The worrying trend of shrinking space for civil society to do its work unhindered from unwarranted interference has been observed and documented in many countries for the last ten years. While these restrictions to attack, stifle, ban or just kill civil society are a global trend, and not limited to the so-called Global South, most of these phenomena had yet occurred in countries under authoritarian/dictatorial regimes.

However, more recently, particularly since last year, we have observed actions compromising the independence of civil society also in countries of the European Union, which because of their democratic values and guidelines on Human Rights Defenders are considered to be allies for a vital unhindered civil society to exist.

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