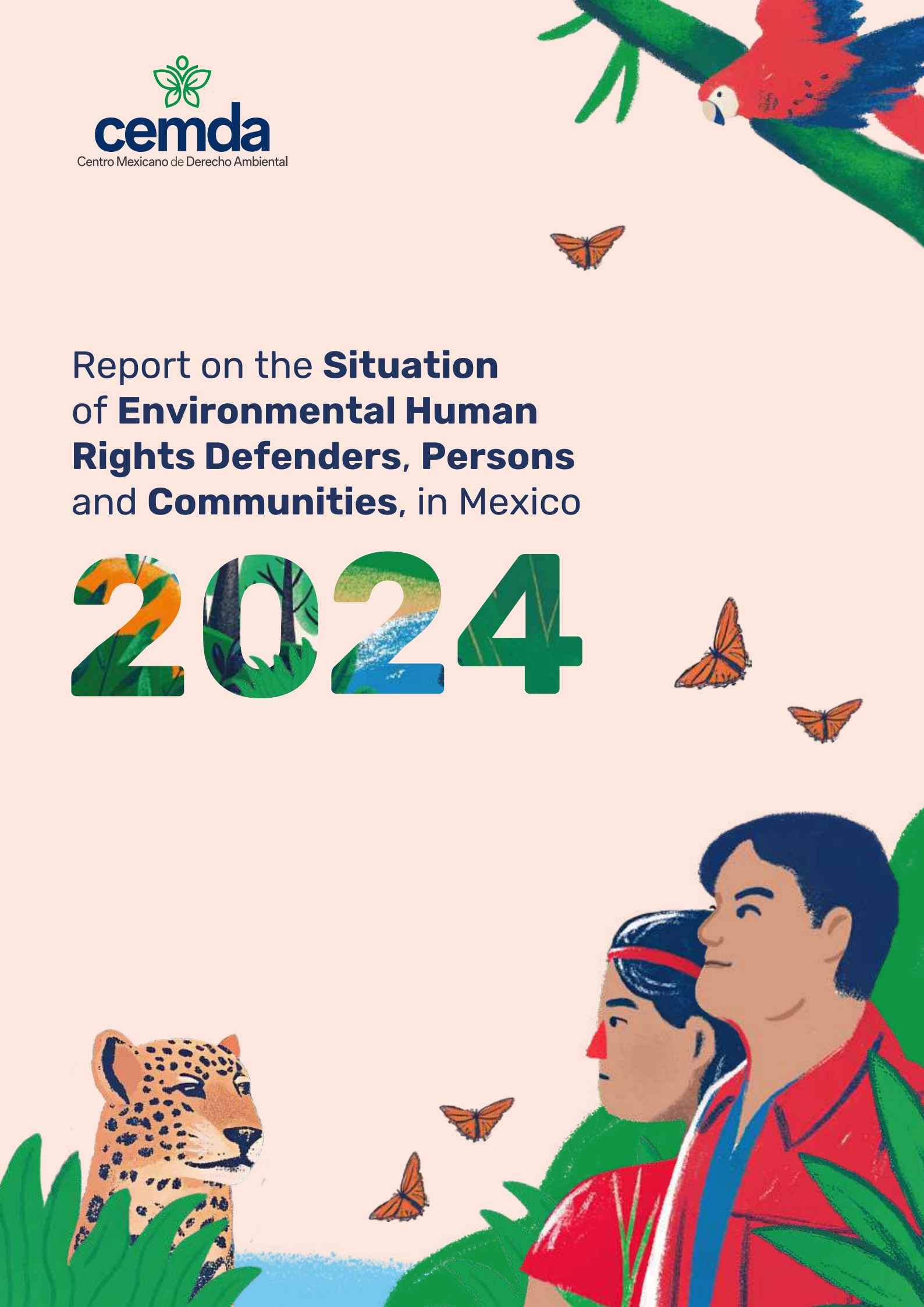


Report on the **Situation**
of **Environmental Human**
Rights Defenders, Persons
and **Communities**, in Mexico

2024



Report on the **Situation**
of **Environmental Human**
Rights Defenders, Persons
and **Communities**, in Mexico

2024



Research and copy editing:

Itzel Arteaga San German
Oriana Guadalupe Flores Castro
Alicia Mariana Sanchez Rodriguez
Juan Carlos Lara Delgadillo
Alberto Alarcon Gomez
Felix Barahona Cordova
Gerardo Alvarez Armenta
Felipe Romero Bartolo

Proofreading:

Gustavo Alanís Ortega
Margarita Campuzano
Carlos R. Asunsolo Morales
Úrsula Garzón Aragón

Coordination:

Felipe Romero Bartolo

Contents



1. Introduction	5
2. Methodology	7
3. Agresions against environmental human rights defenders, persons and communities, in Mexico documented in the year 2024	11
3.1 Specific events of aggression and aggressions	12
3.2 Aggressions by state	14
3.1.2 Lethal aggression	15
3.1.4 Criminalization	23
4. Victims	29
4.1 Age, sex, and gender of victims	30
4.2 Elements of victims' cultural identity	31
5. Perpetrators	35
6. Context of aggressions in Mexico	39
6.1 Sectors and types of projects where aggressions occurred	39
6.2 Large-scale infrastructure projects with the most aggressions	41
7. Evolution of aggressions in the last 5 years	45
Victims 2020 - 2024	46
Perpetrators 2020 - 2024	46
Sectors 2020 - 2024	46
8. Justice for victims of attacks and implementation of the Escazú Agreement	49
9. Mechanisms and legislation for the protection of human rights defenders in Mexico	55
10. Conclusions and recommendations	59
11. Bibliography	65
12. Annex	71





1. Introduction

The last report, for 2023, by the international organization Global Witness ranks Mexico fourth in the world in killings of defenders of the environment.¹ According to the Mexico Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, between 2019 and 2023, 138 defenders and journalists were killed in Mexico.² For their part, the federal authorities do not have disaggregated information³.

In this context, Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental, A.C. (CEMDA), an organization which, in the course of 30 years working for the defense and protection of the environment, monitors, documents, and analyzes aggressions against human rights defenders, persons and communities in Mexico.

With more than ten years' experience in documenting cases of aggression, CEMDA presents its eleventh *Report on the Situation of Environmental Human Rights Defenders, Persons and Communities in Mexico*, covering the period from January to December 2024.

Twenty twenty-four was another very violent year for environmental human rights defenders, persons and communities. We observed a high number of homicides; criminalization against defenders; and multiple aggressions related to the right to protest, such as intimidation, harassment, and threat, among others.

Once more this year, we noticed that the defenders most targeted by aggressions were members of a community, either indigenous or agrarian. The sectors in which such aggressions occurred most frequently were farming, means of communication, and forestry.

Finally, a significant number of aggressions were noteworthy for the involvement of private companies, organized crime groups, and authorities in different branches of government.

In this context, from CEMDA we acknowledge the admirable efforts undertaken by defenders of environmental rights and territory, persons and communities, emphasizing the resistance they have shown to continue defending their rights and their biodiverse territories, even under such adverse conditions.

As in other parts of Latin America, Mexico is home to various vigorous processes of collective struggle and resistance in defense of territory. We bear witness to numerous stories of resistance, in which communities, through organizing, care for and defend land, territory, and life.

This report seeks to generate, based on the data collected, a reflection on the need to continue to demand protection, respect, and assurance of environmental

¹ Global Witness. *Voces silenciadas*. September 10, 2024. See at: <https://www.globalwitness.org/es/missing-voices-es/>

² OHCHR Mexico, *Buenas prácticas y desafíos en la investigación de delitos cometidos contra personas defensoras de derechos humanos y periodistas*, 2023.

³ Requests for public information folios 330026224002197 and 331009724000054.

human rights, taking into account that such rights, being collective, require collective defense. The work of defenders, persons and communities, their resistance and resilience, and collective reflection, give us hope for a country where defending human rights is a task that can be performed in a safe and enabling environment.

Finally, we want to thank all the collectives, organizations, and defenders for their confidence in sharing valuable information with us on events, aggressions, and the local settings in which they perform their work in defense of the environment, land, and territory. Without their support, this report would not have been possible.

2. Methodology

The *Report on the Situation of Environmental Human Rights Defenders, Persons and Communities, in Mexico, 2024*, aims to raise awareness of the structural violence that defenders of environment and territory suffer, emphasize the importance of their work, vindicate the memory of those who have lost their lives on account of their defense activities, and offer recommendations directed to the different institutions based on the data analyzed.

In preparing this report, CEMDA relied on the *Guide to Documenting Incidents of Attacks against Persons and Communities* which is an internal methodological document that permits systematization and objective analysis of facts and data. Concepts that may prove helpful to better understand the document include the following:

- 📌 **Defender of environmental human rights and territory:** Person who, collectively or individually, acts in favor of the environment and/or land and territory.
- 📌 **Event of aggression:** Time in which one or more aggressions, against one or more victims, occur.
- 📌 **Specific aggression:** Specific conduct that fits the definition of a particular type of aggression.

In the period from January 1 through December 31, 2024, the report documents 28 types of specific aggressions: gender violence, discrimination, homicide, extra-

judicial execution, torture/mistreatment, undue use of force, physical aggression, sexual aggression, threat, intimidation, harassment, criminalization, espionage, defamation, stigmatization, disappearance, forced disappearance, disappearance by non-government actors, kidnapping, arbitrary illegal detention, illegal detention, forced displacement, forced eviction, dispossession, breaking and entering, property damage, theft, and others.

The sources used to obtain the data contained in the report include newspaper archives, interviews, testimonies, information provided by other organizations and defenders, and public information obtained through the National Transparency Platform, among others.

The process of documentation can be summarized as follows:

- 📌 Search for public information in newspaper articles.
- 📌 Analysis and collection of data on cases of possible events related to aggressions against defenders of environment and territory, persons and communities.
- 📌 Analysis, classification, and systematization of data based on the elements available in the Methodological guide: events of aggression, specific aggressions, state, type of victim, sectors, and perpetrators.
- 📌 Verification of data in various sources.

✔ Evaluation of each step for inclusion
in the report.

It is important to mention that, although CEMDA conducts a far-reaching search for information on aggressions against environmental defenders, persons and communities, the Report does not cover all aggressions that occur in Mexico.

Factors that explain this include lack of information on specific cases; non-pub-

lic or unverified information; impediments preventing direct or indirect victims from sharing their information for reasons of safety; invisibilization of defense work; and lack of journalistic interest by regions in human rights issues, among others. In this sense, it is important to note that the report is not limiting regarding the number of aggressions environmental human rights defenders, persons and communities, suffer.



3. Aggressions against environmental human rights defenders, persons and communities, in Mexico documented in the year 2024

In the year 2018, the Report by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, relating to its mission to Mexico, found that human rights violations continued to be widespread phenomena and posed a particularly high risk to human rights defenders.⁴

The present context has not changed significantly and attacks against environmental human rights defenders, persons and communities, represent a serious problem in Mexico that shows no signs of abating. **In the last 10 years, we have documented 189 lethal aggressions** against defenders of environment, land, and territory.⁵

These data reflect the severity of the situation of violence against environmental human rights defenders in our country and the urgent need to guaran-

tee safe and enabling environments for defenders in environmental matters, persons and communities, to perform their work, as provided in Article 9 of the *Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean* (Escazú Agreement).

Article 9

Human rights defenders in environmental matters

1. Each Party shall guarantee a safe and enabling environment for persons, groups and organizations that promote and defend human rights in environmental matters, so that they are able to act free from threat, restriction and insecurity.

⁴ CDH, *Informe del Relator Especial sobre la situación de los defensores de los derechos humanos relativo a su misión a México*, 37th period of sessions, A/HRC/37/51/Add.2, 12 de febrero de 2018. See en: https://hchr.org.mx/relatorias_grupos/informe-del-relator-especial-de-la-onu-sobre-la-situacion-de-los-defensores-de-los-derechos-humanos-acerca-de-su-mision-a-mexico/

⁵ 2015 through 2024.

2. Each Party shall take adequate and effective measures to recognize, protect and promote all the rights of human rights defenders in environmental matters, including their right to life, personal integrity, freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association, and free movement, as well as their ability to exercise their access rights, taking into account its international obligations in the field of human rights, its constitutional principles and the basic concepts of its legal system.

3. Each Party shall also take appropriate, effective and timely measures to prevent, investigate and punish attacks, threats or intimidations that human rights defenders in environmental matters may

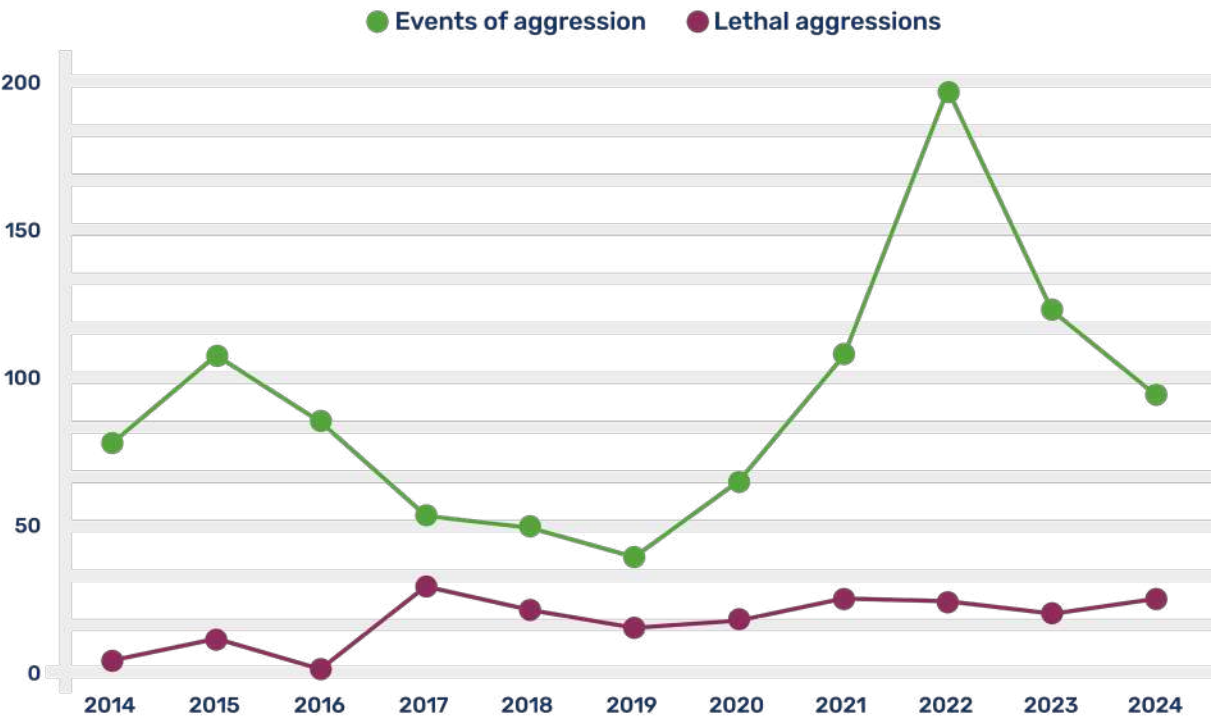
suffer while exercising the rights set out in the present Agreement.

3.1 Events of aggression and specific aggressions

In the year 2024 **94 events of aggression** were documented, **with 236 specific aggressions and 25 lethal aggressions**. It bears recalling that, as mentioned in the section on methodology, different specific aggressions may be committed in the same event of aggression.

The above figures show a drop in the number of aggressions from 2023, when 123 events and 282 specific aggressions were documented. However, lethal aggressions rose from 20 to 25 in 2024.

Graph 1. Comparative table of events of aggression and lethal aggressions from 2014 to 2024





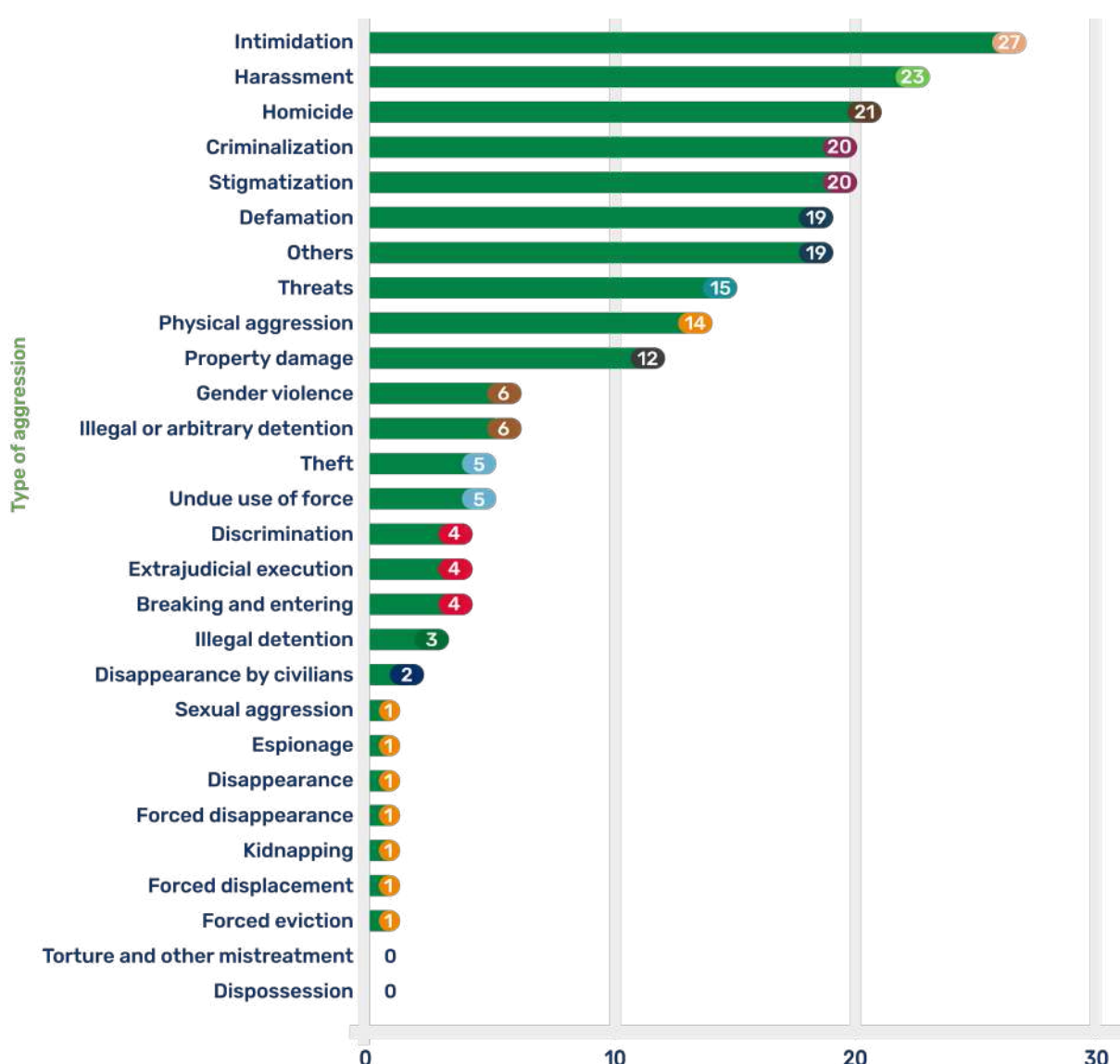
The types of specific aggression documented most in the year include: intimidation (27), harassment (23), homicide (21), stigmatization (20), criminalization (20), and defamation (19).

