

I am writing to express my grave concern on human rights defenders, especially those working on territory, land and environmental rights issues.

International organization Global Witness, along with Honduran organizations MILPAH, COPINH and CEHPRODEC are facing a smear campaign against them for their work defending land, territory and environmental rights in the country. This increasing campaign puts them at risk of further harassment and physical attacks.

I am calling on the authorities to provide comprehensive protection for the human rights defenders of MILPAH, COPINH, CEHPRODEC. They should strongly reject the smear campaigns against defenders of the land, territory and the environment. I am calling on them to publicly recognize the defenders' legitimate and important role in promoting human rights.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,