

*To: Mr. Simon Stiell
Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
(UNFCCC)*

CC:

Ms. Christine Adam (Director and Principal Legal Adviser, UNFCCC)

Ms. Elisa Morgera (UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change), Ms. Astrid Puentes Riaño (UN Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment), Dr. Albert K. Barume (UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples),

Belém, 17 November 2025

Subject: Urgent Appeal to Reverse Harmful UNFCCC Communication Endangering Indigenous Peoples and Protest Rights

Dear Mr. Stiell,

The undersigned organizations are writing to express our utmost concern about your [letter](#) to the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil, dated 12 November 2025 (reference: EC-2025-263), and to urge you to take immediate steps to reverse the negative consequences of this letter on human rights, in particular of Indigenous Peoples, Environmental and Human Rights Defenders, and of those wishing to exercise their right to peaceful protest.

Following a “security incident” at the COP30 venue last week, this letter urges the Brazilian Presidency to step up the presence of uniformed security forces around the COP30 venue and to intervene to disperse protests. In doing so, the letter contributes to an increasing global trend towards the silencing of dissent, militarized response to protest, and marginalization of those defending land and the environment, including the Indigenous Peoples of the Brazilian Amazon. The consequence of the letter has been a massive escalation of security force presence in and around COP30, creating a chilling effect and a feeling of unsafety for Indigenous Peoples, Environmental and other Human Rights Defenders, civil society, and activists standing up for their rights.

Indigenous Peoples defending and demanding legal recognition of their land and their right to self-determination, and protecting our ecosystems and planet, are not a threat. Indigenous women with children demanding access to the negotiations that are determining their future, are not a threat. Such demonstrations are not acts of disruption but expressions of Indigenous Peoples’ collective political will, grounded in their self-governance systems, cultural traditions,

and worldviews. Threatening is the massive presence of security forces, especially in a global context of growing violence against environmental defenders, including in the host country. A statement issued by the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) in response to Tuesday's events at the COP30 venue points out that this escalation *"is replicating the form of state violence Indigenous Peoples and human rights defenders face across our territories."*

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat has legal obligations to uphold all human rights, under customary and treaty law, including the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression, which are intrinsic to democratic societies. Rather than undermining the right to peaceful protest of defenders calling for climate action – upholding the objectives of this very convention – the UNFCCC Secretariat should recognize how the monumental presence of Indigenous Peoples in the city of Belém, and the ability of all to have their voices heard in its streets, is conducive to more ambitious outcomes, socially beneficial responses, and greater accountability at this climate summit. This is a power that the process has lacked at COP27, COP28, and COP29, due to the heavy restrictions on the exercise of human rights in the respective host countries. In this context, civil society has been urging the UNFCCC to take proactive steps to ensure that host countries commit to upholding human rights in the context of climate summits, including through its host country agreement. This letter does the opposite.

Beyond the immediate situation in Belém, the most consequential impact of your letter is the precedent it sets. Even if the Brazilian government chooses not to escalate repression, your letter risks granting a broad and permissive mandate to future COP presidencies that may not exercise the same restraint. It risks signaling that expansive security responses to peaceful protest are acceptable within the UNFCCC context, and it invites future hosts to curtail fundamental rights under the cover of institutional endorsement. This would entrench a trajectory that places human rights defenders - in particular women and Indigenous Peoples advocates - at even greater risk at climate summits for years to come.

We urge you to issue a public statement at the start of week 2 to reverse the negative consequences of this letter - including by requesting the host country to reduce the presence of security forces in the vicinity of the COP30 venue and the city of Belém as a whole - to acknowledge the role of Indigenous Peoples in preserving our environment, their central role in maintaining climate balance and to commit to upholding their rights, and the rights of all to peacefully protest at this COP and any future UNFCCC meetings.

We remain at your disposal should you have any questions.

