

## **Intervention from CSM on Monitoring Global Event Session**

**Wednesday 19 October 2016**

Across the world, human rights defenders working on land, forest, water, fisheries and tenure-related issues, are facing different forms of violence, threats and intimidation. These include violence and/or threats of violence to them and their families, verbal and legal harassment, illegal surveillance, slander, criminalization, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests, detention and extra-judicial killings.

Such violence can be occasional, but in many contexts it is permanent and systematic. Especially at risk are people from affected communities and social movements, who have been historically marginalized because of class, race, ethnicity, religion or gender.

Responsible governance of tenure cannot be achieved unless all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights are respected. Paragraph 4.8 of the Guidelines underline the need for states “to respect and protect the rights of defenders of human rights, including the human rights of peasants, indigenous peoples, fishers, pastoralists and rural workers.”

If violence and criminalization of human rights defenders, and the impunity of perpetrators is not urgently and adequately addressed, efforts to implement the Guidelines and advance human rights-based governance will be severely undermined. We call on all members of the CFS to give this matter their utmost attention.

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