

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES FROM PREVIOUS UPR CYCLES

- ◆ Adopt legal and public policy measures for the protection of human rights defenders (Brazil, Norway, Sweden, Costa Rica, Honduras, the Netherlands and Switzerland).
- ◆ Investigate the attacks and aggressions they suffer (Austria, Canada, Norway and Italy).
- ◆ Disseminate the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and to publicly recognize the legitimacy and importance of the role of these defenders (Norway and the Netherlands).

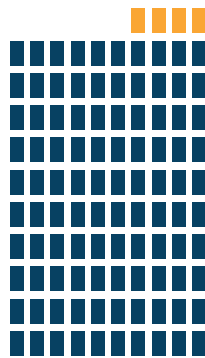
MURDERED LAND RIGHTS DEFENDERS

4

Since the last UPR

124

Since 1989



CHALLENGES & IMPACTS

- ◆ A bill has been submitted establishing a mechanism for the protection of journalists and human rights defenders, but it has been [pending since 2016](#).
- ◆ Since the last UPR, four peasant defenders have been killed by parapolice groups while defending their communities from land grabbing, [reaching 124 the number of peasant defenders killed in this context since 1989](#).
- ◆ In [2019](#) and in [2020](#), LGBTI defenders faced restrictions on the right to assembly and demonstration in several cities and were violently attacked by Catholic fundamentalist groups with the encouragement of local authorities. So far, the official investigation of the aggressions has not yielded results.
- ◆ The practice of using the criminal justice system to harass defenders and discourage their peaceful actions persists, particularly [environmental defenders who denounce monocropping, illegal fumigation and land grabbing](#).



RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ Guarantee the protection of human rights defenders in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.
- ◆ Combat impunity by ensuring prompt, thorough and transparent investigation of all killings and violations committed against human rights defenders, prosecution of perpetrators, and victims' access to effective remedies.
- ◆ Refrain from misusing the criminal justice system to harass human rights defenders or to discourage their peaceful actions of enforceability of rights.
- ◆ Recognize the legitimate role of defenders and widely disseminate the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.
- ◆ Ratify the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, Escazú Agreement, which provides measures for the protection of environmental defenders.

CODEHUPY

Coordinadora de Derechos Humanos del Paraguay

The Paraguayan Human Rights Coordinating Committee (CODEHUPY) is a national network of civil society organizations for the defense of human rights in Paraguay. It is made up of 35 networks and member organizations. It was founded in 1999 as a non-profit civil, non-denominational and non-partisan association dedicated to the promotion and defense of human rights.

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