaware of the human rights protection mechanisms available to them. While civil society actors are investing in raising awareness about existing protection initiatives to ensure that EHRDs and civil society organisations and members of the public can more easily find information on the protection of EHRDs³², participants agreed on the need to step up efforts in this respect. One idea raised during discussions was the development of an information hub for EHRDs, to raise awareness and improve access to information on protection standards and mechanisms, including through the involvement of NHRIs and local authorities.

³⁰ European Civic Forum, *Protection Mechanism Pathways Paper*, 2024, mentioned above.

³¹ Council of Europe, Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on young people and climate action, available at <https://rm.coe.int/cm-rec-2024-6-young-people-and-climate-action/1680b21a0e>

³² For more information on protection mechanisms for EHRDs, please consult CAN Europe's *Briefing on initiatives aiming to protect environmental and climate defenders* and ISHR *Map on Protection Mechanisms*

Lack of sufficient and targeted funding for EHRDs

Participants highlighted how limited funding constraints EHRDs' ability to defend themselves effectively in particular against legal harassment and SLAPPs, and called international and regional bodies, and in particular EU institutions, as well as funders, to prioritise funding for legal aid and assistance to EHRDs facing criminalisation, prosecutions and SLAPPs as a reprisal against their work to defend human rights.

Challenging negative narratives

Lastly, participants stressed the importance of countering smear campaigns and negative narratives by building and promoting a positive discourse around EHRDs. This shall include working strategically with the media to highlight and recognize the critical work undertaken by EHRDs to defend the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for all, and strengthening human rights education in schools and universities, including leveraging networks like the Global Campus on Human Rights and Democracy³³.

5. PRELIMINARY FEEDBACK ON THE INITIATIVE OF A EUROPEAN FORUM FOR EHRDs

On the basis of discussions on EHRDs' protection needs and gaps, the meeting provided an opportunity for OHCHR and partnering organisations to gather preliminary feedback from stakeholders on the initiative of a possible European Forum for EHRDs.

Participants welcomed existing platforms for EHRDs for their crucial role in advancing the protection and visibility of defenders. They recognised how those platforms helped achieve notable outcomes, such as contributing to implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and increasing international solidarity among EHRDs. Participants appreciated the open and participatory nature of some of these fora, which have fostered inclusive dialogue and collaboration.

As regards the regional context, participants overall agreed on the value added of a European Forum for EHRDs. As no such regional forum currently exists in Europe, not even for HRDs more broadly, such platform would be useful to create a safe space for EHRDs to share challenges, connect with peers, network, and strategize over their work and advocacy efforts. It would also foster collaboration between HRD protection actors and EHRDs, promoting cross-sectoral support. Equally important, the forum would serve as a space for enhanced dialogue with government representatives and regional actors, such as the EU, the Council of Europe, OSCE-ODIHR with a view to promoting greater environmental legislative and policy alignment with human rights principles, standards and obligations.

Ideally, the forum's editions would have a concrete focus and lead to concrete policy developments, , the identification of recommendations for the implementation of relevant standards and legislation, and the development of joint strategies to drive commitments and practical measures to enhance EHRDs protection.

Participants further stressed that for the forum to be successful, it will need to be developed with, and not only for, EHRDs, emphasizing the importance of outreach and consultations with frontline defenders, including those who may not formally identify as EHRDs. The forum should be regarded as a process, building on existing mechanisms and initiatives to promote synergies and overcome silos.

³³ For more information, please visit <https://gchumanrights.org/>

It was underlined that the forum's format should reflect its stated purpose, while encouraging, as a matter of principle, roundtable-style participatory discussions with sufficient space for EHRD to engage. The regularity of the forum was considered crucial, and participants stressed the importance of adequate long-term resources and funding to ensure full participation, particularly for EHRDs from diverse regions and backgrounds.

On the basis of this preliminary consultation, the meeting's conveners agreed to:

- convene a coordination/working group to start preparations for the Forum, which would be composed of institutional partners, a representative of a protection network, a representative of a civil society network, a representative of NHRIs, and representatives of children, youth, Indigenous Peoples and grass-roots organizations. The coordination group would be initiated and the first meeting chaired by OHCHR;
- further scope out interest and capacity from civil society, EHRDs, regional and international organisations and bodies, as well as donors, in participating to and supporting the initiative (including through a survey).

ANNEX – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Organisation	Name
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CIVICUS Monitor	Tara Petrovic
Civil Liberties Union for Europe	Kersty McCourt
Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe	Romain Didi
	Kristina Naunova
Climate Rights International	Lotte Leicht
Coalition for Human Rights in Development	Mark Fodor
	Medea Turashvili
Commission consultative des Droits de l'Homme du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg	Laura Carocha
Cooperatives Europe	Annalisa Vallone
Council of Europe	Andrzej Mancewicz
	Andriy Zayats
	Biljana Sladojević Milatović
	Elena Jovanovska-Brezoska
	Joanne Hunting
	Lana Pasic
	Nel Christie
	Redžib Skomorac
	Sergey Dikman
Council of Permit Disputes of Flanders Belgium	Tom Vandromme
Danish Institute for Human Rights	Carol Rask
	Emma Thomas
	Maria Petersen
Earthjustice	Yves Lador
Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum	Alexandra Sabou
Ecologistas en Acción	Joam Pim
Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)	Sara Brunet
Euronatur Foundation	Amelie Huber
European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL)	Marianna Belalba
European Coalition for Corporate Justice	Antoine Julienne
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	Francesca Carlsson
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	Marianne Wetter
	Sofia Semedo
European Youth Forum	Jessica Nguyen
FIDH (International Federation for Human Rights)	Gaelle Dusepulchre
	Hugo Gabbero
	Maria Lesire-Schweitzer
Finnish Human Rights Centre	Susan Villa
FRA (EU Agency for Fundamental Rights)	Waltraud Heller
Front Line Defenders	Alvaro Gomez del Valle
	Sofia Lariera Santurio
Ghent University	Lien Stolle
Global Climate Legal Defense	Charlie Holt
Global Witness	Beate Beller
Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR)	Dionysis Giakoumelos
Green Alternative	David Chipashvili
Green Armenia	Vahe Ohanyan
Guta Environmental Law Association	Magdolna Tóthné Nagy
Human Rights House Foundation	Nina Panikova
In Difesa Di	Francesco Martone
International Service for Human Rights	Ulises Quero
International Young Naturefriends	Jannis Gustke
	Elias Gustke
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OECD	Deniz Devrim
OMCT World Organisation Against Torture	Isabel Rosales
	Mariana Garrido
Protectdefenders.eu	Isabelle Boittin
Protection International	Mae Ocampo
	Mauricio Angel
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Slovak National Centre for Human Rights	Michaela Ujházyová

Spanish Ombudsman	Maria Luz Puerto
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UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights	Elisa Morgera
UN Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention	Michel Forst
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