The high number of reports of aggressions such as intimidation, harassment, stigmatization, and defamation responds

to the fact that the search for information and analysis of data found that such cases were related to repression of persons exercising the right to protest.

In relation to serious aggressions committed against defenders of environment and territory, 4 cases of disappearance were documented in 2024.⁶

Graph 2. Types of aggressions documented in 2024



⁶ In the methodology of this Report, we identify three types of disappearance: general, in which the perpetrator cannot be determined, and for which, in 2024 1 victim was documented; forced disappearance, committed by an authority, for which 1 victim was reported; and disappearance perpetrated by non-government actors, for which 2 victims were documented.

3.2 Aggressions by state

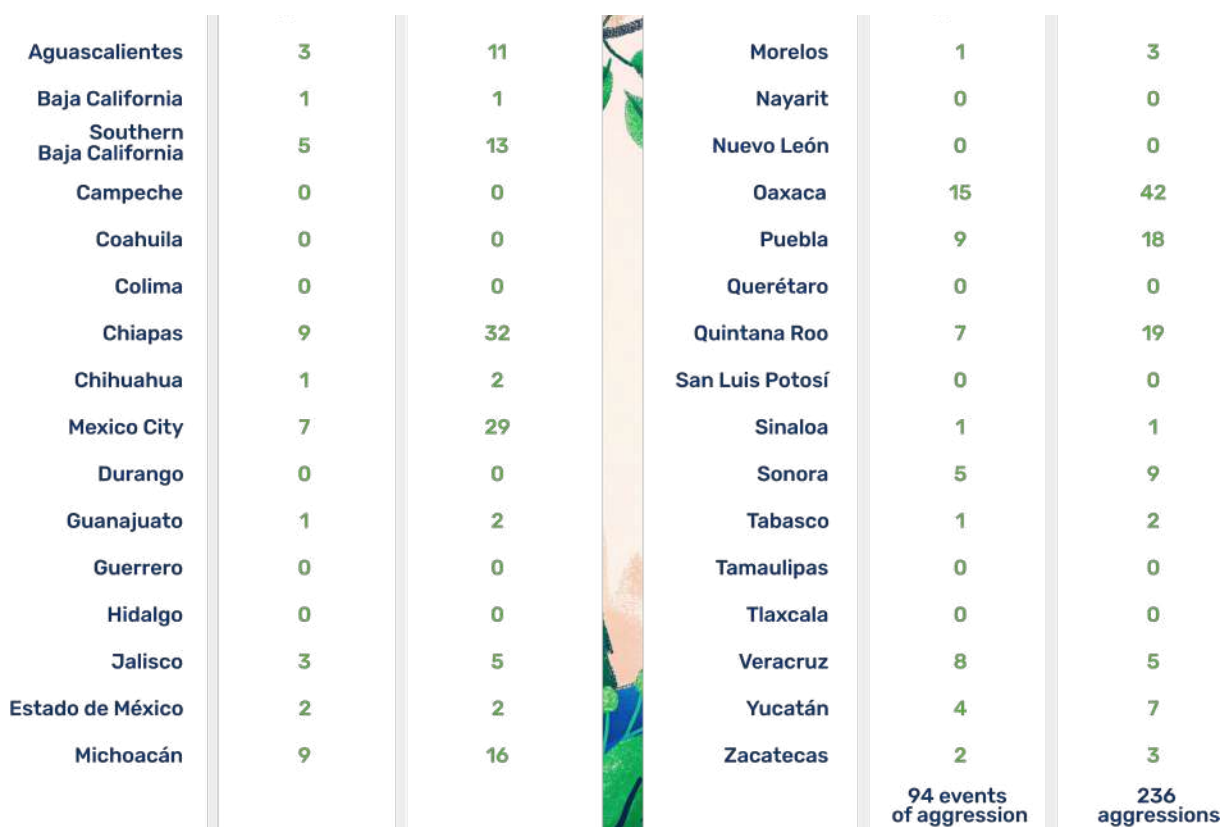
In 2024, the states reporting the most events of aggression were: Oaxaca (15), Chiapas (9), Michoacán (9), Puebla (9), and Veracruz (8). Fifty of 94 documented events of aggression, equal to 53.1%, occurred in these five states. Also, in the same states, there were 127 documented specific aggressions of a total of 236 documented, which represents 53.8%.

Other states with high indices of events of aggressions were Quintana Roo (7), Mexico City (7), Sonora (5), and Baja California Sur (5). The case of Baja California Sur, with 5 events of aggression and 13 specific aggressions, is noteworthy, given that in the last 10 years 6 events

of aggression in total have been documented, while the state almost equaled that number in 2024 alone.

The fact that some states do not show reports of aggressions should not be construed as meaning that defenders, persons and communities, are not at risk on account of their work; rather, in some states human rights defense work is not publicized, or aggressions are documented as cases of common crime, without considering the context of the defender, person or community, targeted. The climate of risk in which journalists operate in different parts of the country, among other factors, may have even influenced the number of reports of aggressions we received for this report.

Graph 3. Number of aggression events and specific aggressions by federal entity in 2024





3.1.2 Lethal aggressions

In 2024, at least 25 defenders of environment and territory lost their lives on account of their work. There were 21 victims of homicide and 4 victims of extrajudicial execution reported.

Compared with previous years, this figure of 25 ranks as the second highest in the last 10 years. The same number was reported in 2021 and was exceeded only in the year 2017 when 29 victims of lethal aggression were reported.

With these cases, we can see that in 2024, although the number of total aggressions fell, regrettably, cases of lethal aggression increased. Last year, some extremely valuable people who were involved in defense of the environment and preservation of common territories and natural resources lost their lives. As in every report, we acknowledge them and honor their lives and struggles.

The implementation and enforcement of prevention and response measures is urgent, while mechanisms are developed



It bears noting that, based on the methodology used in this report, homicide is recorded as the loss of a person's life during an aggression. The difference with extrajudicial execution lies in that the killing is perpetrated by an agent of the state or another person acting under their command, on their orders, or with their acquiescence.

Homicides:

1. Carmen Lopez Lugo (Chiapas)

Carmen was a member of the Chol indigenous community of Tila and a member of the National Indigenous Council, and served on the oversight board of Tila Ejido, in Chiapas. She was highly participative as a defender in the struggle for restitution of the ejido's territory against dispossession.⁷ On the night of January 12, 2024, Carmen Lopez Lugo was killed by members of an organized criminal group using weapons reserved for exclusive use by the Mexican Army.⁸

The generalized context of violence and the presence of organized criminal groups in Chiapas has produced killings, forced displacements, and dispossession, among many other aggressions in indigenous communities. In different spaces, observers have described events in the state as a humanitarian crisis.⁹ In this situation, indigenous communities have continued to resist and defend their land and territory. As part of their struggles, the defense of their territories

⁷ Este País, *Paramilitarismo y crimen organizado: la guerra contra el Ejido Tila*, January 25, 2024. See at: https://estepais.com/tendencias_y_opiniones/guerra-contra-el-ejido-tila/

⁸ Desinformémonos, *Asesinan a Carmen López, integrante del CNI en Tila*, January 15, 2024. See at: <https://desinformemonos.org/asesinan-a-carmen-lopez-integrante-del-cni-en-tila/>

⁹ IWGIA, *Emergencia humanitaria en Chiapas*, July 16, 2024. See at: <https://iwgia.org/es/noticias/5548-emergencia-humanitaria-en-chiapas.html>



Ignacio López, Isidra Sosme Temich

is fundamental from an environmental perspective due to the violence employed to support the imposition of large-scale infrastructure projects.

2. Javier Ochoa Tejeda (Veracruz)

Javier was an activist who led environmental defense against a sanitary landfill at Paso de Ovejas, in Veracruz, jointly with other inhabitants of the village of Palmaritos, in the same state. In addition to taking part in protests against the landfill, Javier also opposed the construction of a poultry farm in Tierra Colorada, Veracruz. Both projects, Javier argued, would cause environmental harm and health hazards for the people living in the areas surrounding the intended sites.

On February 13, 10 men seized Javier, and his body was found hours later.¹⁰ Before

his murder, Javier and other residents of Palmaritos had received death threats as a result of their environmental defense work; also, several aggressions related to the proposed landfill project in the region have been documented.

3. Jose Angel Pelcastre, Ventura Ojeda, and Florentino Castro (Puebla)

Jose Angel, Ventura, and Florentino were members of the San Andres Hueyecatitla ejido, in Puebla. All three worked as forest rangers in the area of Hueyecatitla forest, on the lower slopes of the Iztaccihuatl volcano.

On February 25, 2024, when the defenders were digging a ditch to block passage of vehicles operated by illegal loggers operating in the area, they were killed, presumably by armed loggers.¹¹

¹⁰ Diario de Xalapa, *Activista asesinado en Paso de Ovejas estaba en contra de un relleno sanitario*, February 14, 2024. See at: <https://oem.com.mx/diariodexalapa/policiaca/activista-javier-ochoa-asesinado-en-paso-de-ovejas-estaba-en-contra-de-un-relleno-sanitario-en-palmeritos-13437099>

¹¹ La Jornada de Oriente, *Asesinan a tres guardabosques de El Verde que cavaban una zanja para evitar el paso de talamontes*, February 25, 2024. See at: <https://www.lajornadadeoriente.com.mx/puebla/asesinan-a-tres-guardabosques-de-el-verde/>



In the same event of aggression, another ranger was wounded and managed to survive.¹²

A lack of forest supervision by the authorities, added to omission in implementing comprehensive policies to stop illegal logging, drives members of communities or ejidos near the forests to take the initiative in protection and defense of the region's forests, which puts them in a situation of high risk to their life and safety.

4. Ignacio Lopez, Isidra Sosme Temich, Rosalinda Lopez, Alfonso Lopez, Teresita de Jesus Arrazate Gonzalez, Yohari Belen, Dolores Arrazate Cordova, and other unidentified persons (Chiapas)

Ignacio and members of his family were members of the Nuevo Morelia ejido in Chicomuselo, Chiapas. Ignacio was a catechist in the Diocese of San Cristobal de las Casas in Chiapas and candidate for deacon. Another member of the family was a member of the Catholic church.

On land belonging to the Nuevo Morelia ejido there is a barite mine named La Revancha, formerly operated by a foreign company and shut down by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (Spanish acronym Profepa) following the killing of Mariano Abarca, an environmental defender, in 2009.¹³

In 2023, armed men claiming to belong to a criminal organization, entered an ejido assembly and announced their intentions to extract barite from the La Revancha mine.

Due to the illegal operation of the mine, the ore extracted and the lands belonging to the Nuevo Morelia ejido have been the object of a dispute between two criminal organizations, which, added to the persistent violence in the region, has caused a mass displacement of residents from Chicomuselo, with estimates reporting around 2,300 displaced persons originating in 20 different communities.¹⁴

In May 2024, the criminal organizations operating in the region had been harassing the residents of Nuevo Morelia with various acts of intimidation and cutting off utilities such as water, electricity, and internet service, and violent clashes between the groups had been reported.

Ignacio was known for his outspoken opposition to the violent practices employed by criminal groups in the area. He and his family resisted pressure to cooperate with organized crime and continued to protect their land.

In the afternoon of May 12, 2024, Ignacio and his family were at home when they were directly attacked by members of a criminal organization, who murdered Ignacio and 10 members of his family. Following the killings, it bears noting that the assailants set fire to the vic-

¹² EDUCA, *Talamontes asesinan a tres guardabosques en las faldas del Iztaccíhuatl, Puebla*, February 27, 2024. Available at: <https://www.educaoxaca.org/talamontes-asesinan-a-tres-guardabosques-en-las-faldas-del-iztaccihuatl-puebla/>

¹³ OMCT, *Asesinato del Sr. Mariano Abarca Roblero*, December 4, 2009. See at: <https://www.omct.org/es/recursos/llamamientos-urgentes/assassination-of-mr-mariano-abarca-roblero>

¹⁴ Animal Político, *Explotación ilegal de una mina está detrás de los enfrentamientos en Chicomuselo, Chiapas, denuncian pobladores*, January 24, 2024. See at: <https://animalpolitico.com/estados/chicomuselo-mina-ilegal-violencia>

tims' bodies, which is seen as degrading treatment and a *post mortem* assault on the victims' dignity.¹⁵

5. Minerva Parez Castro (Baja California)

Minerva was a businesswoman and president of the National Fishing Industry Chamber in Baja California, whose company was devoted to the clam fishery. Minerva distinguished herself by doing business with a strong focus on ethics and respect for legality, operating in full compliance with environmental guidelines and ordinances.

In a context where problems due to illegal fishing have not been adequately addressed by the authorities, Minerva put her commitment to environmental care in practice by promoting sustainable fishing and through actions of public reporting of illegal practices in the region. Such actions made her a target for various acts of threats and extortion.

Minerva was killed on July 8, 2024, as she was leaving her place of business in her automobile. She was directly attacked by three armed men.¹⁶

6. Antonio Regis Nicolas (Michoacan)

Antonio was a Nahua indigenous leader and human rights defender from the

community of Santa María Ostula. His activities focused on protecting the community and its territory in the face of threats of dispossession and exploitation of natural resources from different organized crime groups.

The Nahua indigenous community of Santa Maria Ostula comprises 24 communities located in the coastal and mountain region of Michoacan state.¹⁷ For several years the community has engaged in intense work in defense of its autonomy, self-determination, and territory, despite the risks they face, for which they have endured multiple attacks including threats, intimidation, homicides, and disappearances, among others.

On the evening of May 7, Antonio was on his way home accompanied by his wife and two-year old son -after taking his son for emergency medical care- when he was accosted by armed individuals in military dress. The assailants separated Antonio from his family, and on confirming that he was a resident of Santa María Ostula, murdered him.¹⁸

7. Marcelo Perez Perez (Chiapas)

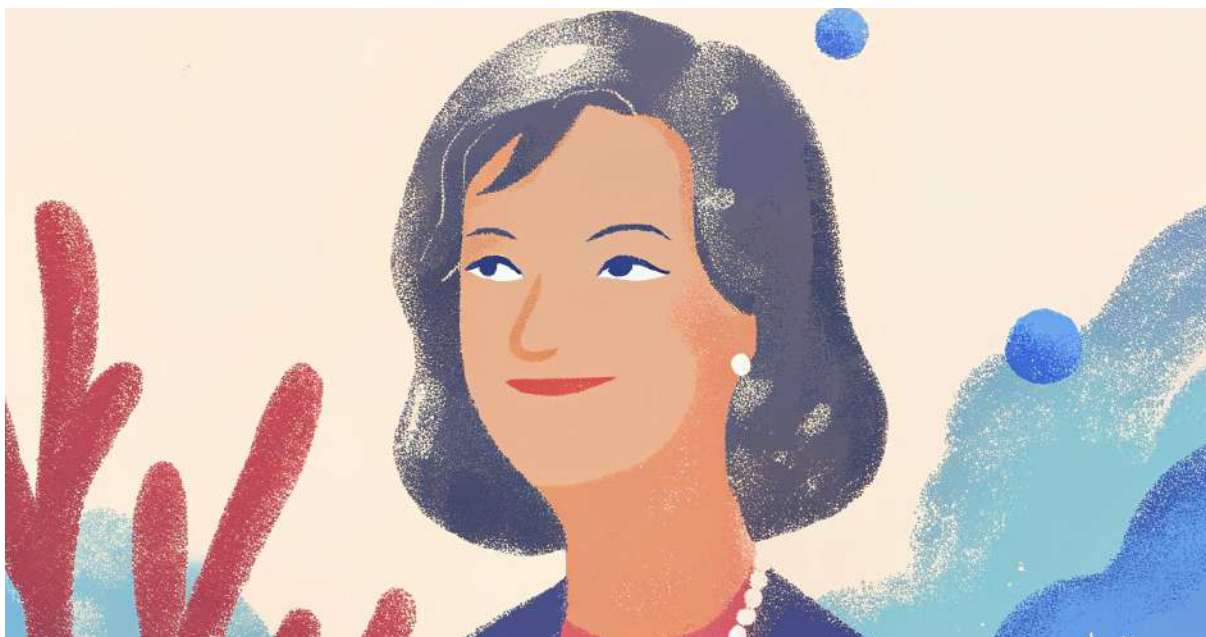
Marcelo Perez Perez was a priest of Tzotzil origin, born in San Andres Larrainzar, in the state of Chiapas. Marcelo's father dedicated his life to the promotion of justice and collective rights, defending

¹⁵ Aristegui Noticias, *En Chiapas: enfrentamiento deja 11 muertos confirma la FGE*, May 14, 2024. See at: <https://aristeguinoticias.com/1405/mexico/en-chiapas-enfrentamiento-deja-11-muertos-confirma-la-fge/>

¹⁶ El País, *Asesinada la presidenta de la Cámara Nacional de la Industria Pesquera en Baja California tras denunciar a las mafias de la pesca ilegal*, July 10, 2024. See at: <https://elpais.com/mexico/2024-07-10/asesinada-la-presidenta-de-la-camara-nacional-de-las-industrias-pesquera-en-baja-california-tras-denunciar-a-las-mafias-de-la-pesca-ilegal.html>

¹⁷ Front Line Defenders, *Comunidad indígena nahua de Santa María Ostula*. See at: <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/es/organization/comunidad-indigena-nahua-de-santa-maria-ostula>

¹⁸ Front Line Defenders, *Asesinato del defensor de derechos humanos Antonio Regis Nicolás de la comunidad de Santa María Ostula*, May 24, 2024. See at: <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/es/case/killing-human-rights-defender-antonio-regis-nicolas-community-santa-maria-ostula>



Minerva Pérez Castro

the most vulnerable and the environment.¹⁹ He was a defender of territory and founder of the Movement in Defense of Life and Territory (Modevite) and the Indigenous Movement of Believers in Defense of Life and Territory (Zodevite),²⁰ including defense against large-scale infrastructure projects.²¹

Marcelo also repeatedly denounced the violence endured by communities in the region due to the presence of organized crime groups, and omissions or collusion by authorities with such groups.

