**Questionnaire for National Human Rights Institutions and International or Inter-governmental Organizations by the**

**UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders**

**Mary Lawlor, August 2020**

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Ms. Mary Lawlor invites National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and International or Inter-Governmental Organizations (IIOOs) to respond to the questionnaire below. Submissions received will inform the thematic report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of killings of human rights defenders, which will be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2021.

The questionnaire and related concept cote on the report are available at OHCHR website in English (original language) as well as in French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic (unofficial translations): (<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/SRHRDefendersIndex.aspx>).

All submissions received will be published in the aforementioned website, unless the submitter clearly indicated that they did not wish to have their input be made publicly available when submitting their response.

There is a word limit of 2500 words per questionnaire. Please submit the completed questionnaire to defenders@ohchr.org

Deadline for submissions: **5** **October 2020**

**Contact Details**

Please provide your contact details in case we need to contact you in connection with this survey. Note that this is optional. (edited for public release)

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| --- | --- |
| Type of Stakeholder (please select one) | National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)  International or Inter-governmental Organisation (IIOO)  Other (please specify):  International Organization |
| Name of Stakeholder Organization (if applicable)  Name of Survey Respondent | Cultural Survival |
| Email |  |
| Telephone |  |
| Address |  |
| Can we attribute responses to this questionnaire to your Institution or Organization publicly? | **Yes**  No  Comments (if any): |

**Questions**

Human rights defenders are persons, who individually or in association with others, work peacefully to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

**1) Does your Institution/Organization accept the legitimate right to defend human rights and if a defender is killed in the course of their work, do you publicly condemn it?**

Yes.

**2) Have there been any cases of human rights defenders killed in your country (or in the geographic area of responsibility of your organization) since 1 June 2019 up to 30 June 2020?**

Cultural Survival has documented a total of 59 murders of Indigenous human rights defenders occurring between June 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020. These deaths have been reported in Guatemala, Mexico, Brazil, Honduras, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile and Brazil. 24% of those killed were women. Please note this list is not exhaustive; we simply track the cases that are reported to us by our constituents and partner organizations and those that we come across through our networks.

In Brazil, Cultural Survival documented a total of six murders. Those killed were teachers, Indigenous tribal leaders, and those who wanted to exercise their right to live on their land. Those murdered in Brazil were: Laércio Souza Silva (Guajajara, male), Zezico Guajajara (Guajajara, male), Paulo Paulino Guajajara (Guajajara, male), Emyra Wajãpi (Wajãpi, male), and two unidentified Yanomami men.

In Colombia, Cultural Survival documented a total of 21 murders of human rights defenders. Those killed included Indigenous rights defenders, land activists, Afro-Colombian rights activists, and traditional medicine practitioners. Those killed in Colombia include: Abraham Domicó (Embera, male), Omar Guasiruma (Emberá Chami, male), Ernesto Guasiruma (Emberá Chami, male), Víctor Manuel Chanit Aguilar (Murui Muina (Huitoto) male), Kevin Mestizo Coicué (Nasa, male), Eugenio Tenorio (Nasa, male), Marlon Ferney Pacho (Nasa, male), Dumar Mestizo (Nasa, male), Cristina Bautista (Nasa, female), Jesús Eduardo Mestizo (Nasa, male), Tacueyo Arbey Noscue (Nasa, male), Jaiber Alexander Quitumbo Ascue (Nasa, male), Yesid Conda (Nasa, male), Marco Rivadeneira (Putumayo region, male), Joel Villamizar (U'Wa, male), Oneida Epiayú (Wayúu, female), Juan Luna (Zenú, male), Clemencia Carabalí (female),María Nelly Cuetia (female), Pedro Ángel Troches (male), and Jesús Antonio Rivera (male).

In Costa Rica, Cultural Survival documented the murder of Jerhy Rivera Rivera, a male Broran land defender who was attempting to peacefully occupy his legally titled Indigenous land.

