

# Events Guide

Global Mobilisation to  
Stop Criminalisation

2 - 9 December 2019



# Hello!

Thank you for **joining** the Global Mobilisation to stop the criminalisation of land rights defenders. This guide aims to help you make the most of the week. We want to unite everyone in the world to **stand for the land rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities and end criminalisation.**

**Let's get started!**

# About the Global Mobilisation

## WHAT IS THE GLOBAL MOBILISATION?

On **2 - 9 December 2019** you and thousands of individuals and organisations all over the world will **create a wave of actions** and make a thunderous noise to stop the criminalisation of Indigenous People and local communities and call for recognition of their land rights.

This is the 4th edition of the Land Rights Now Global Mobilisation. Together we have contributed to mobilising the public to make a stand for land rights.

Let's make this one even bigger.

**Together we can make a difference.**

# About the Global Mobilisation

## CRIMINALISATION OF LAND RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Indigenous Peoples and local communities manage many of the world's great forests and biodiversity hotspots. **Those lands are prime targets for environmentally destructive mining, logging, and agriculture projects.** When communities stand up against these projects, violence and legal harassment often follow.

In 2018, **more than three activists were murdered each week for defending their land rights.** Today hundreds more **are intimidated, branded as criminals, locked-up, or taken to court** every single day.

**Legal systems are misused as weapons to criminalise land rights defenders.** Laws are created, used, and abused to damage reputations, shut off funding, and lock defenders into costly legal battles. All to silence those who peacefully defend land rights.

These threats and criminalisation rarely make the headlines and **are a powerful tool to crush dissent.** They enable polluters to gain leverage over land rights defenders and to avoid unwanted attention, regulation, and environmental enforcement.

# Your Voice Matters!

The Global Mobilisation is a way to **collectively join forces and raise awareness** of this global crisis and the importance of secure indigenous and local community land rights.

The movement exists because of you and thousands of people around the world who want change. Supporting land rights defenders is a matter of justice but also key for the future of the planet. Everybody has a role to play. And you decide which action you take!



**TAKE ACTION**

# Organise Your Own Event

We want to create **a wave of actions** across the world to show we are a growing movement standing together to stop the criminalisation of land rights defenders.

You are invited to be part of this wave by organising an event. You know best what works in your national context. In the past, organisations have held marches, rallies, candlelit vigils, festivals workshops, dialogue events with policy makers, and press conferences.

Be sure to **tell us about your plans** ([contact@landrightsnow.org](mailto:contact@landrightsnow.org)) so we can spread the word about your event, and add it to our website.

Check out the next pages for some **inspiration**.



# Organise Your Own Event

## Add impact

We want to capture public attention through the events where possible. Participants in marches or rallies could wear tape over their mouths to show how land rights defenders are being silenced - or everyone could wear white (or another color) as a symbol of hope and solidarity with land rights defenders.



# Organise Your Own Event

## CREATIVE EVENT IDEAS

Get creative with your event to attract media attention. Go to symbolic government buildings with plants symbolising life, place pictures of criminalised land rights defenders, and read out their names. Invite family members of criminalised defenders to speak at the event and tell the human story.



# Organise Your Own Event

## OTHER EVENT IDEAS

Defenders Not Criminals. It is important for the public to know what land rights defenders are protecting and why it is important to stand with them. You could organise an exhibition about the work that you or those that you accompany do.



# Organise Your Own Event

## HELPFUL QUESTIONS WHEN BRAINSTORMING ABOUT YOUR OWN EVENT

- Who are the individuals, groups, or organizations you are trying to target?
- What capacity do you have as an organisation or individual?
- Who could be your allies in this event and how could you build on each others' strengths?
- Who can help you to raise awareness of this issue?
- What role can the media play in broadcasting this event?

Feel free to reach out to [contact@landrightsnow.org](mailto:contact@landrightsnow.org) to brainstorm, bounce some ideas around, or to learn about what kinds of ideas other groups with similar aims have been proposing.

# Getting Attention

## MAKE YOUR EVENT VISIBLE

- Take photos and videos and share your activity on social media with #LandRightsNow and #StandWithDefenders
- Please share your material with us:  
[contact@landrightsnow.org](mailto:contact@landrightsnow.org)

As a reminder: **always think about the safety** of you and your supporters. We understand that in many national contexts it is not safe to organise a public event on this issue.

Don't do anything that will put you or other land rights defenders at risk.

# Join an Event

Check out the [map on our website](#) and find out if there is an event planned in your area that you can join and strengthen. We will update the map regularly.



**(SOCIAL) MEDIA**

# Social Media

During the Global Mobilisation we want everybody to feel that they are part of a global movement. Social media is a good tool to help people worldwide feel involved with your action.

Important hashtags: #LandRightsNow #StandWithDefenders

We will share social media tips & tricks with you soon!

We will also finalize material, like a video and sharegraphics, for social media in the upcoming weeks.

## HOW TO STAY INFORMED?

- **Keep an eye on our newsletter in your inbox**
- **We will add all materials to [this google drive folder](#)**
- **Join this [Facebook-event](#)**

# Contact us

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, remarks or ideas

[contact@landrightsnow.org](mailto:contact@landrightsnow.org)



**Securing Indigenous Peoples' and communities'  
land rights are the hope for the future of the  
planet.**

**Thank you for being part of the movement  
[www.landrightsnow.org](http://www.landrightsnow.org)**