His work in defense of human rights and commons made Father Marcelo a visible and recognized figure not only in

Chiapas but also nationwide. As a result of his work, Father Marcelo was the target of various death threats at different times in his life, because of which he was granted the benefit of protective measures ordered by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights starting in the year 2015.²²

On October 20, 2024, he was riding in his personal automobile after celebrating mass at the parish of Cuxitali, when armed individuals, presumably belonging to an organized crime group, intercepted and killed him.²³

International organizations such as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

¹⁹ El País, *Marcelo Pérez: su vida y legado*, October 22, 2024. See at: <https://elpais.com/mexico/opinion/2024-10-22/marcelo-perez-su-vida-y-legado.html?outputType=amp>

²⁰ WRI, *WRI México lamenta el fallecimiento de Marcelo Pérez, defensor del medio ambiente y los derechos humanos*, October 22, 2024. See at: <https://es.wri.org/noticias/wri-mexico-lamenta-el-fallecimiento-de-marcelo-perez-defensor-del-medio-ambiente-y-los>

²¹ FIDH, *México: Asesinato del Padre Marcelo Pérez Pérez*, November 8, 2024. See at: <https://www.fidh.org/es/temas/defensores-de-derechos-humanos/mexico-asesinato-del-padre-marcelo-perez-perez>

²² CIDH, *CIDH condena asesinato del Padre Marcelo Pérez Pérez, beneficiario de medidas cautelares en México*, October 24, 2024. See at: https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2024/260.asp&utm_content=country-mex&utm_term=-class-mon

²³ Infobae, *Quién era Marcelo Pérez, el sacerdote tzotzil víctima de la violencia en Chiapas*, October 21, 2024. See at: <https://www.infobae.com/mexico/2024/10/21/quien-era-marcelo-perez-el-sacerdote-tzotzil-victima-de-la-violencia-en-chiapas/>

and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights have issued statements condemning the crime and urging the Mexican authorities to conduct a prompt, exhaustive, and effective investigation of Father Marcelo's killing.²⁴ The Chiapas Attorney General's Office reported on the detention of the alleged perpetrator of Marcelo's homicide just a few days after the crime was committed.²⁵

8. Abraham Alejandro Gobel Gomez (Jalisco)

Abraham Alejandro was one of the activists who led protests against the automobile emissions testing program in Jalisco, in favor of better air quality. He was part of the group *Colectivo Afinación Sí Verificación NO* (ASVN) (Collective Tuneups YES, Emissions testing NO) and the Association of Garages for Vehicle Emissions and Repairs (Spanish acronym Atervac). Abraham Alejandro had worked in environmental defense for more than a decade and opposed the mechanism of vehicle emissions testing on the grounds that it was a revenue-generating measure that did not reflect a real environmental initiative.

Abraham argued that the emissions testing program and related campaigns made

no difference in environmental degradation due to pollution, and proposed expanding actions to effectively address the issue.²⁶

On the afternoon of November 4, 2024, Abraham Alejandro went to the place agreed on with people supposedly interested in buying his motorcycle; however, those individuals attacked him directly with a firearm, shooting him 12 times.²⁷ The assailants fled the scene without taking any of Abraham Alejandro's belongings. Several local organizations affirmed that the motive for the defender's killing was his environmental defense work.²⁸

9. Marcos Sanchez Perea (Puebla)

Marcos was president of the Commissariat of San Andres Hueyacatitla Ejido and a recognized defender of forests in Puebla. On November 27, 2024, Marcos was on his way to ejido assembly, in the municipality of San Salvador El Verde, when he was murdered while riding in his personal vehicle.²⁹

According to the Puebla State Attorney General's Office,³⁰ Marcos's killing is re-

²⁴ OHCHR Mexico, *ONU-DH insta a investigar el asesinato del sacerdote y defensor indígena de los derechos humanos, Marcelo Pérez Pérez*, October 20, 2024. See at: <https://hchr.org.mx/comunicados/onu-dh-insta-a-investigar-el-asesinato-del-sacerdote-y-defensor-indigena-de-los-derechos-humanos-marcelo-perez-perez/#:~:text=Desde%202021%2C%20el%20Padre%20Marcelo,tambi%C3%A9n%20defensor%20de%20derechos%20humanos>.

²⁵ BBC News, *Detienen en México al presunto asesino de Marcelo Pérez, el sacerdote que se enfrentó a las bandas criminales de Chiapas*, October 23, 2024. See at: <https://www.bbc.com/mundo/articles/c39nk17x4vwo>

²⁶ Mexican Federal Congress, House of Deputies, *Proposición con punto de acuerdo, para exhortar a la Fiscalía General de Jalisco a atender y esclarecer el asesinato de Alejandro Gobel*, November 12, 2024. See at: http://sil.gobernacion.gob.mx/Archivos/Documentos/2024/11/asun_4801034_20241112_1731437827.pdf

²⁷ Desinformémonos, *Exigen justicia para Alejandro Gobel, defensor asesinado en Guadalajara*, November 5, 2024. See at: <https://desinformemos.org/exigen-justicia-para-alejandro-gobel-defensor-asesinado-en-guadalajara/>

²⁸ MURAL, *Rechazan defensores que activista fuera asesinado en robo*, November 5, 2024. See at: <https://www.mural.com.mx/rechazan-defensores-que-activista-fuera-asesinado-en-robo/ar2902149>

²⁹ NMAS, *Asesinan a Balazos a Presidente del Comisariado Minutos Antes de Acudir a una Asamblea Ejidal*. See at: <https://www.nmas.com.mx/puebla/asesinan-a-balazos-a-presidente-del-comisariado-ejidal-de-hueyacatitla-en-san-salvador-el-verde/>

³⁰ La Jornada de Oriente, *Asesinato de Comisario Ejidal de Hueyacatitla estaría relacionado con homicidio de un guardabosques*. See at: <https://www.lajornadadeoriente.com.mx/puebla/el-asesinato-del-comisario-ejidal-de-hueyacatitla-estaria-relacionado-con-los-de-guardabosques-de-la-misma-zona/>



Marcelo Pérez Pérez

lated to another of the cases of homicide documented in this report: that of forest rangers Jose Angel Pelcastre, Ventura Ojeda, and Florentino Castro, fellow residents of San Andrés Hueyacatitla Ejido, Puebla, who were also también defenders of forests, and like Marcos had clashed with loggers operating illegally in the area.

The fact that four homicides were committed against members of San Andres Hueyacatitla Ejido in less than a year underscores the high risk defenders of forests face in that part of Puebla state.

Extrajudicial executions:

1. Alberto Cortina Vasquez and Jorge Cortina Vasquez (Veracruz)

The brothers Alberto, age 29, and Jorge, age 37, were defenders of water in their

community, San Antonio Limon Totalco, Perote, Veracruz. They were working men, husbands, and fathers, and took part in actions in defense of water in their community.

The Movement in Defense of Water in the Libres - Oriental Basin had been organizing various acts of protest in the Libres - Oriental Basin Region (between the states of Puebla and Veracruz) in opposition to appropriation of water, use of hail cannons, and pollution caused by several hog farms. On June 6 they organized a sit-in outside a hog farm in the community of Totalco and on June 20 they protested by blocking roads and access to the farm.

In response to the protests, the state government sent law enforcement officers, who repressed the protesters, pursued people to their homes, entered homes, fired guns, beat people, and arbitrarily detained several members of the movement.



Adriana Ortiz García

When law enforcement opened fire on the protesters, Jorge and Alberto attempted to flee to safety in a tractor, but they were pursued and murdered by members of the Veracruz state police.³¹ The brothers' deaths had a profound impact on their wives and children, leaving six orphans in total and causing the death of their father, who, on learning of his sons' killings, suffered a fatal heart attack.³²

On June 24, the Veracruz state government reported the disappearance of the Civil Guard.³³

2. Adriana Ortiz Garcia and Virginia Ortiz Garcia (Oaxaca)

Adriana and Virginia were Triqui indigenous women born in San Juan Copala,

Oaxaca, and were defenders of land and territory. They were part of the Triqui Unification and Struggle Movement, which denounces dispossession of territory and natural resources to the detriment of Oaxaca's Triqui communities.

In the early morning of November 6, 2024, Adriana and Virginia Ortiz Garcia were in the Oaxaca City historic district when as they were getting out of a taxi, two individuals attacked them with firearms and killed them.³⁴ The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders considered it necessary to consider as a hypothesis that the motive for the killing was as reprisal for their work in defense of human and environmental rights.³⁵

The Oaxaca State Attorney General's Office announced in a press release that,

³¹ Diario de Xalapa, "Policías llegaron como sicarios"; velan en Totalco a manifestantes asesinados, June 21, 2024. See at: <https://oem.com.mx/diariodexalapa/local/velan-en-totalco-a-manifestantes-asesinados-y-mantienen-bloqueo-en-la-carretera-veracruz-puebla-13447735>

³² La Jornada de Oriente, *Tres muertos e incontables heridos, el saldo del violento desalojo de la Fuerza Civil al plantón frente a Granjas Carroll*, June 20, 2024. See at: <https://www.lajornadadeoriente.com.mx/puebla/policias-veracruzanos-desalojan-a-campesinos-poblanos-que-mantenian-planton-frente-a-granjas-carroll/>

³³ Gobierno del Estado de Veracruz, *Gobierno desaparece a la Fuerza Civil y verificará nuevamente a Granjas Carroll*, June 24, 2024. See at: <https://www.veracruz.gob.mx/2024/06/24/gobierno-desaparece-a-la-fuerza-civil-y-verificara-nuevamente-a-granjas-carroll/>

³⁴ La Razón, *Asesinan a dos hermanas de activista triqui*, November 7, 2024. See at: <https://www.razon.com.mx/estados/2024/11/07/asesinan-a-dos-hermanas-de-activista-triqui/>

³⁵ OMCT, *México: Asesinato de Adriana y Virginia Ortiz García*, November 27, 2024. See at: <https://www.omct.org/es/recursos/llamamientos-urgentes/m%C3%A9xico-asesinato-de-adriana-y-virginia-ortiz-garc%C3%ADa>



based on its investigations related to the case of Adriana and Virginia, it had confirmed that one of the suspects identified in the sisters' murder was an active officer of the State Police under the command of the State Department of Security and Citizen Protection,³⁶ for which reason the case is treated as a probable extrajudicial execution.

3.1.4 Criminalization

Criminalization consists of the use of criminal law and other punitive forms of the law to hinder or impede the work of human rights defenders.

This form of aggression accounts for a large number of reports in 2024, with 20 events of aggression in the year and a total of 77 defenders of environment and territory criminalized. Of the total, 28 are men, 13 are women, and in 36 cases no information was available on the victims' sex and gender.

Most events of criminalization were perpetrated against persons in communities, with 61 victims; next were ejido residents, with 11 victims; advocates, with 4 victims; and 1 case of criminalization involving a member of a civil society organization.

Criminalization has emerged as **the most widely used mechanism in Mexico**, mostly by agents of the state and businesses, to hinder or impede efforts in

defense of environmental human rights and interrupt leadership processes in communities, or even disintegrate them.

Recently, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor, expressed her concern regarding the criminalization of human rights defenders in Mexico, placing emphasis on those who, in addition to their defense work, pertain to an indigenous population:

"It alarms me that numerous indigenous human rights defenders not only have been criminalized for their peaceful and legitimate activities, but also have been subjected to excessively long prison sentences or prolonged pretrial detention, with the apparent intention of preventing them from continuing their work in favor of human rights.

(...)

*Therefore, the impact of their criminalization and prolonged imprisonment goes far beyond the harm they endure as individuals and negatively impacts their communities."*³⁷

In the year 2024, criminalization of defenders was also accompanied by other aggressions, including defamation, stigmatization, undue use of force, theft, threat, and physical aggression. Some exemplificative cases of criminalization occurred in the context of the implementation of real estate projects, the Isthmus of Tehuantepec Interoceanic Corridor, hog farms, and forestry activities.

³⁶ FGE Oaxaca, *Boletín de prensa. Investigaciones por homicidio de dos mujeres de origen triquí, revelan que persona detenida por el caso, es elemento de la Policía Estatal: Fiscalía de Oaxaca*, November 29, 2024. See at: <https://fge.oaxaca.gob.mx/index.php/archivos/noticias/boletin-1089-investigaciones-por-homicidio-de-dos-mujeres-de-origen-triqui-revelan-que-persona-detenido-por-el-caso-es-elemento-de-la-policia-estatal-fiscalia-de-oaxaca>

³⁷ OHCHR Mexico, *México: Experta de la ONU preocupada por criminalización, detenciones arbitrarias y largas condenas a defensores indígenas*, November 8, 2024. See at: <https://www.ohchr.org/es/press-releases/2024/11/mexico-un-expert-concerned-over-criminalisation-arbitrary-detention-and-long>

Criminalization against members of the Movement in Defense of Water in the Libres - Oriental Basin:

Since 1993, a company which primary activity is raising hogs for human consumption operates in Mexico. The company has several concessions in the states of Puebla and Veracruz. According to the Public Registry of Water Rights (Spanish acronym REPDA) of the National Water Commission (Spanish acronym Conagua), the company has 14 deeds of concession for 30 years, to exploit more than 2 million cubic meters of water, while peasant farmers and residents of both states lack water for their activities.³⁸

In 2024, members of the Movement in Defense of Water in the Libres - Oriental Basin reported that, as a result of protests conducted on the premises of a hog farm, some members of the movement had received summonses to appear before the Puebla State Attorney General's Office (Spanish acronym FGE). They included Renato Romero, one of the movement's leaders, who has affirmed that the company is making a concerted effort to criminalize defenders of water in the region.³⁹

As a result of his work with the movement, Renato has received judicial orders

to appear before the FGE three times. He has mentioned that other members of the movement have been criminalized, but does not know how many defenders have received summonses due to their participation in the protest against the hog farm.

Based on public information, a total of 9 members of the movement have been criminalized, among them, Maurilio Galeote, a recognized attorney and leader of the Cholultecas People's Movement for the defense of water, who participated in the protests against hog farms. Maurilio was summoned to appear before the Attorney General's Office when a criminal proceeding against him, initiated a decade ago, was reopened.⁴⁰

Pablo Andrei Zamudio

Pablo Andrei filed constitutional appeals (writs of *amparo*) against a tourist project in Cancun, Quintana Roo, claiming potential damage towards the environment, since the project, specifically, lacked authorization in the area of environmental impact. As a result, the federal courts ordered a suspension of its construction.

Pablo's work in defense of the environment has provoked several unjustified attacks. Among them, he has been targeted in civil lawsuits for nonpecuniary damages, and a criminal action before the federal Attorney General's Office on charges of allegedly having entered false

³⁸ EDUCA, *Pueblos de Veracruz y Puebla se unen a la lucha contra Granjas Carroll y se rebelan contra Conagua*, July 1, 2024. See at: <https://www.educaoxaca.org/pueblos-de-veracruz-y-puebla-se-unen-a-la-lucha-contr-granjas-carroll-y-se-rebelan-contr-conagua/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CDesde%20Xalapa%2C%20Veracruz%2C%20nos,de%20Iniciativas%20y%20Defensa%20Environmental>.

³⁹ La Jornada de Oriente, *"Granjas Carroll, empeñada en meternos a la cárcel", alerta el campesino Renato Romero, tras recibir tercer citatorio judicial*, August 25, 2024. See at: <https://www.lajornadadeoriente.com.mx/puebla/granjas-carroll-empenada-meternos-carcel-alerta-renato-romero/>.

⁴⁰ La Jornada de Oriente, *FGE amedrenta a líderes de organizaciones que apoyan movimiento de resistencia contra Granjas Carroll*, August 12, 2024. See at: <https://www.lajornadadeoriente.com.mx/puebla/fge-amedrenta-a-lideres-de-organizaciones-que-apoyan-movimiento-de-resistencia-contr-granjas-carroll/>.



facts in his constitutional actions. Also, he was forced to defend himself from another criminal action at the local level for the supposed crime of extortion, which led to his detention in Mexico City and subsequent internment at the Benito Juárez municipal jail in Cancun, Quintana Roo. He is presently free due to his innocence. All these legal attacks were launched as reprisals for his activism in defense of the environment.

In other aggressions against him, he mentions that he has suffered seizure of his real estate and freezes on his bank accounts, and he has been the victim of defamation campaigns on several news websites, among other attacks resulting from his struggle for the environment.

Isthmus of Tehuantepec Interoceanic Corridor (CIIT)

The Isthmus of Tehuantepec Interoceanic Corridor (Spanish acronym CIIT) project is a further example of how the defense of territory is criminalized. This massive infrastructure project has not respected various rights of communities in the region, such as the rights of access to information; participation; and prior, free, and informed consent.⁴¹

On January 27, 2024, nine defenders of territory in Santa María Mixtequilla were arbitrarily detained and charged with

the alleged theft of a municipal police squad car during protests organized by the community against the imposition of a pole of development.⁴²

Another case is that of David Hernández Salazar, a member of the Indigenous People's Assembly of the Isthmus in Defense of Land and Territory (Spanish acronym APIIDTT), a prominent community leader and representative of the Binnizá community in one of the constitutional actions brought against the construction of a pole of development in Puente Madera.

David was found guilty in the Salina Cruz Control Court on charges of attacking means of communication and damage due to fire. On February 7, 2024, he was sentenced to 46 years and 6 months in prison, a fine of 182,818 pesos, and payment of compensation for damages in the amount of 1,100,015 pesos.⁴³

In response to the disproportionate sentence and monetary penalties, various organizations spoke out in David's favor. On May 14, 2024, a Penal Chamber revoked his sentence, and also ordered the cessation of criminal prosecution against another 17 defenders from Puente de Madera.⁴⁴ In this case there are other examples of criminalization, dating from previous years, which even today remain unresolved, such as the case of the Mogone Viejo community.⁴⁵

⁴¹ Desinformémonos, *Corredor Interoceánico, otro megaproyecto sin consulta y sin beneficios para las comunidades*, February 20, 2021. See at: <https://desinformemonos.org/corredor-interoceanico-otro-megaproyecto-sin-consulta-y-sin-beneficios-para-las-comunidades/>

⁴² Red TDT, *Alto a las agresiones a las personas indígenas defensoras de la tierra y el territorio ante el Corredor Interoceánico*. See at: <https://redtdt.org.mx/archivos/18762>

⁴³ Front Line Defenders, *México: Dictan sentencia condenatoria contra defensor de derechos humanos David Hernández Salazar, integrante de la Asamblea de Pueblos Indígenas del Istmo en Defensa de la Tierra y el Territorio (APIIDTT)*, February 13, 2024. See at: <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/es/statement-report/mexico-sentence-against-human-rights-defender-david-hernandez-salazar>

⁴⁴ Front Line Defenders, *Revocan sentencia y absuelven a defensor del territorio David Hernández Salazar, integrante de la Asamblea de Pueblos Indígenas del Istmo en Defensa de la Tierra y el Territorio (APIIDTT)*, July 2, 2024. See at: <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/es/statement-report/sentence-revoked-and-acquittal-favour-land-and-human-rights-defender-david>

⁴⁵ Federación Anarquista, *Libres bajo proceso 6 detenidos en desalojo del campamento Tierra y Libertad, Mogoñé Viejo en el Istmo*. See at: <https://www.federacionanarquista.net/libres-bajo-proceso-6-detenidos-en-desalojo-del-campamento-tierra-y-libertad-mogone-viejo-en-el-istmo/>



Ventura Ojeda

Xochimilco

Hortensia Telesforo Jimenez, native of San Gregorio Atlapulco, is a defender of human rights and territory. She has implemented several projects in defense of water and the environment in her community.

