

## **Brazilian Committee of Human Rights Defenders' charter of principles**

The Brazilian Committee of Human Rights Defenders (CBDDH) is a cooperation of more than 20 organizations and civil society movements that since 2004 monitors the debate and acts in the defense of the protection of human rights defenders facing risks, threats, attacks and/or criminalization due to their activism.

CBDDH arose from a process of organization of the civil society to press the Brazilian government for the development of a protection policy for human rights defenders in Brazil, in a context of constant violations against these individuals and collectivities. The outcome of this process was the creation of the National Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (PPDDH) in Brazil. Since then, the Committee offers assessment and recommendations on Brazilian protection policy, carry out political advocacy, both domestically and internationally, monitors emblematic instances of violation committed against human rights defenders, organize and engage in educational activities to strengthen the activism of human rights defenders.

The Committee's conception of human rights defenders is: All individuals, groups, organizations, peoples and social movements that fight for the effective elimination of all violations against fundamental rights and freedoms of the peoples and individuals, including those that fight for the achievement of new individual, political, social, economic, cultural and environmental rights that still haven't taken a legal form or a specific conceptual definition. It also comprises those that politically resist to the models through which capital is organized, to strategies of delegitimization and criminalization conducted by the government and to the absence of social recognition for its demands.

These are the guidelines of the Brazilian Committee of Human Rights Defenders:

- Strengthen the activism of human rights defenders, promoting the right to the protection of individuals and collectivities facing vulnerability, threats, attacks or criminalization processes.
- Monitor the national protection policy for human rights defenders, contributing for its implementation and improvement. Fight for the expansion and regionalization of the national protection policy for human rights defenders in the states of the Brazilian Federation, as well as for its continuity and effectiveness.
- Fight against the structural causes for the conflicts that promote violence against human rights defenders, make them visible and report them.
- Promote and contribute for the public debate to appreciate the activism of human rights defenders alongside the society.
- Report violence against human rights defenders committed due to their gender, race, ethnicity, class, or other conditions.

The committee operates according to some agreements made among all members that were present in the national seminars, which happen once a year. For more organizational topics, our network has a Facilitation Group, which comprises seven members who meet periodically to develop and submit activities of the collectivity. Currently, the Facilitation

Group comprises: ARTICLE 19, CIMI, CPT, Justiça Global, MNDH, SMDH and Terra de Direitos.

Any civil society organization or social movement acting in the defense or promotion of rights can join the Committee. The approval of new members is granted by the whole collectivity and the requirement for the new member to be approved is to be approved by at least three members. The same standard applies to every production conducted on behalf of the Committee.

Some organizations that currently compose CBDDH: ARTICLE 19, Associação de Advogados de Trabalhadores Rurais no Estado da Bahia – AATR, Associação de Apoio a Criança e ao Adolescente – Amencar, Central do Movimentos Populares, Centro de Defesa de Direitos Humanos de Sapopemba, Centro de Defesa de Direitos Humanos Gaspar Garcia – SP, Centro de Defesa dos Direitos Humanos da Serra –ES, Centro Feminista de Estudos e Assessoria - CFEMEA, Coletivo Margarida Alves – MG, Comissão Pastoral da Terra – CPT, Conselho Indigenista Missionário – CIMI, CPP – Conselho Pastoral da Pesca, Dignitatis – Assessoria Técnica Popular, Brigadas Populares, Grupo Tortura nunca mais da Bahia, Instituto de Direitos Humanos – MG, Justiça Global, Lajusa - Laboratório de Justiça Global e Educação em Direitos Humanos na Amazônia, Movimento dos Atingidos por Barragens, Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra – MST, Movimento Nacional de Direitos Humanos, Rede Justiça nos Trilhos, Sociedade Maranhense dos Direitos Humanos, Sociedade Paraense de Defesa dos Direitos Humanos – SDDH, Terra de Direitos.