In Guatemala, Cultural Survival documented a total of 13 murdered human rights defenders. Those killed were leaders of their Indigenous communities, lawyers, and activists involved in land defense. Those reported killed included: Fidel López (male), Medardo Alonzo Lucero (Ch'orti, male), Dominga Ramos (K'iche', female), Paulina Cruz Ruiz (Maya Achi, female), Julio Gómez Lucas (Maya Chuj, male), Ana de León de Sabuta(Maya Ixil, female), Anselmo Cosigua (Maya Kaqchikel, male), Eulogio Anibal Maquin Bo (Maya Q'eqchi', male), Francisco Lucas Pedro (Q'anjob'al, male), Alberto Cucul Cho (Q'eqchi, male), Jorge Juc Cucul (Q'eqchi' Maya, male), Angel Leonel Guzmán Morales (Q'eqchi' Maya, male) and María Cristina Chún Xol (female).

In Honduras, Cultural Survival documented a total of four murders. Those murdered included Garifuna leaders, chairs of food sovereignty boards, and Indigenous leaders. Those reported killed include: Mirna Suazo (Garifuna, female), Milgen Idan Soto Avila (Tolupán, male), Vicente Saavedra (Tolupán, male), and Antonio Bernárdez (Garifuna, male).

In Mexico, Cultural Survival documented a total of 11 deaths. Those who were killed included writers, poets, artists, radio communicators, students, and popular movement leaders. Those reported killed include: Kenia Inés Hernández Montalván (Amuzga, female), Pedro Uc (Maya, male), Josué Bernardo Marcial San (Mixe-Popoluca, male), Miguel López Vega (Nahua, male), Antonio Montes (Rarámuri, male), Fernando García de las Nieves (Tu’un Savi, male), Javier García de las Nieves (Tu’un Savi, male), Catalino Barradas Santiago (Chatino, male), Isaías Cantú Carrasco (Mè’phàà, male), Irma Galindo Barrios (Mixteca, female), Arnulfo Cerón Soriano (Nahua, male).

In Peru, Cultural Survival documented a total of two murders. These deaths include Gonzalo Pío Flores, an Ashaninka man who worked tirelessly to defend land, in particular struggling against illegal logging concessions on communal lands. The second was Arbildo Meléndez Grandes, a male Unipacuyacu community leader. Grandes had previously received threats on his life and reported these to the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights. Grande and his family fought to prevent tree felling and illegal cultivation.

In Chile, Cultural Survival documented one murder: Alejandro Treuquil (Mapuche, male).

**3) How many convictions of perpetrators of killings of human rights defenders were there in your country/geographic area of responsibility since 1 June 2019 up to 30 June 2020?**

As part of Cultural Survival’s work to advocate for and defend Indigenous land rights and sovereignty, we track violence against human rights defenders. Our goal is to have as comprehensive a database as possible of cases of violence, including attacks and threats, as well as murders, of the cases that are reported in English- and Spanish-language media and via our extensive network around the world. However, it is outside the purview of our work to follow up on every case and thus we are not able to provide data on the percentage of convictions.

**4) Does your Institution/Organization have a procedure to respond to death threats to human rights defenders?**

Cultural Survival has a substantial presence on social media and online readership. We repost and amplify articles condemning violence and attempted violence against human rights defenders and calls to action. In some cases, we produce our own articles, which we attempt to use to highlight less widely publicized cases, especially when they occur in regions or communities where we have staff or colleagues on the ground. When possible, we undertake advocacy directly with states, and we include the data we gather in reports to UN bodies including this special procedure as well as UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UN Treaty Bodies including the CERD, CRC, CEDAW, CECSR, CCPR, and the UPR.

**5) Does your Institution/Organization have or would be willing to put in place legal guarantees and other protection measures to allow human rights defenders to do their work without persecution?**

n/a

**6) Could you please share good practices (evidence-based) that have proofed effective to respond to death threats? And to prevent them from escalating into the killing(s) of human rights defenders?**

n/a