One of Hortensia's activities was the recovery of a community library, among the agreements reached with the Mexico City government following protests against the construction of works by the Mexico City Water System given that, according to inhabitants of San Gregorio Atlapulco, the system would pollute the canals with raw sewage.

On August 2, 2024, Hortensia was notified that she was the subject of an ongoing investigation resulting from a complaint filed by the Xochimilco district authorities.⁴⁶ The hearing at which Hortensia was summoned to appear was scheduled for September 5, but when it was not held, supporters from her community protested peacefully on the public square outside the Xochimilco government offices.

The protest was attacked violently with armed force and beatings of protesters by a shock group, while local police on the scene stood by watching. In the clash, police officers pursued and detained 5 defenders. In addition, other aggressions were committed, including threats, sex-

⁴⁶ EDUCA, *Criminaliza alcalde de Xochimilco activismo de defensora comunitaria Hortensia Telésforo Jiménez*, August 15 [...]. See at: <https://www.educaoxaca.org/criminaliza-alcalde-de-xochimilco-activismo-de-defensora-comunitaria-hortensia-telesforo-jimenez/>



ual aggression, illegal or arbitrary detentions, and thefts.⁴⁷ In the wake of these attacks, complaints were filed claiming

abuse of authority, disregard for operative procedures, excessive use of force, and injuries, among other violations.⁴⁸

⁴⁷ La Jornada, *Xochimilco: grupos de choque y represión*, September 21, 2024. See at: <https://www.jornada.com.mx/noticia/2024/09/21/opinion/xochimilco-grupos-de-choque-y-represion-7986>

⁴⁸ La Jornada, *Denuncian penalmente por abuso de autoridad y omisión a funcionarios de la alcaldía Xochimilco*, September 10, 2024. Available at: <https://www.jornada.com.mx/2024/09/10/capital/032n2cap>



4. Victims

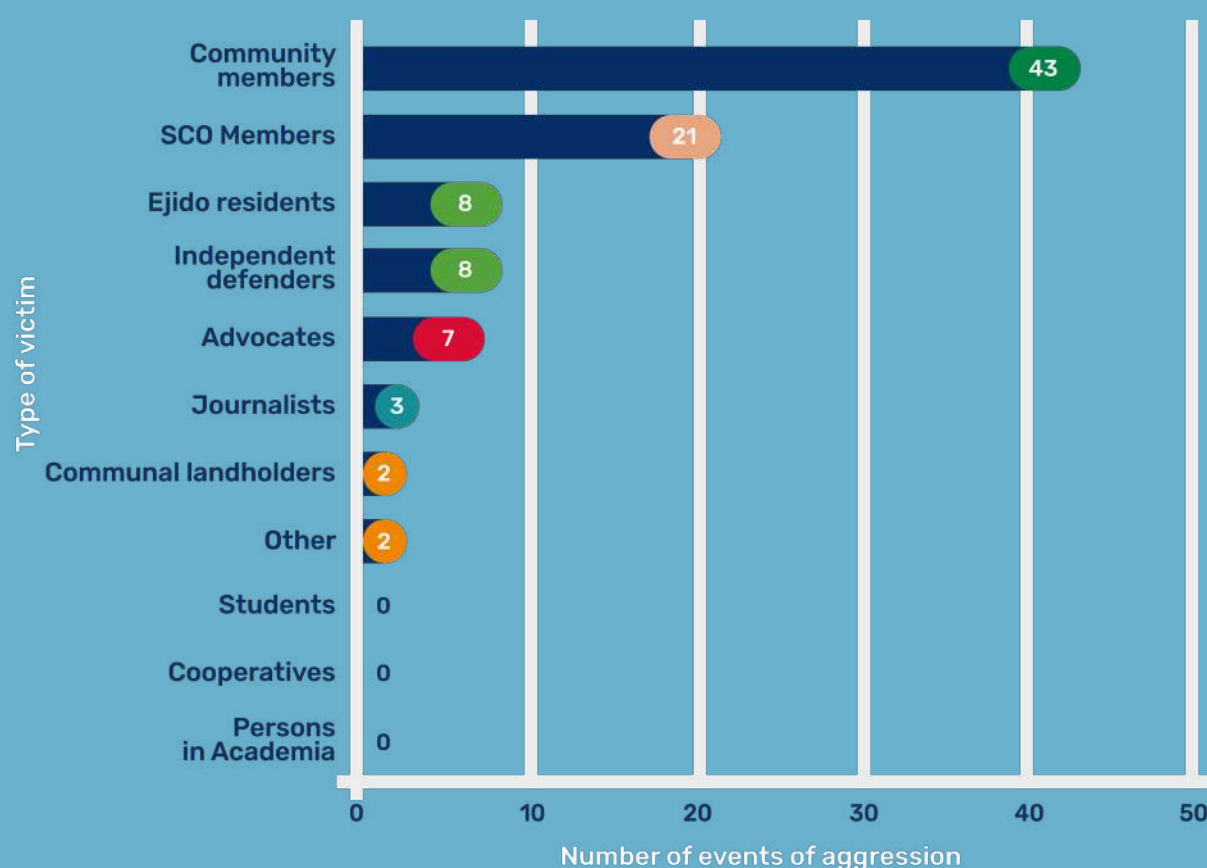
In 2024, a total of 309 victims were reported, who were affected 94 events of aggression. Of those persons, **301 were environmental human rights defenders.**

The total number of victims, especially in the case of indirect victims,⁴⁹ does not reflect the total number of persons affected by the aggressions reported,

since the sources of information used often overlook such data.

In 2024, a majority of events of aggression against defenders of environment and territory targeted members of communities (43) and then members of civil society organizations (21). Below these figures were independent defenders (8), advocates (8), and ejido residents (8), as shown in the graph below.

Graph 4. Victims of aggressions in 2024



⁴⁹ Supporters, family members, or other members of the community who have been affected by an aggression targeting a human rights defender, person or community, without the indirect victim necessarily engaging in defense work.

Defenders living in communities were victims in 45.7% of the events of aggression reported in 2024. As in past reports, the main victims of aggression were members of communities; practically one of every two aggressions targeted a community defender. This is a call to pay special attention to defenders in communities, since they are the first line of defense and face the greatest risk in the course of their work in defense of the environment and territories.

Another noteworthy finding is that the second most targeted group was civil society organizations and their members, accounting for 22.3% of aggressions in 2024. Approximately one of every five aggressions targeted these organizations.⁵⁰

In 2024, most of the attacks against environmental and land defenders were directed at community members (43).



4.1 Age, sex, and gender of victims

Of the victims accounted for in this report, **91 identify as male by sex and gender and 55 as female.** As regards the other victims, it was not possible to determine their sex due to the lack of personal information for victims in the sources consulted.

Graph 5: Aggressions against men and women



This information may not prove conclusive due to several factors. During collection of information on aggressions against environmental defenders, persons and communities, we detected that aggressions against women defenders are, in many cases, intentionally hidden from view, and only in a few cases was the information obtained on aggressions differentiated by gender in the sources consulted. On the other hand, based on interviews and testimonies shared with CEMDA, we have also found that some women defenders do not identify as such or do not perceive the conduct perpetrated against them as aggression.

⁵⁰ In these cases, the majority group was taken, which may mean that there were other types of victims that are probably not reflected in this table.



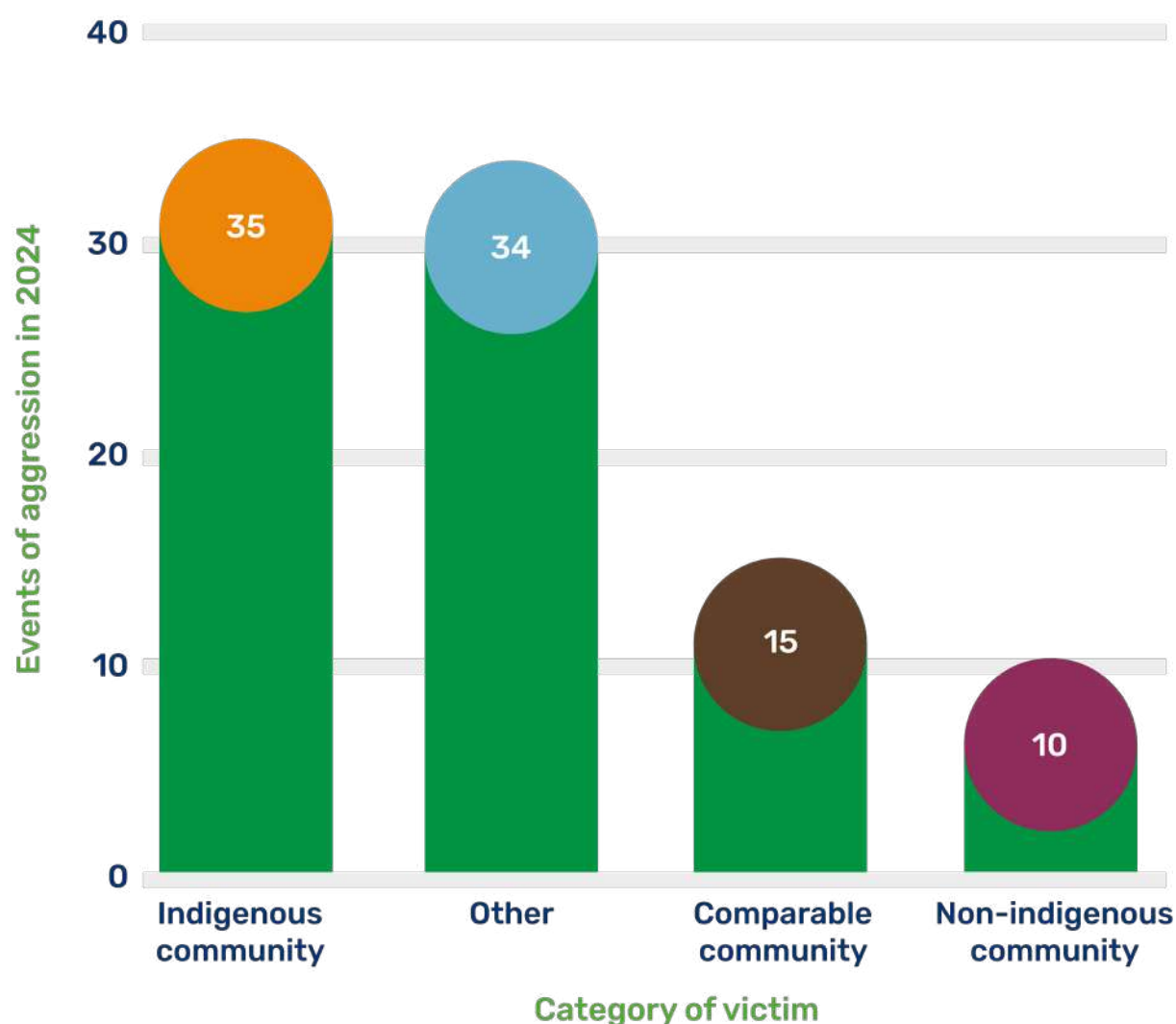
Consequently, CEMDA sees a need to continue developing a methodology tailored to such circumstances, with a gender perspective, that helps to raise visibility of aggressions differentiated by gender experienced by women defenders of environment, land, and territory.

As regards victims' age, we found that 178 were adults, while no information on age groups was obtained for the remaining 123 victims.

4.2 Elements of victims' cultural identity

Regarding the cultural identity of victims of aggression in 2024, and based on the methodology used in preparing this report, we distinguished 5 categories, with the following numbers of events of aggression by [category of] victim: indigenous community (35), other (34), comparable community (15), and non-indigenous community (10).

Graph 6. Cultural identity of victims of aggression in 2024



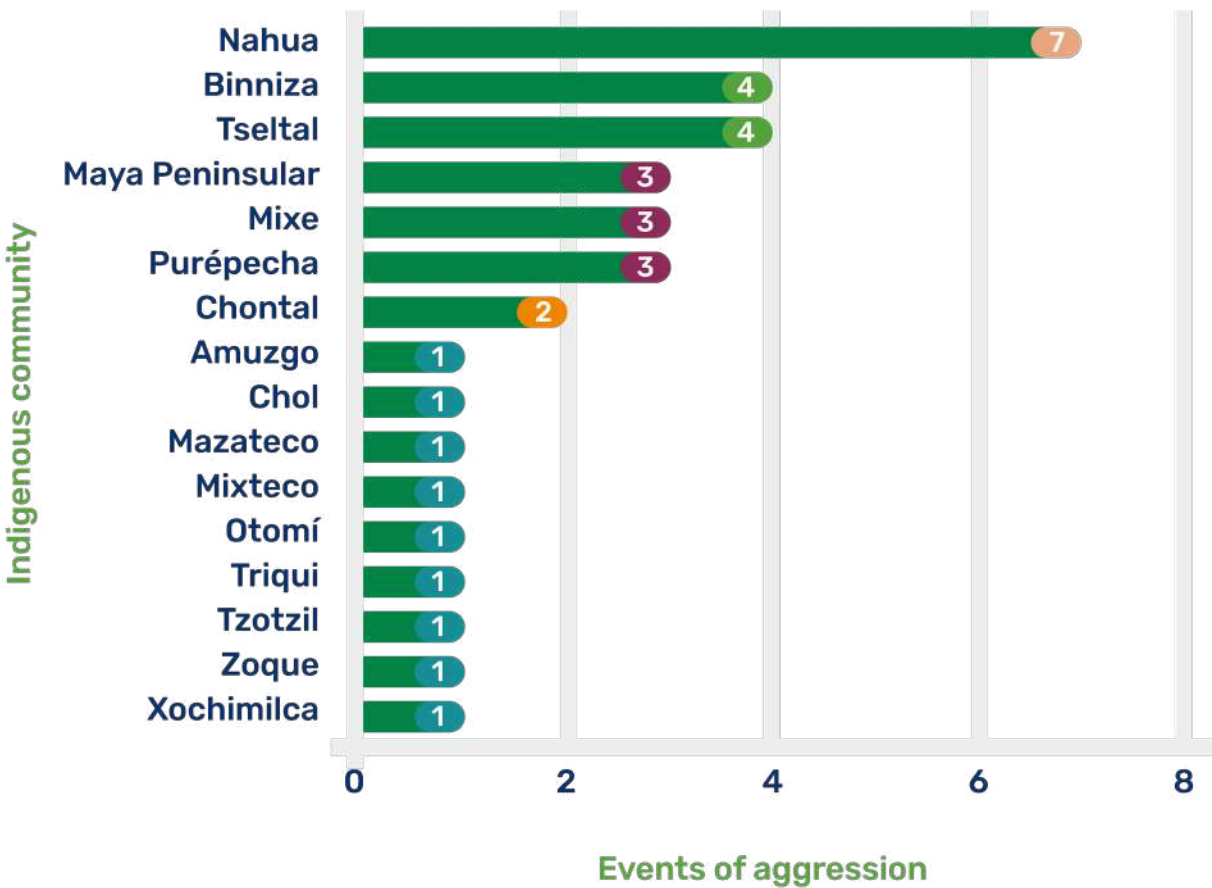
As regards indigenous communities that were victims of aggression in 2024, we found the following: Amuzgo (1), Binniza or Zapotec (4), Chol (1), Chontal (2), Maya (3), Tseltal (4), Mazatec (1), Mixe (3), Mixtec (1), Nahua (7), Otomí (1), Purépecha (3), Triqui (1), Tzotzil (1), and Zoque (1).

This shows that victims of aggression in the year 2024 came from different indigenous communities and events of aggression were reported with a certain uniformity.

Aggressions against women environmental defenders are, in many cases, rendered invisible



Graph 7. Events of aggression against specific indigenous communities





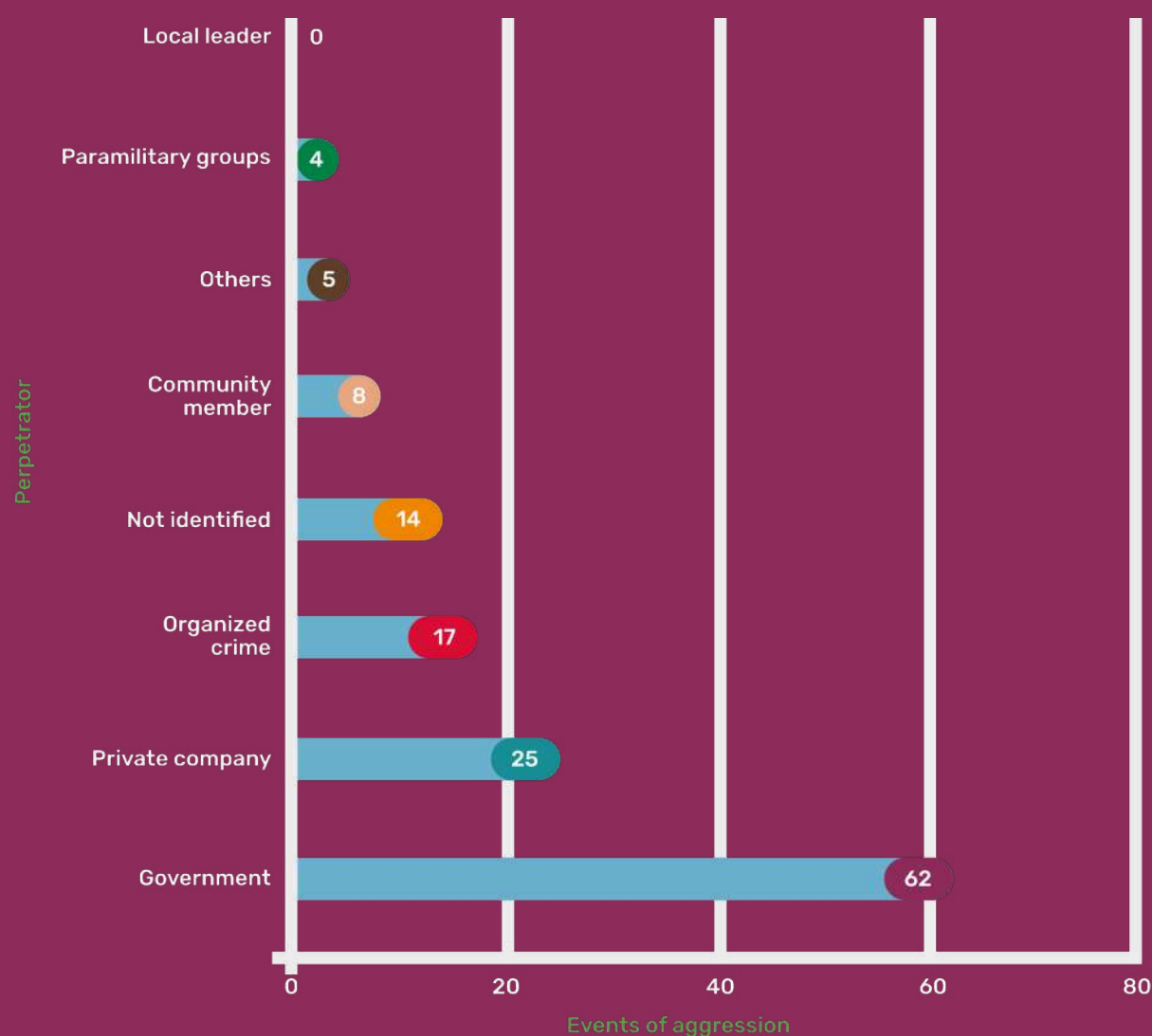
5. Perpetrators

As regards perpetrators, meaning the persons implicated in the perpetration of conduct that fits the statutory definition of aggression, **in 2024 it was documented that the leading perpetrator was the state, with involvement in 62 events of aggression**, out of a total of 94 events of aggression confirmed in the year 2024. This is equal to 65.9% of total aggressions in 2024.

