

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

The human rights defenders are people that, individually or as a group, work together to make possible the compliance of the rights gathered in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in diverse regulations developed. Such efforts are proven to be fundamental to make visible situations of social injustice, fight impunity and promote democratic processes around the world.

In the UN Declaration on human rights defenders endorsed by the General Assembly on December 9th, 1998, the United Nations not only acknowledged their legitimacy, considering the defense of human rights as a right itself, but also the determining role they play and the necessity of guaranteeing their protection.

On December 9th is celebrated the international day of human rights defenders, and on November 29th the international day of women defenders. Since its foundation on 1961, Amnesty International supports human rights defenders since they represent the front line in the fight for human rights and because they bring to light the immense gap between the rhetorical commitments from the governments and their limited fulfilling on practice.

When these authorities (and the powerful political, military and economic elites) are reminded of their obligations in matter of human rights, poses serious risks for defenders.

Amnesty International has documented aggressions against human right defenders in most countries of the world, as well as repressive tactics to silence them deployed by governments from any political tendencies. Such aggressions adopt diverse forms and levels of violence: continuous threats, attempts to discredit their work, unjust imprisonment, torture and even assassination. These threats being extended to their relatives.

GOAL OF THE CAMPAIGN

That human rights defenders be empowered in a favorable and safe environment, along with thousands of people that feel inspired to act with them side by side against injustice.

OBJECTIVE

That, before the end of 2019, a growing number of human rights defenders be better protected by the State against aggressions, intimidation and harassment by means of changes in legislation and politics put on practice.

ARTISTIC ACTIONS OF STREET

We plan on working with street artists around the world to interpret the idea of Brave and take our message to a cold audience. We will generate interest in media and raise awareness in new audiences, as the beginning of a journey to promote initiative and support human rights defenders.

THEMATIC AREAS

- Defamation and stigma surrounding human rights defenders
- Murder, including enforced disappearances
- Improper and regressive use of criminal, civil and administrative laws.
- Monitoring of human rights defenders (online and offline)
- Women defenders of human rights, including LGBTIQ community and intersectional discrimination.

DEFAMATION AND STIGMA

BASES

Public stigmatization and defamation campaigns are practices commonly used against human rights defenders. They can be targets of declarations from authorities to attack their honor and stain their reputation as a way to undermine their legitimacy and credibility. Our paper to counteract the speeches that discredit and stigmatize human rights defenders, will be fundamental for the success of this campaign. We have to influence on attitudes and conducts towards human rights defenders among general public and those who take decisions, as well as instilling a positive perception of these people and and the labor for human rights in general.

Objective: We will expose the use of defamation and stigmatization coming from State and non-State entities, also we will celebrate and spotlight positive contributions from human rights defenders.

MURDER AND ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

BASES

Human rights defenders are subjected to physical aggression, murder and enforced disappearances in all regions of the world. These actions, whether they are perpetrated by State or non-State agents, are part of a series of direct attempts to hold back important activities carried out by human rights defenders and spread a "deterrent" message over the rest of civil society, minimizing sphere of action for the defense of human rights. In many places, authorities don't keep a criminal record nor they investigate cases thoroughly nor prosecute the responsables of murder, which transmits the idea to criminals that they will enjoy of impunity for their crimes, at the same time that is sent a message to human rights defenders and the communities in which they work that the State doesn't care much for their safety nor their right to justice.

Objective: That fewer defenders be victims of murder and enforced disappearance, at the same time that States adopt strong actions to prevent the aggressions and protect people at risk, with proceedings like guaranteeing justice, accountability processes and compensation for these crimes.