



Congressman

RAUL M. GRIJALVA

Serving the people of Arizona's 7th District

H.Con.Res.31: Bicameral Resolution Commending and Protecting Environmental Defenders



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Environmental defenders are under attack in nearly every corner of the world. From government, private sector, and criminal actors, environmental defenders face persecution ranging from restrictions on free speech and assembly to criminalization, civil lawsuits, surveillance, and harassment—including, but not limited to verbal, cyber, physical, sexual assault, and even assassinations. Latin America, the Caribbean, and Asia are among the deadliest regions for environmental defenders, but their persecution spans the rest of the globe. Global Witness reported that at least 1,733 environmental defenders have been killed since 2012, with more than 200 reportedly killed in 2021 alone.

This resolution highlights the risks that environmental defenders face around the world and commends their role in defending human rights, combating climate chaos, and supporting a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

You can read the full text of the resolution [here](#)



KEY PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

- Urges the U.S. government to consult with Indigenous Peoples in good faith and without coercion prior to the approval of any project affecting land, territory, cultural resources, or other natural resources of such peoples.
- Encourages the U.S. to use its leadership in the UN Human Rights Council to implement a legally binding instrument that supports and protects environmental defenders in line with UN Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/RES/26/9.
- Calls for the responsible conduct of U.S. financial institutions and companies in relation to the freedoms and rights of Indigenous communities and environmental defenders particularly in the agribusiness, fossil fuel, mining, and hydroelectric sectors.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL, ACTIONAID USA, EARTHWORKS, EARTHRIGHTS INTERNATIONAL, GUATEMALA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, PROJECT ON MIDDLE EAST DEMOCRACY (POMED), GLOBAL WITNESS, CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, KALIKASAN PNE, MIGRANT ROOTS MEDIA