This percentage rose drastically in the year reported, considering that in the year 2023 it was 49.5%.

Other perpetrators that have taken part in aggressions were private companies, which were implicated in 25 events of aggression, and different organized crime groups, with confirmed involvement in 17 events of aggression.

Graph 8. Perpetrators in 2024



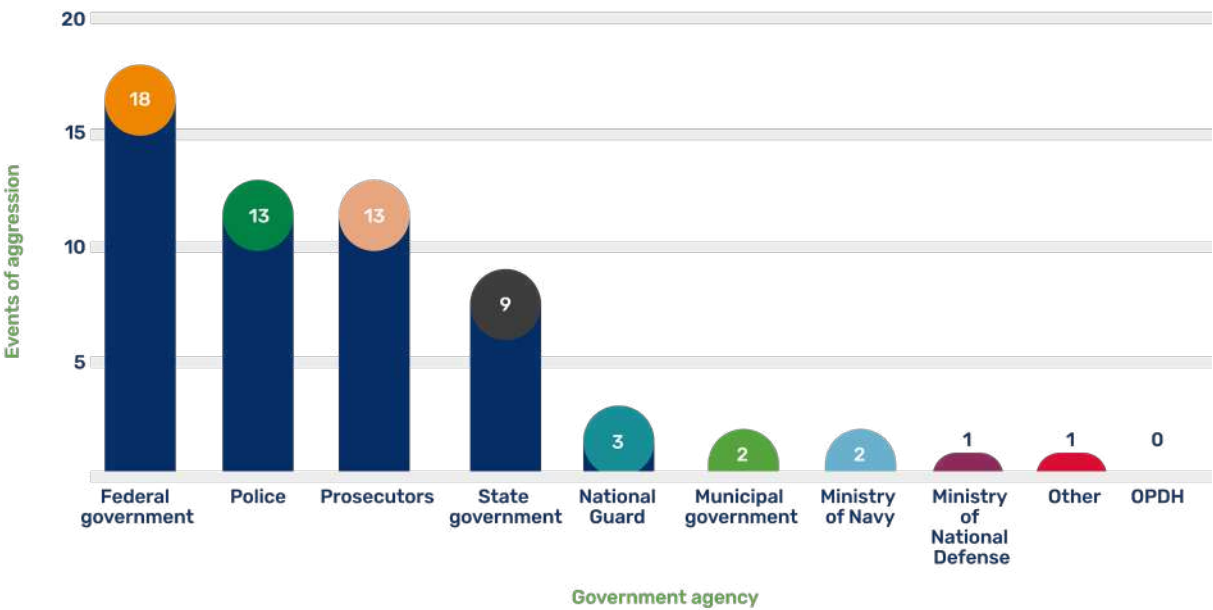
The breakdown of the number of events of aggression with the involvement of a state agent, based on the information reported in 2024, is as follows: federal government (18), some kind of police force (13), prosecutors (13), state government (9), National Guard (3), municipal governments (2), Ministry of the Navy (2), Ministry of National Defense (1), and other authorities (1).

In the year 2024, a considerable increase was seen in the involvement of private companies in events of aggression against defenders of environment, land,

and territory, persons and communities. Such findings are further supported considering that many of the aggressions documented in this report are related to large-scale infrastructure projects promoted or funded by private companies.

The data are alarming, as defenders of environment and territory, persons and communities, are at risk from a multitude of actors, including state agents, national or transnational capital, and –more recently– growing involvement in aggressions on the part of organized crime groups.

Graph 9. Events of aggression with government involvement



Independently of the identity of the perpetrators of aggressions against defenders, persons and communities, it bears recalling that, under the terms of Article 1 of the Mexican Federal Constitution, all authorities, in their respective areas of competence, have an obligation to promote, respect, protect, and guarantee human rights.

Furthermore, in Mexico the authorities have an obligation to apply Article 9 of the Escazú Agreement, and are further

obligated to guarantee a safe and enabling environment in which persons, groups, and organizations that promote and defend human rights in environmental matters can act without threats, restrictions, and insecurity.

Finally, it is pertinent to clarify that the table of perpetrators shows that the number of perpetrators is greater than the number of events of aggression reported, since it has been documented that several perpetrators may be implicated in a single event.



6. Context of aggressions in Mexico

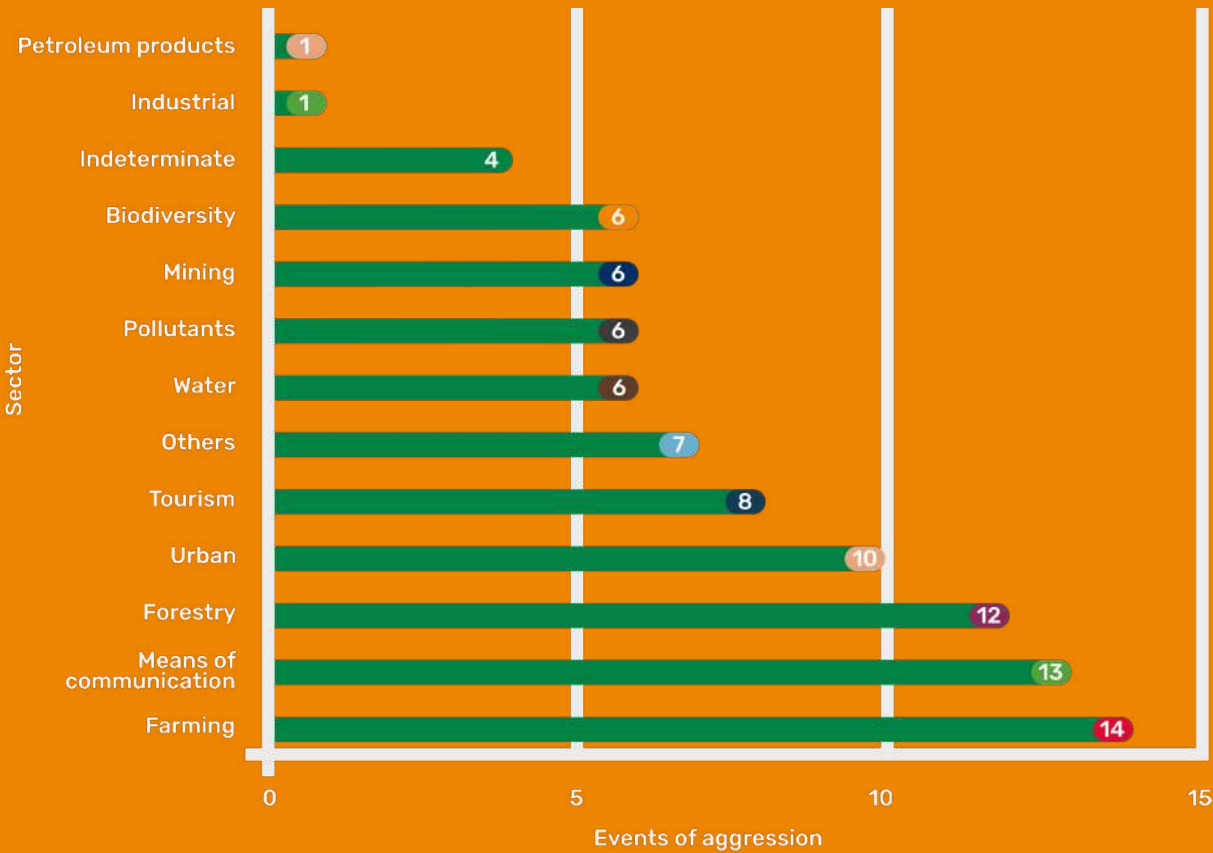
The aggressions documented are classified in sectors, which refer to the mega-project or activity in the context of which events of aggression and specific aggressions against defenders, persons and communities, take place.

On the other hand, another of the methodological classifications used considers area, which refers to the element or natural resource people defend in their work.

6.1 Sectors and types of projects where aggressions occurred

The sectors where the most events of aggression were reported in 2024 are farming (14); means of communication (13); forestry (12); urban (10); tourism (8); and pollutants,⁵¹ biodiversity, mining, and water (6 each).

Graph 10. Table of sectors in relation to events of aggression



⁵¹ Includes solid waste management, desalinating plants, sewage systems, pesticides, herbicides, chemical fertilizers, hazardous waste, and cleanup.



The deadliest sectors for defense of the environment and territory in the year 2024 were: mining (11 victims), forestry (5 victims), urban (1 victim), pollutants (1 victim), farming

(3 victims), means of communication (1 victim), and others (3 victims). These numbers correspond to documented homicides and probable extrajudicial executions.

Graph 11. Most lethal sectors for environmental defense



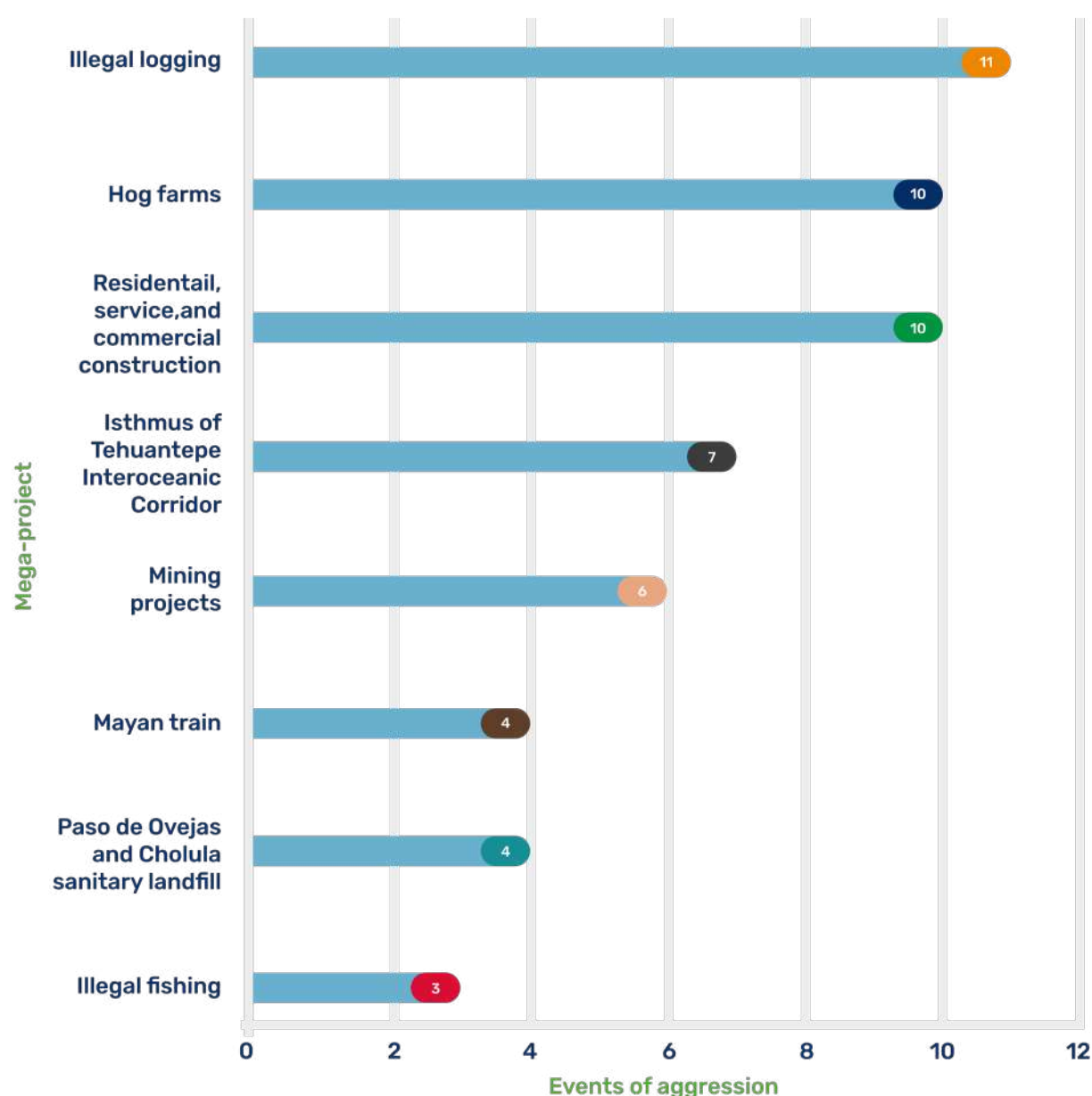


6.2 Mega-projects with most aggressions

The projects related to the above-mentioned sectors, for which the most events of aggression were reported in 2024, were hog farms (10); residential,

service, and commercial construction (10), illegal logging (11), the Isthmus of Tehuantepec Interoceanic Corridor (7), different mining projects such as La Revancha and Natividad (6), the Maya Train (4), sanitary landfills in Paso de Ovejas and in Cholula (4), and illegal fishing (3)

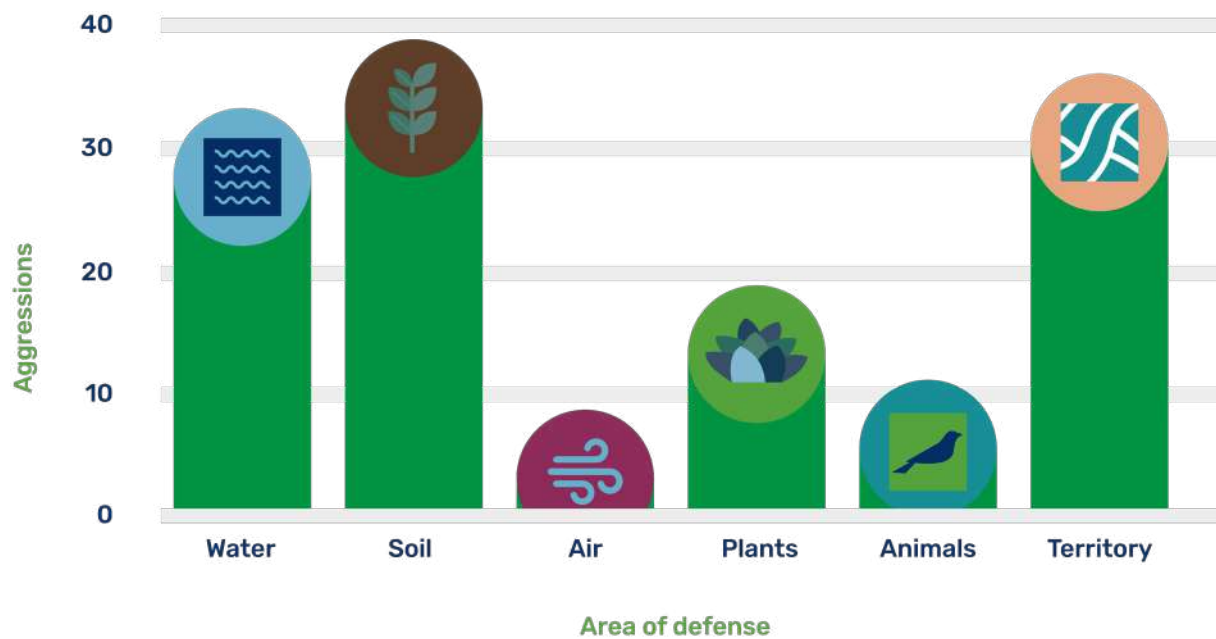
Graph 12. Mega-projects with most aggressions



Regarding areas, defense of land accounted for 39 events of aggression, defense of territory 36, and water 33

events, while the defense of plant life reported 19 events, animals 11, and air 9.

Graph 13. Aggressions by area of defense



Turning to data on aggressions by area of defense, as in other sections, the total number is more than the number of

events of aggression, given that in some cases more than one natural element is defended.



7. Evolution of aggressions in the last 5 years

The information we have gathered over the last 11 years allows us to observe and contrast certain data with the aim of identifying how some elements of the aggressions documented have evolved.

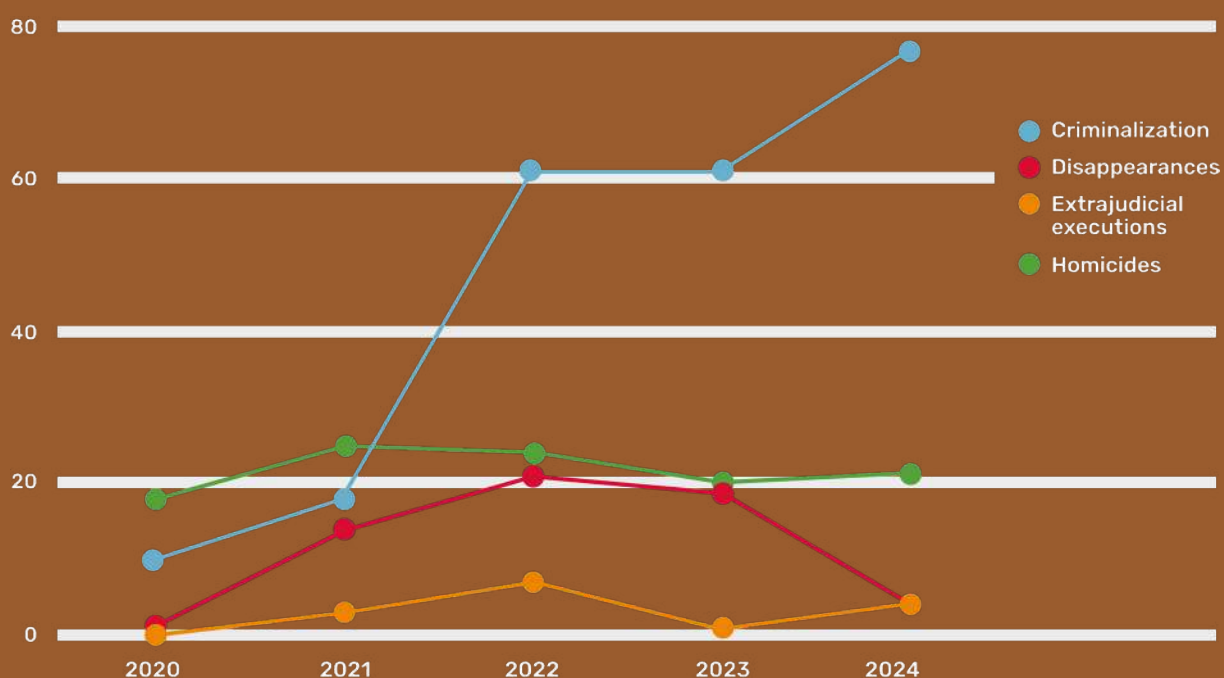
We conduct this brief exercise based on information on aggressions, victims, perpetrators, and sectors where aggressions have occurred in our country over the last 5 years, from 2020 through 2024.

