**Joint Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas**

**Questionnaire prepared by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights**

May 2019

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) invite you to share information on the situation of human rights defenders in the Americas. The information gathered through this questionnaire will contribute to the joint OHCHR-IACHR report on the subject, which will be launched late in 2019.

This report will be publicly available on the [website of OHCHR](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/LACRegion/Pages/CallInputsReportOHCHRInterAmericanCommision.aspx) and on the website of the IACHR.

Your responses will be made public and attributed to you in the report, unless you indicate otherwise. Where possible please limit the response to each question to 500 words.

National Human Rights Institutions, civil society and human rights defenders are invited to send their responses in Word format by e-mail to [adesouza@ohchr.org](mailto:adesouza@ohchr.org) with an address where they can receive a reply to their submissions if necessary. For this purpose, a downloadable version of the questionnaire in English, French and Spanish is available on the OHCHR website.

The deadline for submitting the completed questionnaire is **10 June 2019.**

Please provide your contact details in case we need to contact you regarding this questionnaire. (Note that this is optional).

* Name of the organisation/institution:
* Contact and e-mail:
* Country or sub-region (indicate the country or sub-region in which you work)
* Can we attribute these responses to you or your organization publicly?

**Questions:**

* **Situation of human rights defenders:**

What do you consider to be the contextual factors - positive and/or negative - that have had the greatest impact on the situation of human rights defenders in your country and/or region since 2016?

What are the main causes and/or risk situations that contribute to a situation of violence and vulnerability against human rights defenders?

What are the main advances and strengths concerning the protection and promotion of the work of human rights defenders in your country or in the region? What are the main setbacks and obstacles/challenges?

What should be changed in your country or region to contribute to a safe and conducive environment for the defence of human rights?

* **Defenders most at risk:**

What are the groups or sectors of human rights defenders most at risk? Please explain the distinct nature of the risks and threats faced by women human rights defenders, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and other groups.

Concerning groups or sectors of human rights defenders in a situation of greater risk, do you see any change since 2016?

What are the main protection concerns and challenges faced by human rights defenders when carrying out activities in both the public and private spheres, including through digital means?

* **Attacks or restrictions:**

What are the most recent statistics on attacks and restrictions against human rights defenders in the country or region? Please indicate the source of the information and indicate the period covered.

What are the main types of attacks and restrictions against human rights defenders in the country or region? Do you see any change since 2016? If possible, identify if there is a geographic area that needs to be highlighted in particular.

Could you identify one or more patterns in the type of aggressors/perpetrators? Are these state or non-state actors?

What are the consequences and impact of the attacks and restrictions at the individual and collective level (both in the scope of the organizational space and in broader social spaces)?

What types of attacks do you consider to particularly affect women human rights defenders (in urban and rural areas, members of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, and other groups)?

* **Guarantees for the free exercise of the defense of human rights:**

Do you consider there is any aspect of the normative, institutional and public policy framework that promotes or hinders the free exercise of the defense of human rights?

Have you identified as an existing problem in your country or in the region the misuse of criminal law to criminalize human rights defenders for their activity? If so, please indicate in which contexts it occur, which actors are involved, and what would be the main causes or the factors that generate it.

If relevant, under what crimes are human rights defenders wrongly accused? If possible, provide concrete examples.

* **Access to justice and reparation:**

Could you provide information on the state of investigations of crimes committed against human rights defenders?

What measures has the State taken to guarantee adequate reparation and guarantees of non-repetition? Please refer to concrete examples.

* **Preventive and reactive actions concerning attacks against human rights defenders:**

What measures, legislation, policies and mechanisms have had a positive or negative impact on generating safe contexts for human rights defenders? Do you know cases that could illustrate this?

If relevant, please include an assessment of national mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders. What has been their real scope and effectiveness? Please indicate the reasons for this assessment.

Thank you for your participation in this questionnaire!

Please attach any documents that might be relevant and useful to the report (e.g., reports, flagship cases). You can send them by e-mail to [adesouza@ohchr.org](mailto:adesouza@ohchr.org) as well as any questions or observations to this questionnaire.