



**19th session of the
Human Rights Council**

Item 4

**Human rights situations that require the Council's attention
14 March 2011**

Delivered by Renate Bloem

Thank you Mme. President,

CIVICUS wants to refer to the report of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders with focus on human rights violations against journalists, environmental activists and students.

2011 remains one of the deadliest years for civil society activists, particularly for union leaders, indigenous rights activists and environmental activists. In Brazil, activists highlighting the degradation of the Amazon rain rainforests and the activities of the timber mafia have been assassinated. In Colombia, killings of human rights defenders by suspected members of militia groups continue unabated. Such targeted assassinations of local activists were reported in Brazil, El Salvador, Colombia, Guatemala and Bolivia. Similar acts of violence were witnessed in other parts of the world including: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), India, Indonesia, Iraq, Pakistan, Thailand, Uganda, and Yemen.

In Egypt, multiple raids have been conducted on NGO offices to block international funding for independent civil society groups. In Ethiopia, human rights groups continue impeded from obtaining much need international funding.

In the Philippines, the mothers of two disappeared women human rights defenders have filed cases against Gen. Jovito "the Butcher" Palparan. Four months after the issuance of warrant of arrest, he has not been arrested and has been left scot-free, while the attacks against human rights defenders continue.

Italian missionary Fausto "Fr. Pops" Tentorio, was shot dead inside his church compound. Fr. Pops was an environmental activist and an advocate of indigenous people's right

CIVICUS appeals to this Council to look into these cases of attacks against HRDs and urge governments to respect their pledges and commitments during their UPR as well as their obligations in major human rights instruments. We also ask the Special Rapporteurs on HRD and Torture and the WGs on Arbitrary Detention and Extra Judiciary Killings to issue joint urgent appeals to Governments who do not cooperate.

Thank you for your attention,