Aggressions 2020 - 2024:

In the last 5 years we have documented 587 events of aggressions, 1,428 specific aggressions, and 112 lethal aggressions in Mexico. The states that have reported the most events of aggression in these years are: Oaxaca with 97 events of aggression, followed by Mexico City with 56, Chiapas with 50, Jalisco with 48, and Chihuahua with 38.

The graph below presents data on 4 specific aggressions in the last 5 years: homicides, probable extrajudicial executions, disappearance, and criminalization.

Graph 14. Evolution in number of victims of aggression in homicides, extrajudicial executions, disappearances, and criminalization in the last 5 years



Victims 2020 - 2024:

In the last 5 years, **the primary victims of aggressions in Mexico have been communities**. In the year 2020, aggressions against defenders pertaining to a community accounted for 24% of total aggressions. For the year 2021 the percentage rose abruptly, reaching 46.3%. Since then, the percentage has remained at similar levels and has not fallen.

In the year 2022, defenders pertaining to communities accounted for 46.2% of victims of aggressions, while in 2023 it reached 64%, the highest percentage since CEMDA started documenting aggressions. As seen in previous sections, in 2024 communities were victims in 45.7% of aggressions.

Civil society organizations and persons working with them are also recurrent victims of aggressions in Mexico, being the second most attacked group.

In this context, in 2020 civil society organizations and their personnel were victims in 18.5% of that year's aggressions. In 2021, the percentage rose to 27.8%; for 2022 it was 31.5%; for 2023, 13%; and in 2024, 22.3%.

Perpetrators 2020 - 2024:

The agents that have been identified as participants in aggressions over the last 5 years are diverse, but it is noteworthy that, based on available sources of information, **the government is the primary perpetrator in Mexico** and its percentages of implication in the events documented by the CEMDA report have grown considerably in recent years.

In the year 2020, a public official was implicated with some degree of involvement in 40% of aggressions; in 2021, the figure was 41.7% of aggressions, in 2022 it rose to 45%, in 2023 59.5%, and in 2024 the percentage rose significantly, comprising 65.9% of aggressions.

Other perpetrators identified, and warranting closer attention, are companies and organized crime. In the year 2020, private companies were implicated in 7.7% of aggressions, in 2021 their involvement was 5.6%, in 2022 3%, and since 2023 the percentages have risen significantly, reaching 15.4% that year. Finally, in 2024 the figure reported was 26.5%.

In the case of organized crime, it was named as a perpetrator in 8.3% of documented aggressions in the year 2021, in 13% of aggressions in 2022, in 29.6% in 2023, and in 18% for 2024.

Sectors 2020 - 2024:

Environmental defense work is commonly related to the construction of large scale infrastructure projects and the implementation of their stages, and to the enactment of new laws or public policies, among other actions that may affect the human right to a healthy environment.

The most dangerous sectors for environmental defense are mining, electrical power projects, projects on means of communication (including maritime and rail), and activities related to forestry.

In the year 2024, the highest number of aggressions were documented in the farming sector, due to the multiple aggressions perpetrated due to the implementation of hog farms in the states of Yucatan, Puebla, and Veracruz.



Graph 15. Evolution of the 3 main perpetrators identified in the last 5 years





8. Justice for victims of attacks and implementation of the Escazú Agreement

With the aim of raising awareness of the lack of access to justice for defenders of environment, land, and territory who have been victims of aggression, as well as their families and persons close to them, in this section we examine some cases documented in the year 2023, to illustrate the lack of significant progress in investigations and compensation for damages, and even the recurrence of aggressions against defenders in 2024.

In the 2023 report, we documented the case of the disappearance and homicide of defender **Higinio Trinidad de la Cruz**, who disappeared on November 24 of that year and disappeared and a day later his lifeless body was found with signs of violence and a gunshot wound.

The day of his disappearance and subsequent killing, Higinio had been called to appear before the mayor of Cuautitlan de Garcia Barragan, Jalisco, and there is information indicating that alleged members of an organized crime group removed him from the town hall through a back door.⁵²

Higinio's case was linked to those of his fellow defenders Celedonio Monroy Prudencio and Jose Santos Isaac Chavez, who lost their lives as a result of their work as defenders.

More than a year after his killing, Higinio's family has been denied access to justice. To date, the judicial authorities are pursuing two separate lines of inquiry, in different cities, one for forced disappearance and the other for homicide. However, there is no significant progress to report, since, although there are detainees, the responsibility of all the persons implicated in the crime has not been determined.

It is indispensable that judges and prosecutors work from a human rights perspective, which analyzes and considers human rights defense work, like what Higinio engaged in. Also, it is essential to guarantee effective, rapid, and differential access to the national registry of victims, so that cases like his are assured timely and effective access to the means of obtaining aid, assistance, attention, access to justice, and comprehensive compensation.⁵³

⁵² ZonaDocs, *Higinio Trinidad de la Cruz, defensor ambiental de la Sierra de Manantlán es asesinado pese a estar bajo el Mecanismo de Protección para Personas Defensoras*, November 30, 2023. See at: <https://www.zonadocs.mx/2023/11/30/higinio-trinidad-de-la-cruz-defensor-ambiental-de-la-sierra-de-manantlan-es-asesinado-pese-a-estar-bajo-el-mecanismo-de-proteccion-para-personas-defensoras/?s=08>

⁵³ General Law on Victims (DOF 09/01/2013).

On the other hand, the killing of environmental defender **Eustacio Alcalá** is another case that reflects the difficulties of gaining access to justice in our country. Eustacio was a defender of environment and territory from San Juan Huitzontla, Chinicuilá, Michoacán. He disappeared on April 1, 2023, and his lifeless body was found 3 days later. At that time, the Mexico Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights exhorted the authorities to conduct a prompt and impartial investigation, exhausting all lines of inquiry, including his work in defense of human rights, and examining all possible suspects, both direct perpetrators and accessories.⁵⁴

In this region, territorial control of criminal activity in the Michoacán coastal and mountain areas, and the climate of insecurity affecting environmental human rights defenders, persists, as evidenced by cases such as the disappearance of defenders Ricardo Lagunes and Antonio Díaz in 2023, and Jose Gabriel Pelayo in 2024. To date, family, communities, and civil society organizations continue to demand justice.

In one of its press releases from April 2023, Centro Prodh insisted that the killing of Eustacio Alcalá not go unpunished. The lack of effective justice sends a message that in Mexico killings of community defenders of the environment can continue without consequence.⁵⁵

In the cases of Ricardo Lagunes and Antonio Díaz Valencia, after more than 2 years, his family still has no information

regarding his whereabouts. Therefore, it is urgent that the authorities create conditions of security in the region to guarantee safe and enabling environments for work in defense of the environment and territory, together with demands for justice and an end to impunity.

In sum, guaranteeing the right of access to justice means that, in contexts of generalized violence and the presence of organized crime in a region, and in accordance with Article 9 of the Escazú Agreement, the authorities should consider the adoption of protective measures for victims, witnesses, legal counsel, and judges.

In this context, it is pertinent to discuss the Escazú Agreement, especially Article 9 therein, as one of the most important provisions of this important international treaty.

In this regard, Mexico has a *Guide to the Implementation of Article 9 of the Escazú Agreement*, and a *Manual*⁵⁶ for that Guide, which lay down a series of normative and public policy measures to implement the Agreement. The Guide is a support instrument for all authorities, with potential actions that can be implemented in the short, medium, and long term.

Article 9, which contains provisions regarding human rights defenders in environmental matters, has two general components: On the one hand, obligations of recognition, protection, and promotion of defenders. Recognition of a law occurs

⁵⁴ OHCHR Mexico, *La ONU-DH condena los recientes ataques contra personas defensoras*. April 5, 2023. See at: <https://hchr.org.mx/comunicados/la-onu-dh-condena-los-recientes-ataques-contra-personas-defensoras/>

⁵⁵ Centro Prodh, *Eustacio Alcalá: otro defensor comunitario del ambiente asesinado*, April 11, 2023. See at: <https://centroprodh.org.mx/2023/04/11/eustacio-alcala-otro-defensor-comunitario-del-ambiente-asesinado/>

⁵⁶ Both the Guide and the Manual are available at: <https://www.gob.mx/sre/documentos/guia-y-manual-de-uso-para-la-implementacion-del-articulo-9-del-acuerdo-de-escazu>



It is urgent to implement and apply prevention and response measures, while commitments are developed within the framework of the Escazú Agreement



when it is incorporated in a country's domestic legal framework. Protection means that the legal framework provides a mechanism of defense in case the right recognized is endangered or violated and the means of restoring its observance, while promotion entails operationalize a recognized right, in other words make it a reality in people's lives.⁵⁷

On the other hand, as part of protection, there are obligations to prevent, investigate, and sanction attacks on human rights defenders in environmental matters.⁵⁸

This translates into efforts to reduce the risk factors for attacks against defenders, persons and communities, and effective investigation and sanction of such attacks through a series of actions, in particular through normative measures, maps of risk levels, early response systems, rapid response mechanisms, mechanisms for coordination among different authorities, networks of defenders, and actions of recognition.

Such actions, obligations, and recognitions are important and necessary as means of helping to create safe and enabling environments for to freely and safely engage in human rights defense work in environmental matters.

Notwithstanding, other actions should also be considered. It is urgent to implement and apply measures of prevention and reaction, pending the formalization of agreements and commitments in the framework of implementation of the Escazú Agreement, which are focused on the presentation of plans of action, given that Mexico is presently one of the most dangerous countries for defenders of environment and territory, and persons and communities are being attacked on account of their defense work.

It is necessary to consider measures that address the root causes. Repeatedly, CEMDA has affirmed that one of the core issues in Mexico is the imposition of development projects in regions that historically have been home to peoples and communities that have cared for their territory because it is fundamental to their way of life.

In Mexico it has proved impossible to solve central problems that have been articulated many times by countless communities and civil society organizations, which hinder their efforts to protect the environment, land, and territory. Such problems include the lack of guarantees to exercise the rights of information, participation, and justice in environmental matters, added to voids or deficiencies in legislation and public policy to guarantee protection and respect for the right to a healthy environment.

⁵⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Spanish acronym SER), *Guía de implementación del artículo 9 del Acuerdo de Escazú*, 2024, pp. 9-10.

⁵⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 11.

We speak of imposition when the authorities fail to guarantee transparency, access to information, participation, and justice in relation to the implementation of a project, when the authority disregards potential or real damage and when the authority is not efficient or effective in implementing real mechanisms for the evaluation of environmental and social impacts.

Also, the implementation of the Escazú Agreement, and especially of Article 9, should consider the following actions:

- ✔ Guarantee access to sufficient, objective, and accurate information on proposed activities and projects, particularly in communities. For example, information on works and activities, nature, rate of execution, duration, scope, objectives, location, investment, companies, financial forecast, areas affected, types of compensation, sharing in benefits, reversibility, impacts, measures for mitigation and off-setting, etc.⁵⁹
- ✔ Create accessible mechanisms to guarantee the participation of communities and persons in decision making regarding the arrival of megaprojects in their territories. This includes the right to consultation with and consent by indigenous communities.
- ✔ Conduct comprehensive, real, and adequate assessments in the areas of environmental⁶⁰ and social⁶¹ impact (including implementing strategic environmental assessment studies at the regional level, as contemplated in the Energy Transition Law for electrical power projects).
- ✔ Review and modify administrative procedures for the granting of permits, concessions, and authorizations for megaprojects, so as to guarantee the rights of access to information and participation of the persons and communities potentially affected. For example, environmental impact authorizations, changes of land use on forest lands, forestry operations, mining concessions, work permits, electrical power generation permits, water concessions, etc.
- ✔ Monitor and oversee megaprojects through all their stages, including design, authorization, construction, operation, and decommissioning. Supervise and audit the activities of companies and other non-state actors,⁶² and promote public policy focused on preventing and reducing the negative impacts of public, private, or mixed business activity.⁶³
- ✔ Suspend works and activities, and revoke concessions and authoriza-

⁵⁹ CDH, *Estudio del Mecanismo de Expertos sobre los Derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas, Consentimiento libre, previo e informado: un enfoque basado en los derechos humanos*, A/HRC/39/62, 39th period of sessions.

⁶⁰ CEMDA, *Modificaciones al Procedimiento de Evaluación de Impacto Ambiental (EIA)*. See en: <https://cemda.org.mx/modificaciones-al-procedimiento-de-evaluacion-de-impacto-ambiental-eia/>

⁶¹ FUNDAR, *La Evaluación de Impacto Social en proyectos del sector energético: intereses y responsabilidades*, April 2016. See at: <https://fundar.org.mx/la-evaluacion-de-impacto-social-en-proyectos-del-sector-energetico-intereses-y-responsabilidades/>

⁶² CIDH, *Pueblos indígenas, comunidades afrodescendientes y recursos naturales: protección de derechos humanos en el contexto de actividades de extracción, explotación y desarrollo*, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, 2015, prr. 65.

⁶³ Grupo Focal de Empresas y Derechos Humanos, *México no logró consolidar una política pública sobre empresas y derechos humanos*, April 9, 2024. See at: <https://poderlatam.org/2024/04/mexico-no-logro-consolidar-una-politica-publica-que-aborde-los-abusos-y-las-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos-por-la-actividad-empresarial-los-retos-continuan-para-el-proximo-sexenio/>



tions for megaprojects in the event of any kind of attack on persons and communities resulting from or related to their efforts in defense of environmental human rights.

Finally, we need to consider the context of social conflict which, to a great extent, is caused by the presence of organized crime and the imposition of megaprojects in communities. If the authorities fail to guarantee the rights of persons and com-

munities faced with the implementation of administrative measures or megaprojects, the possibility of imposition is left open, and with it a greater risk of social conflict. And it is in such conditions that aggressions against environmental defenders occur.

The foregoing underscores the relevance of guaranteeing collective rights in the early stages of implementation of administrative measures and megaprojects.



9. Mechanisms and legislation for the protection of human rights defenders in Mexico

In 2012 Mexico promulgated the *Law for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists*, which in turn created the *Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists* (Mechanism), which, at the federal level, is intended to ensure that the Mexican government takes responsibility for protecting, promoting, and guaranteeing the human rights of human rights defenders and journalists.

The Mechanism, as a federal agency, is subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior and contemplates two types of proceedings to qualify for the protection it provides: ordinary and extraordinary proceedings.

In an ordinary proceeding, risk analysis is conducted by the Risk Assessment Unit, which has a term of 10 calendar days to complete its evaluation, determine the level of risk, establish who the beneficiaries will be, and define protective measures.

In extraordinary proceedings, risk analysis is conducted by the Case Reception

and Rapid Reaction Unit, which, in a maximum term of 3 hours after receiving the request, must issue urgent protective measures, which will be available for implementation in a term of no more than 9 hours.

Although the Mechanism operates at the federal level, the states also need a similar instance that allows them to implement preventive and protective measures that guarantee the life, integrity, freedom, and safety of defenders, persons and communities, that are at risk as a consequence of their activities in defense or promotion of environmental human rights.

In the framework of the implementation of Article 9 of the Escazú Agreement, it is necessary that the state fulfil its obligation to adopt suitable measures to protect life, personal integrity, freedom of opinion and expression, right of peaceful meeting and assembly, and freedom of movement. Also, it should help to guarantee a safe and enabling environment for environmental human rights defenders to perform their work.

These obligations also correspond to the states and municipalities. This report and previous reports have found that a majority of attacks against defenders, persons and communities, occur in communities. Therefore, it is vitally important that states create legislation to protect defenders and public policies that create instances to assume their statutory obligations.

In this regard, there is a substantial gap between the federal and state levels, since, based on the information obtained from the *International Service for Human Rights*.⁶⁴

- ✔ 4 states **have no form of protection**: Yucatan, Tabasco, Nuevo Leon, and Southern Baja California.
- ✔ 3 states have protection **for journalists only**: Colima, Veracruz, Queretaro.
- ✔ 6 states **have only specialized prosecutors**: Sonora, Campeche, Chihuahua, Chiapas, Oaxaca, and Zacatecas.
- ✔ 8 states have laws or policies **that liaise and cooperate with the federal protective mechanism**: Tlaxcala, Tamaulipas, Puebla, Morelos, Michoacan, Jalisco, State of Mexico, and Durango.

- ✔ 11 states have **autonomous protective laws or mechanisms**: Aguascalientes, Baja California, Coahuila, Mexico City, Sinaloa, San Luis Potosi, Quintana Roo, Nayarit, Hidalgo, Guerrero, and Guanajuato.

The existence of mechanisms for protection of defenders and journalists constitutes a foundation for the observance of Article 9 of the Escazú Agreement, in the sense of providing protection⁶⁵ and guaranteeing defense work in a safe and enabling environment. Notwithstanding, the authorities must go further and establish a comprehensive policy of protection that adopts measures from the federal government, states, and municipalities, and in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. They all have a relevant role to play.

In addition, there are significant challenges in the operation of the mechanisms. One is to provide the necessary protective measures, appropriate for the specific case and context, since there is no dearth of examples of lethal aggressions against persons who had been granted protective measures under an official mechanism. Such is the case of the killing of Father Marcelo Perez, who was under protective measures granted by the CIDH,⁶⁶ and defender Higinio Trinidad, who had been granted protection under the federal Mechanism.⁶⁷

⁶⁴ ISHR, *Herramientas para personas defensoras, México. Información hasta abril del 2024*. See at: <https://ishr.ch/es/herramientas-para-personas-defensoras/proteccion-nacional/mexico/>

⁶⁵ The Mechanism has been deemed insufficient given that it fails to protect all persons that seek protection and accepts only 6 of every 10 requests. See at: <https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/nacion/niega-proteccion-a-40-de-periodistas-y-activistas-atienden-640-de-mil-139/>

⁶⁶ CIDH, *CIDH condena asesinato del Padre Marcelo Pérez Pérez*, beneficiario de medidas cautelares en México, October 24, 2024. See at: https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2024/260.asp&utm_content=country-mex&utm_term=class-mon

⁶⁷ Mongabay, *México: Higinio Trinidad de la Cruz, defensor ambiental de la Sierra de Manantlán es asesinado pese a estar bajo el Mecanismo de Protección para Personas Defensoras*, November 30, 2023. See at: <https://es.mongabay.com/2023/11/mexico-higinio-trinidad-de-la-cruz-defensor-ambiental-sierra-de-manantlan-asesinado/#:~:text=Higinio%20Trinidad%2C%20al%20igual%20que,federal%20desde%20abril%20de%202021>



The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Mexico has documented, from January 2019 to February 2024, at least 103 killings of human rights defenders and journalists in Mexico. Of those, two thirds of the victims had suffered previous incidents and 30% had formally filed complaints that were not adequately considered and processed.⁶⁸

Another challenge is the lack of institutional coordination between the federal Mechanism and other authorities, in particular state and municipal authorities, including the different policed forces. The lack of budget resources represents an added challenge. *Espacio OSC* has noted that the Federal Budget of Expenditures (Spanish acronym PEF) approved for 2025 contains worrisome cuts for protection of the human rights of defenders and journalists. The Federal Protective Mechanism suffered a 4.27% cut, going from 624.9 million pesos in the year 2024 to 598.4 million pesos in 2025.⁶⁹

The lack of a preventive public policy and a preventive approach in the actions implemented by the federal Mechanism

neither further the construction of safe and enabling environments nor attack the underlying causes of the problem. On the contrary, they have given rise to a more reactive dynamic where granting measures is considered when there already is a risk of aggression.

