

**Oral Statement of FIAN International to the First Session of the Open-ended  
intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business  
enterprises with respect to human rights - Panel IV - Geneva, July 7, 2015**

Mikel Jonsson

Madame Chairperson:

Based on the principles of interdependency and indivisibility, FIAN considers that all human rights shall be covered by the treaty, whose objects can be harmed by TNCs and other business and under which States therefore have an obligation to protect.

In our work during the last 30 years we have documented at least following offenses on the right to food and nutrition:

- Forced evictions of persons or groups depending of the respective natural resources to live in dignity and feed themselves and their families and communities. Such evictions include the displacement of people from the public lands, forests, grazing lands and mobility routs used to collect or produce food, trough mega- projects, including construction of infrastructure, agri-business, extractive industries, creation of natural parks, programs for the compensation of CO2 emissions, construction or tourism projects, among others
- Destruction of natural resources used by communities to feed themselves and their families trough violent actions
- Destruction and depletion of ecosystems, including through unsustainable and unsafe agricultural practices and through the overuse and depletion of water, forests, and depletion fish stocks
- Damages to health and food through the spreading of agro-toxics, including damages to surrounding communities, harm to the health of agricultural workers and consumers, destruction of crops and poisoning of animals
- Destruction of food, crops, animals, seeds and other goods required for the nutrition of the specific individual or community condemning entire communities to hunger, malnutrition and in some cases also to starvation
- Distribution and marketing of unsafe food causing physical and mental diseases , etc.
- Food blockades impeding access to food of civil population in the context of armed conflicts
- Abuses to the rights of agricultural workers including through modern forms of slavery and forced labor, non-payment of wages, discrimination against women through unequal payment, illegal detention, unsafe work conditions and other related abuses

- Harassment and criminalization of human rights defenders including diverse forms as the use of private security forces, psychological harassment, and criminalization against due process of law
- Disproportionate credit conditions and speculation with land and other natural resources causing suicides of small farmers
- Competitive conducts excluding small food producers from the commercialization chains, as for example dumping impeding their economic subsistence
- Non compliance with the Code on Infant Food

Therefore we consider that the treaty shall especially cover abuses of the right to food and nutrition

Thank you.