



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 Abogadas y Abogados del Noroeste Argentino en Derechos Humanos y Estudios Sociales (ANDHES)
- 4 ACE Observatory
- 5 African Women's Development & Communication Network (FEMNET)
- 6 Akina Mama wa Afrika
- 7 Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
- 8 Amnesty International
- 9 Arid Lands Action Forum
- 10 Asia Pacific Network of Environmental Defenders
- 11 Asian People's Movement on Debt and Development
- 12 Association for Farmers Rights Defense (AFRD)
- 13 Association of Women of Southern Europe AFEM
- 14 Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI)
- 15 Attac France
- 16 AZ AANHPI Advocates
- 17 Bangladesh Food Security Network- Khani
- 18 Bargny Coast Waterkeeper
- 19 cambiaMO
- 20 Campaign of Campaigns
- 21 Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
- 22 Canadian Interfaith Fast For the Climate
- 23 Casa Rio Lab
- 24 Center for Biological Diversity
- 25 Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- 26 Centre for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)
- 27 Centre for Research and Advocacy, Manipur

- 28 Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)
- 29 Centro de Intercambio Sub Regional Cono Sur Alahua (CISCSA)
- 30 Chikka Federation of India
- 31 Child Rights International Network (CRIN)
- 32 Climate Action Network - Réseau action climat Canada
- 33 Climate Action Network Australia
- 34 Climate Action Network International
- 35 Climate Action Network US
- 36 Climate Action Network Zimbabwe
- 37 Climate Activist Defenders
- 38 Climate and Health Alliance
- 39 Climate Bridges
- 40 Climate Clock DRC
- 41 Climate Justice Alliance
- 42 Climate Rangers
- 43 Climate Rights International
- 44 CliMates France
- 45 CliMates International
- 46 Coalition des Volontaires pour la Paix et le Développement (CVPD)
- 47 Colectivo de Coordinación de Acciones Socio Ambientales (Colectivo CASA)
- 48 Collectif Femmes pour le Climat
- 49 Common Threads Indigenous Peoples Organisation
- 50 Community Action For Health and Development (CAHED)
- 51 Conectas Direitos Humanos
- 52 Confédération des syndicats nationaux CSN
- 53 CooperAccion
- 54 Corporate Accountability
- 55 Corporate Europe Observatory
- 56 Crimean Tatar Resource Center
- 57 CSMBU*
- 58 Debt for Climate

- 59 Dejusticia - Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad
- 60 Dibeem for Environmental Development
- 61 Digo Bikas Institute
- 62 Disability Peoples Forum Uganda
- 63 Disability Rights Fund
- 64 Downtown Crenshaw Rising
- 65 Earth in Brackets
- 66 Earthrise Collective
- 67 EcoEquity
- 68 Ecojustice Ireland
- 69 Ecologistas en Acción
- 70 Emony Yefwe International
- 71 End Fossil Occupy Uganda
- 72 Enda Colombia
- 73 Equal right
- 74 Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia
- 75 European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR)
- 76 Extinction Rebellion Italia
- 77 Extinctionrebellion Essen
- 78 Extinctionrebellion Germany
- 79 Extinctionrebellion NRW+
- 80 Faith for the Climate
- 81 Faudar Rural Educational Society for Harijans
- 82 Feminature Uganda
- 83 FIAN Belgium
- 84 FIAN Brasil
- 85 FIAN International
- 86 FIAN Zambia
- 87 Fondation Internationale pour le Développement, l'Éducation, l'Entrepreneuriat et la Protection de l'Environnement (FIDEPE)
- 88 Foundation for the Conservation of the Earth (FOCONE)