Furthermore, when we refer to defense work in environmental matters, and also in relation to other human rights, we are looking at defense processes that are collective in scope. Faced with the risk of aggression, the authorities should conduct risk analysis and, if warranted, grant collective protective measures tailored to the different contexts and environments.

Finally, we acknowledge the efforts of the Mechanism and the authorities. The *Report on institutional capacity and normative framework for the protection and assurance of human rights in the states* allows us to identify substantial advances, but it is necessary and urgent to revert the statistics on aggression against defenders, persons and communities, in environmental matters.

⁶⁸ OHCHR Mexico, Intervención de Jesús Peña en la audiencia de la CIDH “México: Protección de defensores de derechos humanos y periodistas,” February 28, 2024. See at: https://hchr.org.mx/discursos_cartas/intervencion-de-jesus-pena-en-la-audicencia-de-la-cidh-mexico-proteccion-de-personas-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-y-journalists/

⁶⁹ Espacio OSC. *A 100 Días del Gobierno de Claudia Sheinbaum: Urge un Plan de Protección a defensores de derechos humanos y periodistas*, January 14, 2025. See at: <https://espacio.osc.mx/2025/01/14/a-100-dias-del-gobierno-de-claudia-sheinbaum-urge-un-plan-de-proteccion-a-personas-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-y-periodistas/>



10. Conclusions and recommendations

Report, we offer the following conclusions on the data obtained in the year 2024 and issue recommendations intended for different authorities involved in the observance of the human rights of defenders of environment and territory, persons and communities, in Mexico.

10.1 Conclusions

- ✔ Ninety-four events of aggression and 236 specific aggressions were reported in 2024.
- ✔ Two thousand twenty-four ranked as the second most lethal year, behind 2021, of CEMDA's last 10 years documenting cases of aggression against defenders, persons and communities, with 25 lethal aggressions.
- ✔ Four cases of disappearance of defenders of environment, land, and territory were documented.
- ✔ High numbers were recorded in reports of aggressions such as intimidation, harassment, stigmatization, and defamation, in a context of repression of the right to protest.
- ✔ The states that concentrated the highest numbers of events of aggression were Oaxaca, Chiapas, Michoacan, Puebla, and Veracruz, with 53.1% in total. Likewise, a total of 127 specific aggressions were reported in those states, which represent 53.8% of the total specific aggressions documented.
- ✔ Other states, such as Quintana Roo, Mexico City, Sonora, and Southern Baja California, also reported several events of aggression in 2024.
- ✔ Criminalization has emerged as one of the aggressions with the highest numbers of cases reported in 2024, with 20 events of aggression and 77 defenders of environment and territory criminalized for their work.
- ✔ Three hundred and one defenders of environment and territory were victims of aggressions in 2024.
- ✔ A high percentage of events of aggression targeted members of communities, with 45.7% of total aggressions in 2024.
- ✔ Members of civil society reported 22.3% of aggressions perpetrated in the year 2024.
- ✔ Attorneys and ejido residents also reported various events of aggression.
- ✔ Of the victims counted in 2024, 91 persons were identified as male by

sex and gender and 55 as male (sic). Data on sex and gender could not be obtained for the remaining victims.

- ✔ On the cultural identity of victims, the majority belonged to an indigenous community.
- ✔ The primary perpetrator identified in the year 2024 was the state, with involvement in a total of 62 events of aggression, which translates into 65.9% of events of aggression reported in the year.
- ✔ Private companies were second among perpetrators implicated in the highest numbers of events of aggression in 2024, with 25 events of aggression, while the third most common perpetrator identified was organized crime with 17.
- ✔ The sectors that reported the highest numbers of events of aggression in 2024 were: farming, means of communication, forestry, urban, tourism, pollutants, biodiversity, mining, and water.
- ✔ The contexts in which the highest numbers of events of aggression were reported were the implementation of projects for hog farms, residential construction, and service and commercial developments; illegal logging; the Isthmus of Tehuantepec Interoceanic Corridor; mining projects; landfills; and illegal fishing.

10.2 Recommendations

For all authorities at the federal level:

- ✔ Implement comprehensive public policies that guarantee the fulfil-

ment of the obligations established in the Escazú Agreement, in particular to guarantee that defense of environmental rights is exercised in freedom and safety by any person or community, taking into consideration the factors of vulnerability and structural discrimination affecting certain population groups, such as indigenous peoples and communities and women.

- ✔ Acknowledge and not stigmatize the valuable defense work performed by persons and communities, highlighting the enormous benefit their activity provides for society and the environment in general.
- ✔ Develop comprehensive public policies that foster sensitization of public officials whose activities are related to projects or activities in the framework of which defenders of environment and territory operate.
- ✔ Decree liability and impose sanctions and award compensation for damages on companies that cause environmental damage, and coordinate with the competent authorities for the civil or criminal liabilities such companies may have as a result of aggressions perpetrated against defenders, persons or communities.

For government agencies responsible for implementing projects:

- ✔ Ensure that every project to be implemented in Mexican territory conforms to the human rights and environmental standards adopted by Mexico.



- ✔ Adequately evaluate environmental impact statements, ensuring that projects that could cause or environmental damage are not approved.
- ✔ Oversee projects to be implemented and ensure that they conform to the standards on human rights to participation, information, and access to justice contemplated in the Escazú Agreement, and guarantee indigenous rights to free, prior, and informed consultation and consent, as stipulated in International Labor Organization Convention 169.
- ✔ Suspend and revoke permits for projects involving activities directly related to aggressions against defenders of environment and territory, persons and communities, with special attention to vulnerable groups such as indigenous peoples and communities, women, and children.

For federal and state level prosecutors:

- ✔ Prevent, investigate, and sanction any crime against defenders of environment and territory that may be related to their human rights defense work.
- ✔ Consider defense of environmental human rights and territory as one of the hypotheses to analyze in ongoing investigations related to aggressions perpetrated against defenders, persons and communities.
- ✔ Evaluate the context and antecedents of defense work in cases where available facts show that the per-

son accused has taken part in an act of protest in defense of human rights, in order to avoid criminalization and disproportionate use of the law against human rights defenders.

Judiciary at the federal and state level:

- ✔ Guarantee adequate access to justice for defenders of environment and territory, persons and communities, as it applies to the means of defense they employ in relation to projects that may be harming the environment, or related to aggressions or crimes they have suffered.
- ✔ Observe the Protocol to judge cases involving rights of access in environmental matters before the Mexican Supreme Court.
- ✔ Train and sensitize judges in relation to cases involving environmental human rights and defenders of such rights.

Police at state and municipal levels, National Guard, and Ministry of National Defense:

- ✔ Create and implement operational protocols that guarantee observance of the human rights of defenders, persons and communities, and prevent undue use of force, arbitrary detention, and other aggressions related to security activities.
- ✔ Train members of such institutions to ensure that their official actions align with the human rights standards adopted by Mexico, in accordance with Article 1 of the Constitution.

Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists:

- ✔ Adopt a comprehensive strategy of protection with a preventive focus that helps identify patterns such as: areas of particular risk, most common aggressions, mapping of actors and perpetrators, modes of operation or execution, particular risk level, persons and communities that suffer constant attacks, [and] projects or activities related to aggressions, among other factors that allow them, instead of reacting to aggressions, to prevent them.
- ✔ Develop an operational policy that permits effective coordination among authorities at the federal, state, and municipal levels and guarantees constant communication and coordinated actions among the authorities responsible for safeguarding the lives and integrity of defenders, persons and communities.
- ✔ Implement effective protective measures suited to the context and risk level of defenders, persons and communities, seeking to avoid measures that are ineffective, uniform, or unenforceable, taking into consideration the particular circumstances of the defender, person or community.

For the National and State Human Rights Commission[s]:

- ✔ Investigate probable human rights violations against defenders of en-

vironment and territory, and order provisional protective measures within their area of competence to prevent such violations.

- ✔ Issue recommendations on complaints related to acts of aggression against defenders of environment and territory.
- ✔ Promote the rights of defenders of environment and territory and emphasize the importance of and need for their work to raise awareness in society at large.
- ✔ Propose normative and regulatory amendments and administrative practices which, in the judgment of the National Commission, may result in the greatest and most effective protection of the human rights of defenders, persons and communities.

For the Executive Commission on Attention to Victims at the federal and state levels:

- ✔ Provide accessible, quality, and culturally appropriate legal advice and service suited to the context in which aggressions that may constitute crimes or human rights violations occur.
- ✔ Register defenders of environment and territory, persons and communities, as victims when they suffer aggressions that constitute human rights violations, in order to guarantee them proper compensation.



11. Bibliography

Animal Político, *Explotación ilegal de una mina está detrás de los enfrentamientos en Chicomuselo, Chiapas, denuncian pobladores*, January 24, 2024. See at: <https://animalpolitico.com/estados/chicomuselo-mina-ilegal-violencia>

Aristegui Noticias, *En Chiapas: enfrentamiento deja 11 muertos confirma la FGE*, May 14, 2024. See at: <https://aristeguinoticias.com/1405/mexico/en-chiapas-enfrentamiento-deja-11-muertos-confirma-la-fge/>

BBC News, *Detienen en México al presunto asesino de Marcelo Pérez, el sacerdote que se enfrentó a las bandas criminales de Chiapas*, October 23, 2024. See at: <https://www.bbc.com/mundo/articles/c39nk17x4vwo>

Mexican Federal Congress, House of Deputies, *Proposición con punto de acuerdo, para exhortar a la Fiscalía General de Jalisco a atender y esclarecer el asesinato de Alejandro Gobel*, November 12, 2024. See at: http://sil.gobernacion.gob.mx/Archivos/Documentos/2024/11/asun_4801034_20241112_1731437827.pdf

CEMDA, *Modificaciones al Procedimiento de Evaluación de Impacto Ambiental (EIA)*. See at: <https://cemda.org.mx/modificaciones-al-procedimiento-de-evaluacion-de-impacto-ambiental-eia/>

Centro Prodh, *Eustacio Alcalá: otro defensor comunitario del ambiente asesinado*, April 11, 2023. See at: <https://centroprodh.org.mx/2023/04/11/eu->

[stacio-alcala-otro-defensor-comunitario-del-ambiente-asesinado/](https://centroprodh.org.mx/2023/04/11/eu-stacio-alcala-otro-defensor-comunitario-del-ambiente-asesinado/)

CDH, *Estudio del Mecanismo de Expertos sobre los Derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas, Consentimiento libre, previo e informado: un enfoque basado en los derechos humanos*, A/HRC/39/62, 39th period of sessions.

CDH, *Informe del Relator Especial sobre la situación de los defensores de derechos humanos relativo a su misión a México*, 37th period of sessions, A/HRC/37/51/Add.2, February 12, 2018. See at: https://hchr.org.mx/relatorias_grupos/informe-del-relator-especial-de-la-onu-sobre-la-situacion-de-los-defensores-de-los-derechos-humanos-acerca-de-su-mision-a-mexico/

CIDH, *CIDH condena asesinato del Padre Marcelo Pérez Pérez, beneficiario de medidas cautelares en México*, October 24, 2024. See at: https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2024/260.asp&utm_content=country-mex&utm_term=class-mon

CIDH, *Pueblos indígenas, comunidades afrodescendientes y recursos naturales: protección de derechos humanos en el contexto de actividades de extracción, explotación y desarrollo*, OEA/Ser.L/V/II, 2015.

Desinformémonos, *Asesinan a Carmen López, integrante del CNI en Tila*, January 15, 2024. See at: <https://desinforme->

monos.org/asesinan-a-carmen-lopez-integrante-del-cni-en-tila/

Desinformémonos, *Corredor Interoceánico, otro megaproyecto sin consulta y sin beneficios para las comunidades*, February 20, 2021. See at: <https://desinformemonos.org/corredor-interoceanico-otro-megaproyecto-sin-consulta-y-sin-beneficios-para-las-comunidades/>

Desinformémonos, *Exigen justicia para Alejandro Gobel, defensor asesinado en Guadalajara*, November 5, 2024. See at: <https://desinformemonos.org/exigen-justicia-para-alejandro-gobel-defensor-asesinado-en-guadalajara/>

Diario de Xalapa, *Activista asesinado en Paso de Ovejas estaba en contra de un relleno sanitario*, February 14, 2024. See at: <https://oem.com.mx/diariodexalapa/policiaca/activista-javier-ochoa-asesinado-en-paso-de-ovejas-estaba-en-contra-de-un-relleno-sanitario-en-palmeritos-13437099>

Diario de Xalapa, *"Policías llegaron como sicarios"; velan en Totalco a manifestantes asesinados*, June 21, 2024. See at: <https://oem.com.mx/diariodexalapa/local/velan-en-totalco-a-manifestantes-asesinados-y-mantienen-bloqueo-en-la-carretera-veracruz-puebla-13447735>

EDUCA, *Criminaliza alcalde de Xochimilco activismo de defensora comunitaria Hortensia Telésforo Jiménez*, August 15 [...]. See at: <https://www.educaoxaca.org/criminaliza-alcalde-de-xochimilco-activismo-de-defensora-comunitaria-hortensia-telesforo-jimenez/>

EDUCA, *Pueblos de Veracruz y Puebla se unen a la lucha contra Granjas Carroll y*

se rebelan contra Conagua, July 1, 2024. See at: <https://www.educaoxaca.org/pueblos-de-veracruz-y-puebla-se-unen-a-la-lucha-contra-granjas-carroll-y-se-rebelan-contra-conagua/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CDesde%20Xalapa%2C%20Veracruz%2C%20nos.de%20Iniciativas%20y%20Defensa%20Environmental>

EDUCA, *Talamontes asesinan a tres guardabosques en las faldas del Iztaccíhuatl*, Puebla, February 27, 2024. Available at: <https://www.educaoxaca.org/talamontes-asesinan-a-tres-guardabosques-en-las-faldas-del-iztaccihuatl-puebla/>

El País, *Asesinada la presidenta de la Cámara Nacional de la Industria Pesquera en Baja California tras denunciar a las mafias de la pesca ilegal*, July 10, 2024. See at: <https://elpais.com/mexico/2024-07-10/asesinada-la-presidenta-de-la-camara-nacional-de-las-industrias-pesquera-en-baja-california-tras-denunciar-a-las-mafias-de-la-pesca-ilegal.html>

El País, *Marcelo Pérez: su vida y legado*, October 22, 2024. See at: <https://el-pais.com/mexico/opinion/2024-10-22/marcelo-perez-su-vida-y-legado.html?outputType=amp>

El Universal, *Niegan protección a 40% de periodistas y activistas; atienden a 640 de mil 139*, February 17, 2025. See at: <https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/nacion/niega-proteccion-a-40-de-periodistas-y-activistas-atienden-640-de-mil-139/>

Espacio OSC. *A 100 Días del Gobierno de Claudia Sheinbaum: Urge un Plan de Protección a Personas Defensoras de Derechos Humanos y Periodistas*, January 14, 2025. See at: <https://espacio.osc.mx/2025/01/14/a-100-dias-del-gobier->

[no-de-claudia-sheinbaum-urge-un-plan-de-proteccion-a-personas-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-y-periodistas/](#)

Este País, *Paramilitarismo y crimen organizado: la guerra contra el Ejido Tila*, January 25, 2024. See at: https://estepais.com/tendencias_y_opiniones/guerra-contra-el-ejido-tila/

Federación Anarquista, *Libres bajo proceso 6 detenidos en desalojo del campamento Tierra y Libertad, Mogoñé Viejo en el Istmo*. See at: <https://www.federacionanarquista.net/libres-bajo-proceso-6-detenidos-en-desalojo-del-campamento-tierra-y-libertad-mogone-viejo-en-el-istmo/>

FGE Oaxaca, *Boletín de prensa. Investigaciones por homicidio de dos mujeres de origen triqui, revelan que persona detenida por el caso, es elemento de la Policía Estatal: Fiscalía de Oaxaca*, November 29, 2024. See at: <https://fge.oaxaca.gob.mx/index.php/archivos/noticias/boletin-1089-investigaciones-por-homicidio-de-dos-mujeres-de-origen-triqui-revelan-que-persona-detenido-por-el-caso-es-elemento-de-la-policia-estatal-fiscalia-de-oaxaca>

FIDH, *México: Asesinato del Padre Marcelo Pérez Pérez*, November 8, 2024. See at: <https://www.fidh.org/es/temas/defensores-de-derechos-humanos/mexico-asesinato-del-padre-marcelo-perez-perez>

Front Line Defenders, *Asesinato del defensor de derechos humanos Antonio Regis Nicolás de la comunidad de Santa María Ostula*, May 24, 2024. See at: <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/es/case/killing-human-rights-defender-antonio-regis-nicolas-community-santa-maria-ostula>

Front Line Defenders, *Comunidad indígena nahua de Santa María Ostula*. See at: <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/es/organization/comunidad-indigena-nahua-de-santa-maria-ostula>

Front Line Defenders, *México: Dictan sentencia condenatoria contra defensor de derechos humanos David Hernández Salazar, integrante de la Asamblea de Pueblos Indígenas del Istmo en Defensa de la Tierra y el Territorio (APIIDTT)*, February 13, 2024. See at: <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/es/statement-report/mexico-sentence-against-human-rights-defender-david-hernandez-salazar>

Front Line Defenders, *Revocan sentencia y absuelven a defensor del territorio David Hernández Salazar, integrante de la Asamblea de Pueblos Indígenas del Istmo en Defensa de la Tierra y el Territorio (APIIDTT)*, July 2, 2024. See at: <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/es/statement-report/sentence-revoked-and-acquittal-favour-land-and-human-rights-defender-david>

FUNDAR, *La Evaluación de Impacto Social en proyectos del sector energético: intereses y responsabilidades*, April 2016. See at: <https://fundar.org.mx/la-evaluacion-de-impacto-social-en-proyectos-del-sector-energetico-intereses-y-responsabilidades/>

Global Witness. *Voces silenciadas*. September 10, 2024. See at: <https://www.globalwitness.org/es/missing-voices-es/>

Veracruz State Government, *Gobierno desaparece a la Fuerza Civil y verificará nuevamente a Granjas Carroll*, June 24, 2024. See at: <https://www.veracruz.gob.mx/2024/06/24/gobierno-desapa>

[rece-a-la-fuerza-civil-y-verificara-nuevamente-a-granjas-carroll/](#)

