

## **54th session of the UN Human Rights Council**

### **Oral statement**

#### **Item 2: General Debate**

Mr. President,

Right Livelihood, CEJIL and the Red de Defensoras Indigenas (RDI) thank the group of Experts on Nicaragua for their oral update and would like to highlight the situation of indigenous peoples in the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua.

Since 2015, the Miskitu and Mayangna indigenous peoples have been suffering violent attacks by illegal settlers, who have invaded their territories and destroyed their means of subsistence. This has generated a humanitarian crisis that is worsening over time due to the forced internal displacement of community members. This is coupled with a lack of access to sanitation and food, as well as hurdles for hunting and fishing activities.

These attacks also include killings, kidnappings, death threats and sexual violence. In the first half of 2023, 11 community members have been killed, and the RDI recorded 418 violent incidents, compared to 92 in 2022. While this increase is extremely alarming, impunity remains a constant.

Despite its national and international obligations, including protection measures granted by the Inter-American Human Rights System, the State of Nicaragua continues to grant land concessions to transnational corporations and promote illegal invasions, which fuels systematic violence against indigenous peoples.

The Group of Experts is essential to ensure justice in Nicaragua, and we appreciate the recent inclusion of indigenous peoples among their priority areas. We, therefore, call on the Council to provide continued scrutiny on the matter and to ensure that the Group of Experts has the necessary resources to successfully carry out its mandate.