- 89 Fridays For Future Africa
- 90 Fridays for Future USA
- 91 Friends of Franbarnie International (FOFI)
- 92 Friends of the Earth England, Wales & Northern Ireland
- 93 Friends of the Earth Europe
- 94 Friends of the Earth International
- 95 Friends of the Earth Netherlands, Milieudefensie
- 96 Fundacion Hampi Maki de Sanadores Ancestrales dl Perú
- 97 GenDev Centre for Research and Innovation India
- 98 GenerationUs Kenya
- 99 Girl up Chikka
- 100 Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- 101 Global Witness
- 102 Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
- 103 Green Africa Network
- 104 Greenpeace
- 105 groundWork - Friends of the Earth South Africa
- 106 Habitat Defenders Africa (HDA)
- 107 Habitat International Coalition
- 108 Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights
- 109 Hawkmoth
- 110 Heinrich Böll Stiftung
- 111 Hope for Change Women Network
- 112 HURIES consortium
- 113 ICCA consortium
- 114 Indigenous Environmental Network
- 115 Indigenous Peoples of the Coastal Bend
- 116 Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA)
- 117 International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), in the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders
- 118 International Indian Treaty Council

- 119 International Student Environmental Coalition
- 120 Inuit Circumpolar Council
- 121 Jubilee Australia Research Centre
- 122 Just Transition Alliance
- 123 Klimadelegation e.V
- 124 L'Associació pels Drets Sexuals i Reproductius
- 125 La Ruta del Clima
- 126 Land is Life
- 127 Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center
- 128 LIFE Education SUSTainability Equality
- 129 Life of Pachamama
- 130 Ligue française des droits de l'Homme (LDH)
- 131 Lumière Synergie pour le Développement
- 132 Manifestation. Alternatif France
- 133 MAUSAM
- 134 Medico International
- 135 MenaFem Movement
- 136 Michigan Anishinaabek Caucus
- 137 Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition
- 138 Micronesia Climate Change Alliance
- 139 Minority Rights Group International
- 140 Mission inclusion
- 141 Movement Rights
- 142 Namati
- 143 Natural Justice
- 144 NATURELCD
- 145 NON à une marée noire dans le Saint-Laurent
- 146 North Easternn Wildlife Conservancies Associations (NECA)
- 147 Nour
- 148 Nuclear Information and Resource Service
- 149 Observatori DESCA

- 150 Oil Change International
- 151 Oxfam
- 152 Palestinian Institute for Climate Strategy (PICS)
- 153 Participatory Research & Action Network (PRAAN)
- 154 Power Shift Africa
- 155 Pueblo Action Alliance
- 156 Quaker United Nations Office
- 157 Re Earth Initiative
- 158 ReCommon
- 159 Red de Acción por los Derechos Ambientales (RADA)
- 160 Red de Comunidades Afectadas por IFIs
- 161 Red Nacional de Mujeres en Defensa de la Madre Tierra (RENAMAT)
- 162 Réseau d'appui et de Promotion des Aires du Patrimoine Autochtone et Communautaire du Cameroun (RAPACAM)
- 163 Resilient40
- 164 Sansristi
- 165 Sauti Salama
- 166 Sengwer Indigenous Community Trust
- 167 Shifting the Power Coalition
- 168 Sinatsisa Lubombo Women and girls Empowerment organization
- 169 Society for orphan, neglected and youths
- 170 Solidaritas Perempuan (Women's Solidarity for Human Rights) Indonesia
- 171 Somali Environmental Development Organization (SEDO)
- 172 SOMO
- 173 Stand.earth
- 174 Sukaar Welfare Organization
- 175 SustainUS
- 176 The Callegory
- 177 The Global Sunrise Project
- 178 The Woven Project
- 179 Tipping Point North South

- 180 Trócaire
- 181 Tsikini
- 182 UCIZONI
- 183 UK Youth Climate Coalition
- 184 Vigilance OGM
- 185 War on Want
- 186 Waste Or Create Hub
- 187 WECF International
- 188 Women Enabled International
- 189 Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN)
- 190 World Animal Protection
- 191 World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), in the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders
- 192 World's Youth for Climate Justice
- 193 Young Indigenous Women Action
- 194 YOUNGO working group on Just Transition (JTWG)
- 195 Youth and Environment Europe
- 196 Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights