



**Indigenous Peoples  
Rights International**

Championing Indigenous Peoples Rights



# CRIMINALIZATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION

A side event at the 14th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)

**July 14, 2021**

**7am Colombia/Mexico, 2pm Geneva, 5:30pm New Delhi, 8pm Manila**

**Registration: [bit.ly/emrip-criminalization-sd](https://bit.ly/emrip-criminalization-sd)**



*Interpretation in English, French, and Spanish will be provided.*

## Background

The Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI) is organizing the side event “Criminalization of Indigenous Peoples and their right to Self-Determination”. The side-event will take place during the 14th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP).

This year’s EMRIP Session will address the efforts to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Indigenous Peoples and the Right to Self-Determination.

Throughout the world, there is a growing trend in the criminalization of Indigenous Peoples and the impunity in the crimes committed against them. These cases are mostly related to Indigenous Peoples' defense of their collective rights to Self-Determination and to lands, territories and resources.

Criminalization, understood as the misuse of criminal laws that involves the manipulation of the punitive power of the State and non-state actors in order to control, punish and/or prevent the exercise of the right to defend human rights, has direct negative, and often times, irreparable impacts in the exercise of the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The side-event will address the situation of criminalization of Indigenous Peoples in Mexico, Colombia and India in their defense and struggle for the right to self-determination and the protection of their lands, territories and resources.

It will also provide the opportunity to present recommendations in the context of the implementation of the right to self-determination, as well as building support and solidarity for Indigenous Peoples.

## Program

Time	Topic	Details
10 minutes	Introduction and presentation	Monica Chuji
21 minutes	Country presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mexico</li> <li>- Colombia</li> <li>- India</li> </ul>	7 minutes per speaker.
15 minutes	Expert Reaction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Rodion Sulyandziga</i> – EMRIP Member</li> <li>- <i>Vicky Tauli-Corpuz</i> – Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</li> <li>- <i>Chris Chapman</i> – Amnesty International</li> </ul>	5-minute responses.
20 minutes	Questions and Answers	Questions gathered from Zoom's Q&A
10 minutes	Conclusion – Closing Remarks	

## Speakers and Moderator

### Moderator

**Monica Chuji Gualinga** | IPRI Deputy Director for Latin America. Kichwa from the Ecuadorian Amazon and member of the Sarayaku community of Sucumbios. As Constituent Assemblywoman of Ecuador, she promoted the Constitutional recognition of the Human Right to Water, the Right to Free, Prior and Informed Consultation of Indigenous Peoples, the Plurinational nature of the State and Indigenous Justice. Former Vice President of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon.

### Panelists

**Anabela Carlon Flores (México)** | Indigenous leader from the Yaqui People in Mexico. Anabela is an indigenous lawyer who works in the protection of the Yaqui territory. She is trainer of Indigenous Peoples that works in strengthening indigenous knowledge and in the protection of the territory.

***Leonor Zalabata (Colombia)*** | Leader and Activist from the Arhuaco People in Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia. She is the Human Rights Commissioner of the Tayrona Indigenous Confederation and representative of the National Commission of the Indigenous Peoples of Colombia. Member of the delegation of the National Working Group for Indigenous Peoples Rights of the Constituent Assembly of 1991. Recipient of several awards including the Anna Lindh Prize for campaigning for the rights of indigenous people.

***Anthony Debbarma*** | Anthony Debbarma is the Secretary General of the Borok Peoples' Human Rights Organization (BPHRO), a human rights NGO based in Agartala, Tripura, North-east India, that works on the promotion of human rights in the region with a special focus on the rights of the indigenous Borok people. He is also the convener of the Joint Action Committee of Civil Society (JACCS), a platform that brings together indigenous civil society organisations in Tripura.

## Commentators

***Rodion Sulyandziga*** | Member of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Director of the Centre for the Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North (CSIPN), Russia. Rodion is the former co-chair of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC), former Co-chair of the Indigenous Peoples' Global steering committees on climate change and the World Conference on indigenous peoples in 2014.

***Vicky Tauli-Corpuz*** | -Co-Founder of IPRI. Indigenous activist from the Kankana-ey Igorot people of the Cordillera Region in the Philippines. Former chairperson of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples from 2014 to 2020.

***Chris Chapman*** | Adviser/Researcher on Indigenous Peoples' Rights at Amnesty International, where he supports research and advocacy on land rights, FPIC, human rights violations relating to conservation, and violence against Indigenous women, among other issues. From 2000 to 2013 he was at Minority Rights Group International, most recently as Head of Conflict Prevention.