

Defending Human Rights and Environmental Defenders



ORIGINAL PROGRAM DATE

April 7, 2023

AVAILABLE MEDIA TYPES

Video & Audio MP3

*Presented in partnership with WSBA
World Peace Through Law Section*

REPORTING YOUR CREDIT

This on-demand seminar was originally presented as a live webcast on April 7, 2023, in Seattle, WA. If you attended the live webcast and reported CLE credits, you cannot also report credits from watching or listening to this recording if repeated within your three year reporting period.

DESCRIPTION

This half day CLE will educate lawyers who are interested in human rights and environmental issues on who are and what makes up a human rights and/or environmental defender and why the international community is taking greater strides to protecting such individuals. We will examine contexts from different parts of the world and this CLE should benefit those interested in doing pro bono work around defender issues. Lawyers taking this CLE will also be educated on the current laws that protect human rights and environmental defenders.

AGENDA

- 1 The Mandate of Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention: A New Rapid Response Mechanism for the Protection of Environmental Defenders Worldwide**
This session presents the mandate of Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention, established by decision VII/9 of the Meeting of the Parties of the Aarhus Convention, at its seventh session on 21 October 2021 in Geneva, and will explain its role and functions as the first international mechanism specifically safeguarding environmental defenders to be established within a legally binding framework either under the United Nations system or other intergovernmental structure.
Special Rapporteur Michel Forst - UN Economic Commission for Europe, France
- 2 Women's Rights in Myanmar**
Hear about the work the Women's League of Burma is doing.
Moon Nay Li - Women's League of Burma, Myanmar
Naw Hser Hser - Women's League of Burma, Myanmar

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3 Regulatory Frameworks Used for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

In its advocacy efforts for the protection of human rights defenders, Safeguard Defenders continuously employs a mixed toolbox ranging from the more traditional media and political avenues, to often neglected regulatory frameworks such as those governing radio and television broadcasts. With a view of both contrasting grave human rights abuse and upholding the international rule of law based on fundamental human rights, it has successfully contributed to holding PRC state media outlet CGTN to account in the United Kingdom and a growing number of countries. This session outlines the means used as well as the latest complaint filed before French regulatory authorities.

Laura Harth - Safeguard Defenders, Madrid, Spain

4 Protecting the Environment by Protecting Environmental Defenders

Protecting the environment must include protecting those that protect the environment on the ground - local farmers, local pastorists and Indigenous people. But how do you expose the role of private corporations or governments who are complicit in, and benefit from, the persecution of environmental defenders? We will discuss a number of avenues used by the Justice and Corporate Accountability Project, including the use of access to information requests, securities regulation and appeals to international bodies.

Charis Kamphuis - Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC

Shin Imai - Osgoode Hall Law School, Toronto, ON