Signatory organizations:

- 1 350.org
- 2 A Wisdom Keepers delegation & Confederación Nacional de Comunidades Afectadas por Minería e Hidrocarburos (CONACAMHI)
- 3 AbibiNsroma Foundation
- 4 Abogadas y Abogados del Noroeste Argentino en Derechos Humanos y Estudios Sociales (ANDHES)
- 5 ACE Observatory
- 6 African Women's Development & Communication Network (FEMNET)
- 7 Akina Mama wa Afrika
- 8 Alliance of Global Volunteer Organizations (AGVO)
- 9 Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
- 10 Amnesty International
- 11 Arid Lands Action Forum
- 12 Asia Pacific Network of Environmental Defenders
- 13 Asian People's Movement on Debt and Development
- 14 Association for Farmers Rights Defense (AFRD)
- 15 Association of Women of Southern Europe AFEM
- 16 Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI)
- 17 Attac France
- 18 AZ AANHPI Advocates
- 19 Bangladesh Food Security Network- Khani
- 20 Bargny Coast Waterkeeper
- 21 Barokupot Ganochetona Foundation-BGF
- 22 cambiaMO
- 23 Campaign of Campaigns
- 24 Canadian Association for the Club of Rome (CACOR)
- 25 Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
- 26 Canadian Interfaith Fast For the Climate
- 27 Canopy
- 28 Casa Rio Lab

- 29 Center for Biological Diversity
- 30 Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- 31 Centre for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)
- 32 Centre for Research and Advocacy, Manipur
- 33 Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)
- 34 Centro de Intercambio Sub Regional Cono Sur Alahua (CISCSA)
- 35 CEUS Chile
- 36 Chikka Federation of India
- 37 Child Rights International Network (CRIN)
- 38 Climate Action and Response Alliance Kenya
- 39 Climate Action Network - Réseau action climat Canada
- 40 Climate Action Network Australia
- 41 Climate Action Network International
- 42 Climate Action Network US
- 43 Climate Action Network Zimbabwe
- 44 Climate Activist Defenders
- 45 Climate and Health Alliance
- 46 Climate Bridges
- 47 Climate Clock DRC
- 49 Climate Justice Alliance
- 50 Climate Rangers
- 51 Climate Rights International
- 52 CliMates France
- 53 CliMates International
- 54 Coalition des Volontaires pour la Paix et le Développement (CVPD)
- 55 Colectivo de Coordinación de Acciones Socio Ambientales (Colectivo CASA)
- 56 Collectif Femmes pour le Climat
- 57 Common Threads Indigenous Peoples Organisation
- 58 Community Action For Health and Development (CAHED)
- 59 Conectas Direitos Humanos
- 60 Confédération des syndicats nationaux CSN

- 61 CooperAccion
- 62 Corporate Accountability
- 63 Corporate Europe Observatory
- 64 Crimean Tatar Resource Center
- 65 CSMBU*
- 66 Dalit with Disabilities Association Nepal
- 67 David Suzuki Foundation
- 68 Debt for Climate
- 69 Dejusticia - Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad
- 70 Dibeem for Environmental Development
- 71 Digo Bikas Institute
- 72 Disability Peoples Forum Uganda
- 73 Disability Rights Fund
- 74 Downtown Crenshaw Rising
- 75 Dukingire Isi Yacu
- 76 Earth in Brackets
- 77 Earthrise Collective
- 78 EcoEquity
- 79 Ecojustice Ireland
- 80 Ecologistas en Acción
- 81 Emony Yefwe International
- 82 End Fossil Occupy Uganda
- 83 Enda Colombia
- 84 Equal right
- 85 Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia
- 86 European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR)
- 87 Extinction Rebellion Italia
- 88 Extinctionrebellion Essen
- 89 Extinctionrebellion Germany
- 90 Extinctionrebellion NRW+
- 91 Faith for the Climate

- 92 Faudar Rural Educational Society for Harijans
- 93 Feminature Uganda
- 94 FIAN Belgium
- 95 FIAN Brasil
- 96 FIAN International
- 97 FIAN Zambia
- 98 Fondation Internationale pour le Développement, l'Éducation, l'Entrepreneuriat et la Protection de l'Environnement (FIDEPE)
- 99 Forum des femmes Autochtones du cameroun (FFAC)
- 100 Foundation for the Conservation of the Earth (FOCONE)
- 101 Fridays For Future Africa
- 102 Fridays for Future USA
- 103 Friends of Franbarnie International (FOFI)
- 104 Friends of the Earth England, Wales & Northern Ireland
- 105 Friends of the Earth Europe
- 106 Friends of the Earth International
- 107 Friends of the Earth Netherlands, Milieudefensie
- 108 Fundacion Hampi Maki de Sanadores Anestrales dl Perù
- 109 GenDev Centre for Research and Innovation India
- 110 GenerationUs Kenya
- 111 Girl up caribbean
- 112 Girl up Chikka
- 113 Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- 114 Global Witness
- 115 Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
- 116 Green Africa Network
- 117 groundWork - Friends of the Earth South Africa
- 118 Habitat Defenders Africa (HDA)
- 119 Habitat International Coalition
- 120 Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights
- 121 Hawkmoth

