

Oral statement during the 63rd session of the Human Rights Council

Item 3&5: Interactive dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

23/09/2026

Thank you Chair.

In **Kenya**, the African Court's 2017 and 2022 judgments recognizing the Mau Forest as Ogiek ancestral land remain unimplemented, while over 700 families were forcibly evicted from Sasimwani in 2023.

In **Guatemala**, Indigenous defenders are the main target of physical attacks and of stigmatizing discourse reviving the "internal enemy" that led to the Ixil genocide. Luis Pacheco, Hector Chaclán and others were jailed for over two years without grounds.

On **Nicaragua's** Caribbean Coast, settlers' violent dispossession of Indigenous territories is intensifying. Between August and September 2026, the Mayangna community of Wilu was again besieged by armed settlers, and eight Mayangna forest rangers remain detained.

In **Honduras**, the Law for the Strengthening and Protection of the Agro-Industrial Sector caused three evictions in under three months. On 6 July, the Garífuna community of San Juan was evicted from land recognized by the Inter-American Court; five defenders face criminal charges.

In **Colombia**, the *Resguardo Kichwa de San Marcelino* suffers incursions by the Ecuadorian Army, control by *Comandos de Frontera*, and oil contamination of its water, verified by OHCHR.

We call on the Expert Mechanism and referred States to:

- guarantee free, prior and informed consent before granting concessions;
- halt evictions and implement the African and Inter-American Court judgments;
- adopt collective protection measures for defenders and end their criminalization
- to support civil society organizations in guaranteeing a free civic space
- to keep monitoring the human rights situation in those countries.