Grupo Focal de Empresas y Derechos Humanos, *México no logró consolidar una política pública sobre empresas y derechos humanos*, April 9, 2024. See at: <https://poderlatam.org/2024/04/mexico-no-logro-consolidar-una-politica-publica-que-aborde-los-abusos-y-las-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos-por-la-actividad-empresarial-los-retos-continuan-para-el-proximo-sexenio/>

Infobae, *Quién era Marcelo Pérez, el sacerdote tzotzil víctima de la violencia en Chiapas*, October 21, 2024. See at: <https://www.infobae.com/mexico/2024/10/21/quien-era-marcelo-perez-el-sacerdote-tzotzil-victima-de-la-violencia-en-chiapas/>

ISHR, *Herramientas para personas defensoras, México*. Information through April 2024. See at: <https://ishr.ch/es/herramientas-para-personas-defensoras/proteccion-nacional/mexico/>

IWGIA, *Emergencia humanitaria en Chiapas*, July 16, 2024. See at: <https://iwgia.org/es/noticias/5548-emergencia-humanitaria-en-chiapas.html>

La Jornada, *Denuncian penalmente por abuso de autoridad y omisión a funcionarios de la alcaldía Xochimilco*, September 10, 2024. Available at: <https://www.jornada.com.mx/2024/09/10/capital/032n2cap>

La Jornada, *Xochimilco: grupos de choque y represión*, September 21, 2024. See at: <https://www.jornada.com.mx/noticia/2024/09/21/opinion/xochimilco-grupos-de-choque-y-represion-7986>

La Jornada de Oriente, *Asesinan a tres guardabosques de El Verde que cav-*

aban una zanja para evitar el paso de talamontes, February 25, 2024. See at: <https://www.lajornadadeoriente.com.mx/puebla/asesinan-a-tres-guardabosques-de-el-verde/>

La Jornada de Oriente, *Asesinato de Comisario Ejidal de Hueyacatitla estaría relacionado con homicidio de un guardabosques*. See at: <https://www.lajornadadeoriente.com.mx/puebla/el-asesinato-del-comisario-ejidal-de-hueyacatitla-estaria-relacionado-con-los-de-guardabosques-de-la-misma-zona/>

La Jornada de Oriente, *FGE amedrenta a líderes de organizaciones que apoyan movimiento de resistencia contra Granjas Carroll*, August 12, 2024. See at: <https://www.lajornadadeoriente.com.mx/puebla/fge-amedrenta-a-lideres-de-organizaciones-que-apoyan-movimiento-de-resistencia-contragranjas-carroll/>

La Jornada de Oriente, *“Granjas Carroll, empeñada en meternos a la cárcel”, alerta el campesino Renato Romero, tras recibir tercer citatorio judicial*, August 25, 2024. See at: <https://www.lajornadadeoriente.com.mx/puebla/granjas-carroll-empenada-meternos-carcel-alerta-renato-romero/>

La Jornada de Oriente, *Tres muertos e incontables heridos, el saldo del violento desalojo de la Fuerza Civil al plantón frente a Granjas Carroll*, June 20, 2024. See at: <https://www.lajornadadeoriente.com.mx/puebla/policias-veracruzanos-desalojan-a-campesinos-poblanos-que-mantienen-planton-frente-a-granjas-carroll/>

La Razón, *Asesinan a dos hermanas de activista triqui*, November 7, 2024. See at: <https://www.razon.com.mx/esta->

[dos/2024/11/07/asesinan-a-dos-hermanas-de-activista-triqui/](#)

General Law on Victims (DOF 09/01/2013).

Mongabay, *México: Higinio Trinidad de la Cruz, defensor ambiental de la Sierra de Manantlán es asesinado pese a estar bajo el Mecanismo de Protección para Defensores*, November 30, 2023. See at: <https://es.mongabay.com/2023/11/mexico-higinio-trinidad-de-la-cruz-defensor-ambiental-sierra-de-manantlan-asesinado/#:~:text=Higinio%20Trinidad%2C%20al%20igual%20que,federal%20desde%20abril%20de%202021>

MURAL, *Rechazan defensores que activista fuera asesinado en robo*, November 5, 2024. See at: <https://www.mural.com.mx/rechazan-defensores-que-activista-fuera-asesinado-en-robo/ar2902149>

NMAS, *Asesinan a Balazos a Presidente del Comisariado Minutos Antes de Acudir a una Asamblea Ejidal*. See at: <https://www.nmas.com.mx/puebla/asesinan-a-balazos-a-presidente-del-comisariado-ejidal-de-hueyacatitla-en-san-salvador-el-verde/>

OHCHR Mexico, *Buenas prácticas y desafíos en la investigación de delitos cometidos contra defensores de derechos humanos y periodistas*, 2023.

OHCHR Mexico, *La ONU-DH condena los recientes ataques contra personas defensoras*. April 5, 2023. See at: <https://hchr.org.mx/comunicados/la-onu-dh-condena-los-recientes-ataques-contrapersonas-defensoras/>

OHCHR Mexico, *México: Experta de la ONU preocupada por criminalización, detenciones arbitrarias y largas condenas a defensores indígenas*, November 8,

2024. See at: <https://www.ohchr.org/es/press-releases/2024/11/mexico-un-expert-concerned-over-criminalisation-arbitrary-detention-and-long>

OHCHR Mexico, *Intervención de Jesús Peña en la audiencia de la CIDH "México: Protección de defensores de derechos humanos y periodistas"*, February 28, 2024. See at: https://hchr.org.mx/discursos_cartas/intervencion-de-jesus-pena-en-la-audicencia-de-la-cidh-mexico-proteccion-de-personas-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-y-periodistas/

OHCHR Mexico, *ONU-DH insta a investigar el asesinato del sacerdote y defensor indígena de los derechos humanos, Marcelo Pérez Pérez*, October 20, 2024. See at: <https://hchr.org.mx/comunicados/onu-dh-insta-a-investigar-el-asesinato-del-sacerdote-y-defensor-indigena-de-los-derechos-humanos-marcelo-perez-perez/#:~:text=Desde%202021%2C%20el%20Padre%20Marcelo,tambi%C3%A9n%20defensor%20de%20derechos%20humanos>

OMCT Mexico, *Asesinato de Adriana y Virginia Ortiz García*, November 27, 2024. See at: <https://www.omct.org/es/recursos/llamamientos-urgentes/m%C3%A9xico-asesinato-de-adriana-y-virginia-ortiz-garc%C3%ADa>

OMCT, *Asesinato del Sr. Mariano Abarca Roblero*, December 4, 2009. See at: <https://www.omct.org/es/recursos/llamamientos-urgentes/assassination-of-mr-mariano-abarca-roblero>

Red TDT, *Alto a las agresiones a las personas indígenas defensoras de la tierra y el territorio ante el Corredor Interoceánico*. See at: <https://redtdt.org.mx/archivos/18762>

Request for public information folio 330026224002197.

Request for public information folio 331009724000054.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Spanish acronym SER), *Guía de implementación del artículo 9 del Acuerdo de Escazú*. See at: <https://www.gob.mx/sre/documentos/guia-y-manual-de-uso-para-la-implementacion-del-articulo-9-del-acuerdo-de-escazu>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Spanish acronym SER), *Guía de implementación del artículo 9 del Acuerdo de Escazú, Manual de Uso de la Guía de Implementación*. See at: <https://www.gob.mx/sre/documentos/guia-y-manual-de-uso-para-la-implementacion-del-articulo-9-del-acuerdo-de-escazu>

WRI, *WRI México lamenta el fallecimiento de Marcelo Pérez, defensor del medio ambiente y los derechos humanos*, October 22, 2024. See at: <https://es.wri.org/noticias/wri-mexico-lamenta-el-fallecimiento-de-marcelo-perez-defensor-del-medio-ambiente-y-los>

ZonaDocs, *Higinio Trinidad de la Cruz, defensor ambiental de la Sierra de Manantlán es asesinado pese a estar bajo el Mecanismo de Protección para Personas Defensoras*, November 30, 2023. See at: <https://www.zonadocs.mx/2023/11/30/higinio-trinidad-de-la-cruz-defensor-ambiental-de-la-sierra-de-manantlan-es-asesinado-pese-a-estar-bajo-el-mecanismo-de-proteccion-para-personas-defensoras/?s=08>

12. Annex



**General table of events of aggression against environmental
defenders, persons and communities, in 2024.**

No	Month	State	Type of victim	Sex	Cultural identity	Sector	Aggression(s) identified	Perpetrator
1	January - September	Oaxaca	community member	N/A	indigenous community	means of communication	intimidation, harassment	organized crime
2	January	Oaxaca	community members	male and female	comparable community	means of communication	arbitrary illegal detention, undue use of force, threat, criminalization, breaking and entering, property damage	police, national guard, SEDENA
3	January	Chiapas	community members	N/A	indigenous community	forestry	intimidation, harassment	paramilitary groups
4	January	Chiapas	community members	male	indigenous community	urban	homicide	paramilitary groups
5	January	Michoacan	communal landholder	malet	indigenous community	indeterminate	disappearance	unidentified
6	February	Michoacan	community members	N/A	indigenous community	forestry	physical aggression, harassment	organized crime
7	February	Veracruz	independent defender	male	non-indigenous community	pollutants	illegal detention, homicide	unidentified
8	February	Quintana Roo	attorney	male	other	tourism	defamation, stigmatization	private company
9	February	Michoacan	community members	N/A	indigenous community	other	physical aggression, property damages	organized crime



10	February	Michoacan	community members	N/A	indigenous community	other	intimidation, physical aggression, harassment	organized crime
11	February	Zacatecas	ejido residents	N/A	indigenous community	water	discrimination	federal government
12	February	Puebla	ejido residents	male	indigenous community	forestry	homicide, physical aggression	organized crime
13	February	Quintana Roo	independent defender	male and female	other	means of communication	physical aggression, illegal detention, threat, other	private company
14	February	Oaxaca	community members	male	indigenous community	means of communication	criminalization, defamation, stigmatization, illegal arbitrary detention	federal government
15	February	Yucatan	ejido residents	male	comparable community	farming	breaking and entering	person in the community, private company
16	March	Sonora	CSO member	male and female	other	other	threat	organized crime
17	March	Tlaxcala	community members	male	indigenous community	forestry	criminalization, defamation	state government
18	March	Michoacan	independent defender	male	other	forestry	threat, disappearance by non-government actors	organized crime
19	March	Quintana Roo	independent defender	male	other	means of communication	stigmatization, defamation, physical aggression	federal government, non-government actors
20	March	Quintana Roo	attorney	male	other	tourism	criminalization, defamation, other	private company, public prosecutor

21	April	Sonora	ejido residents	male	comparable community	mining	defamation	person in the community, non-government actors, private company, federal government
22	April	Puebla	independent defender	N/A	other	pollutants	harassment, stigmatization	state government, municipal government, public prosecutor
23	April	Oaxaca	community member	male	indigenous community	means of communication	harassment	unidentified
24	April	Sinaloa	ejido residents	N/A	comparable community	means of communication	criminalization	SEMAR, public prosecutor
25	April	Oaxaca	community member	male	indigenous community	means of communication	physical aggression, undue use of force, intimidation	police, municipal government
26	April	Puebla	community member	male	indigenous community	pollutants	arbitrary illegal detention	public prosecutor
27	April	Oaxaca	community member	male and female	indigenous community	means of communication	discrimination, physical aggression, criminalization, theft, psychological abuse	private company, federal government, police, national guard, SEMAR
28	May	Chiapas	ejido residents	male and female	comparable community	mining	homicide, intimidation, property damage, other	organized crime
29	May	Quintana Roo	attorney	male and female	other	tourism	criminalization	private company
30	May	Guanajuato	other	male	other	urban	stigmatization, defamation	private company
31	May	Michoacan	community member	male	indigenous community	forestry	homicide	organized crime

32	May	State of Mexico	community member	female	indigenous community	indeterminate	physical aggression	federal government, non-government actors
33	May	Veracruz	independent defender	female	other	hybrid	disappearance	unidentified
34	May	Oaxaca	CSO member	N/A	other	biodiversity	breaking and entering, property damage, theft	unidentified
35	June	Michoacán	CSO member	male	non-indigenous community	forestry	kidnapping	unidentified
36	June	Veracruz	CSO member	N/A	comparable community	farming	stigmatization, defamation	private company
37	June	Puebla	communal landholder	male	comparable community	farming	threat, intimidation, harassment	organized crime, federal government, state government
38	June	Veracruz	CSO member	N/A	comparable community	farming	extrajudicial execution, undue use of force, forced disappearance, arbitrary detention, stigmatization	private company, state government, police, national guard
39	June	Veracruz	CSO member	N/A	comparable community	farming	threats, intimidation	private company, organized crime, federal government
40	June	Chiapas	community members	N/A	indigenous community	forestry	harassment, property damage	paramilitary groups
41	June	Michoacán	community members	female	indigenous community	forestry	criminalization	public prosecutor
42	June	Chihuahua	CSO member	female	other	pollutants	property damage, intimidation	unidentified

43	June	Oaxaca	CSO member	N/A	other	tourism	stigmatization	state government
44	July	Chiapas	community members	female	indigenous community	biodiversity	gender violence, stigmatization	person in the community
45	June	Chiapas	community members	N/A	indigenous community	forestry	intimidation, harassment	paramilitary groups
46	June	Veracruz	community members	N/A	non-indigenous community	farming	stigmatization, intimidation	state government
47	June	Veracruz	CSO member	male	other	farming	physical aggression, threat, property damage	police
48	June	Mexico City	CSO member	female	other	indeterminate	defamation, intimidation, harassment, other	CSO
49	July	Baja California	other	female	other	farming	homicide	unidentified
50	July	Michoacan	community members	N/A	indigenous community	other	intimidation, harassment, property damage	organized crime
51	July	Morelos	journalist	female	other	mining	intimidation, physical aggression, property damage	other authority
52	July	Oaxaca	community members	N/A	indigenous community	forestry	property damage	person in the community
53	July	Southern Baja California	CSO member	male	other	tourism	stigmatization	private company

54	August	Yucatan	community members	male and female	indigenous community	means of communication	criminalization, other	private company, public prosecutor
55	August	Aguascalientes	community members	N/A	comparable community	water	intimidation, gender violence, discrimination, other	private company, federal government, police
56	August	Quintana Roo	attorney	male	other	tourism	defamation, stigmatization	private company
57	August	Mexico City	independent defender	N/A	other	means of communication	defamation, stigmatization	federal government
58	August	Puebla	attorney	male	non-indigenous community	farming	criminalization	private company, public prosecutor
59	August	Puebla	community members	male	comparable community	farming	criminalization, harassment	private company, public prosecutor
60	August	Quintana Roo	attorney	male	other	tourism	criminalization, defamation, harassment	private company, public prosecutor
61	August	Ciudad de México	community members	female	comparable community	urban	criminalization, harassment, gender violence	municipal government, public prosecutor
62	August	Jalisco	community members	N/A	indigenous community	mining	threat	person in the community
63	August	Southern Baja California	CSO member	female	other	farming	gender violence, criminalization, intimidation, harassment, defamation, other	non-government actors
64	August	Southern Baja California	CSO member	male and female	other	biodiversity	threat, harassment	CSO

65	August	Southern Baja California	CSO member	male and female	other	biodiversity	defamation	CSO
66	September	Oaxaca	community members	female	indigenous community	vías de comunicación	intimidation, spying	private company, organized crime, federal government
67	September	Aguascalientes	community members	N/A	comparable community	water	gender violence, discrimination, other	private company, federal government
68	September	Mexico City	journalist	female	other	urban	gender violence, physical aggression, sexual aggression, property damage, theft, intimidation, threat, illegal detention, undue use of force, other	police
69	September	Mexico City	journalist	female	other	urban	intimidation, arbitrary illegal detention	police
70	September	Sonora	CSO member	male and female	other	biodiversity	theft, harassment, other	CSO, organized crime
71	September	Veracruz	community members	N/A	non-indigenous community	petroleum products	intimidation	federal government
72	September	Jalisco	CSO member	male and female	other	urban	harassment, defamation, stigmatization	CSO
73	September	Mexico City	community members	N/A	indigenous community	urban	intimidation, physical aggression, theft, arbitrary illegal detention, criminalization, forced displacement, undue use of force	organized crime, public prosecutor
74	January	Chiapas	CSO member	male and female	other	other	threat, defamation, intimidation, harassment, stigmatization, breaking and entering, other	federal government and other unidentified perpetrators

75	September	Oaxaca	community members	male	indigenous community	other	criminalization, harassment	state government
76	September	Puebla	community members	N/A	non-indigenous community	pollutants	threat, intimidation, harassment	federal government, police
77	September	Southern Baja California	integrante de OSC	N/A	other	tourism	stigmatization	state government
78	October	Chiapas	defensor independiente	male	indigenous community	indeterminate	homicide	organized crime
79	October	Zacatecas	ejidatarios	N/A	non-indigenous community	water	defamation, stigmatization	state government
80	October	State of Mexico	community members	male	indigenous community	industrial	criminalization	police, public prosecutor
81	November	Jalisco	integrante de OSC	male	other	means of communication	homicide	unidentified
82	Mayo	Oaxaca	community members	N/A	indigenous community	urban	criminalization, threat, intimidation, stigmatization, defamation	person in the community, federal government
83	November	Chiapas	community members	female	indigenous community	mining	threat	person in the community
84	November	Oaxaca	community members	female	indigenous community	other	extrajudicial execution	police, unidentified
85	November	Yucatan	community members	male	indigenous community	farming	criminalization	private company, federal government, public prosecutor

86	May	Yucatan	community members	N/A	indigenous community	farming	threat, intimidation	private company
87	December	Sonora	CSO member	male	other	biodiversity	harassment, intimidation	unidentified
88	December	Oaxaca	community members	N/A	indigenous community	mining	physical aggression, property damages, other	private company, police
89	December	Puebla	community members	N/A	non-indigenous community	pollutants	intimidation	federal government, police
90	December	Oaxaca	community members	male	indigenous community	urban	stigmatization, defamation	person in the community
91	January a December	Sonora	CSO member	male	other	farming	forced displacement	organized crime
92	July	Mexico City	attorney	male	other	urbano	criminalization	private company
93	October	Aguascalientes	community members	N/A	comparable community	water	intimidation, harassment, other	private company, federal government, police
94	December	Puebla	ejido residents	male	comparable community	forestal	homicide	unidentified




Protecting people, Protecting Nature

This Report is part of the Protecting People, Protecting Nature (P3N) Initiative, which aims to provide tools and support for promoting a culture of safety and security practices, among organizations, collectives, and communities dedicated to the protection of land, territory and the environment through the following components:

- ✔ Documentation of the situation of persons and communities who defend environmental human rights.
- ✔ Integral security training.
- ✔ Rapid Response Fund





This Report is the result of collective work. If you are an environmental or land defender -or part of a collective or community working to protect these rights- and you would like to contribute to this report or share information about a possible risk or aggression, please contact CEMDA at the following email:
contacto@cemda.org.mx

www.cemda.org.mx