- 122 Heinrich Böll Stiftung
- 123 Hope for Change Women Network
- 124 Human Power Organisation
- 125 HURIES consortium
- 126 ICCA consortium
- 127 Indigenous Environmental Network
- 128 Indigenous Peoples of the Coastal Bend
- 129 Iniciativas para el Desarrollo de la Mujer Oaxaqueña (IDEMO)
- 130 Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA)
- 131 International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), in the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders
- 132 International Indian Treaty Council
- 133 International Service for Human Rights
- 134 International Student Environmental Coalition
- 135 International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
- 136 International Women's Development Agency (IWDA)
- 137 Inuit Circumpolar Council
- 138 Jubilee Australia Research Centre
- 139 Just Transition Alliance
- 140 Klimadelegation e.V
- 141 L'Associació pels Drets Sexuals i Reproductius
- 142 La Ruta del Clima
- 143 Land is Life
- 144 Latinamerican and Caribbean WGC
- 145 Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center
- 146 Lexington Climate Action Network (LexCAN US)
- 147 LIFE Education SUsustainability Equality
- 148 Life of Pachamama
- 149 Ligue française des droits de l'Homme (LDH)
- 150 Loretto at the UN
- 151 Lumière Synergie pour le Développement

- 152 Manifestation. Alternatif France
- 153 MAUSAM
- 154 Medico International
- 155 MenaFem Movement
- 156 Michigan Anishinaabek Caucus
- 157 Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition
- 158 Micronesia Climate Change Alliance
- 159 Minority Rights Group International
- 160 Mission inclusion
- 161 Mobilisation 6600 Parc-Nature MHM
- 162 Movement Rights
- 163 Namati
- 164 Natural Justice
- 165 NATURELCD
- 166 NON à une marée noire dans le Saint-Laurent
- 167 North Eastern Wildlife Conservancies Associations (NECA)
- 168 Nour
- 169 Nuclear Information and Resource Service
- 170 Observatori DESCA
- 171 Oil Change International
- 172 Oxfam
- 173 Palestinian Institute for Climate Strategy (PICS)
- 174 Parents for Future Bonn
- 175 Participatory Research & Action Network (PRAAN)
- 176 Power Shift Africa
- 177 Pueblo Action Alliance
- 178 Quaker United Nations Office Geneva
- 179 Quaker United Nations Office NY
- 180 Re Earth Initiative
- 181 Reacción Climática Bolivia
- 182 ReCommon

- 183 Red de Acción por los Derechos Ambientales (RADA)
- 184 Red de Comunidades Afectadas por IFIs
- 185 Red Nacional de Mujeres en Defensa de la Madre Tierra (RENAMAT)
- 186 Réseau d'appui et de Promotion des Aires du Patrimoine Autochtone et Communautaire du Cameroun (RAPACAM)
- 187 Resilient40
- 188 Sansristi
- 189 Sauti Salama
- 190 Sengwer Indigenous Community Trust
- 191 Shifting the Power Coalition
- 192 Sinatsisa Lubombo Women and girls Empowerment organization
- 193 Society for orphan, neglected and youths
- 194 Solidaritas Perempuan (Women's Solidarity for Human Rights) Indonesia
- 195 Solidarity Health Foundation
- 196 Somali Environmental Development Organization (SEDO)
- 197 SOMO
- 198 Stand.earth
- 199 Sukaar Welfare Organization
- 200 SustainUS
- 201 The Callegory
- 202 The Global Sunrise Project
- 203 The Woven Project
- 204 Tikna'oj
- 205 Tipping Point North South
- 206 Trócaire
- 207 Tsikini
- 208 UCIZONI
- 209 UK Youth Climate Coalition
- 210 Vigilance OGM
- 211 Wapichan Wiizi Women's Movement
- 212 War on Want

HUMAN RIGHTS
& CLIMATE CHANGE
WORKING GROUP

- 213 Waste Or Create Hub
- 214 WECF International
- 215 Women Enabled International
- 216 Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN)
- 217 Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
- 218 World Animal Protection
- 219 World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), in the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders
- 220 World's Youth for Climate Justice
- 221 Young Indigenous Women Action
- 222 YOUNGO children and youth constituency of the UNFCCC
- 223 YOUNGO working group on Just Transition (JTWG)
- 224 Youth and Environment Europe
- 225 Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights