



# Defend the Defenders

**Mae Ocampo**

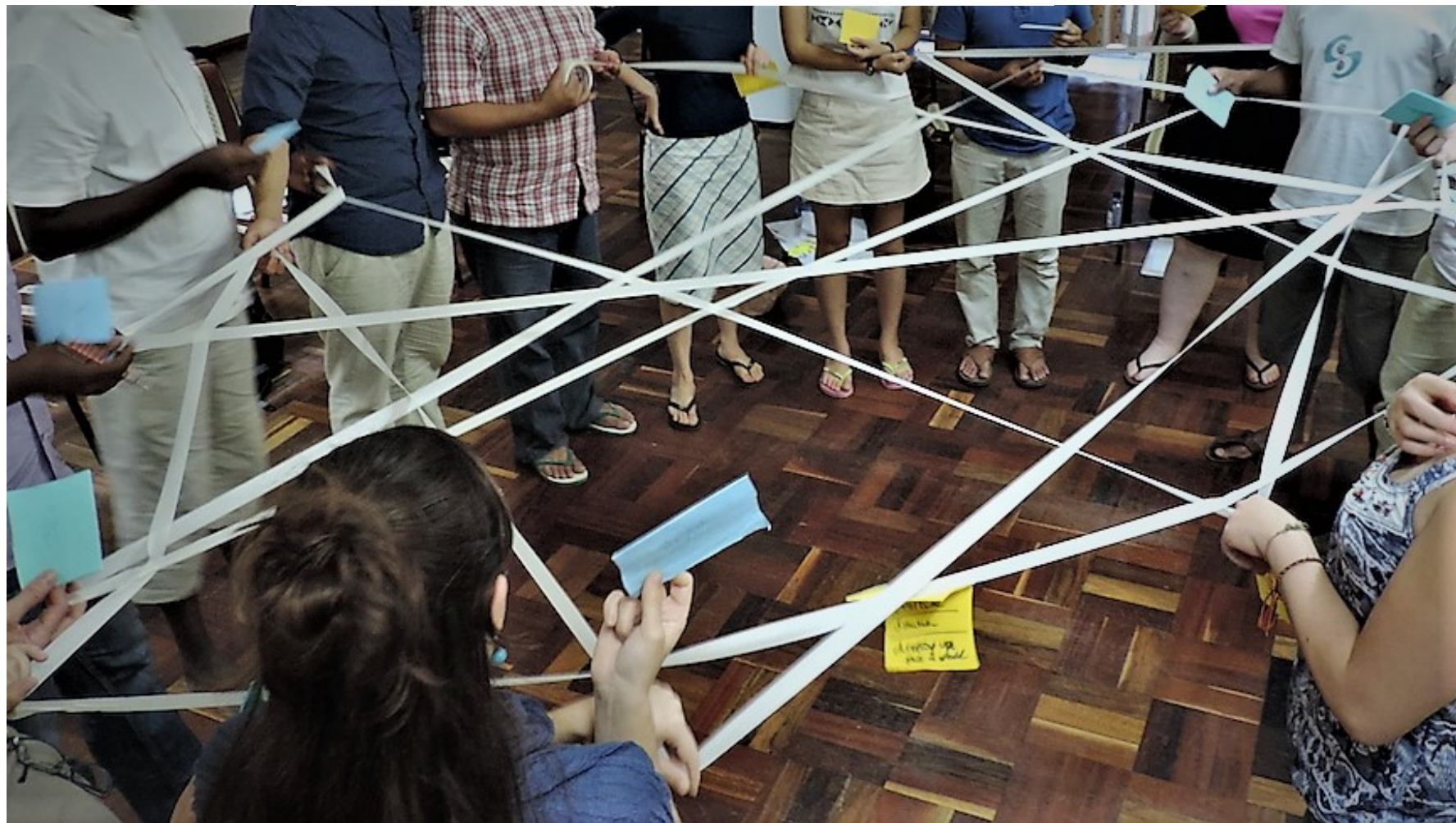
---

**Executive Director  
Protection International**



# About Us

- non-profit organization that supports human rights defenders in developing their security and protection management strategies
- working since 2004 with local partners in over thirty countries across the globe
- Regional hubs in Africa and Meso America, this year in SEA, and in the coming year in EurAsia
- Country offices in Indonesia, Thailand, DRC, Kenya, Tanzania, Colombia, Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras
- Global team in Brussels



*#StandwithHRDs #DefendtheDefenders*

**We support individuals, organisations, networks, and communities whose rights to defend human rights is being violated through threats, judicial harassment, stigmatisation, or other forms of repression. PI supports human rights defenders in their protection by:**

- **joining them in defining and putting in practice protection tactics and setting up Protection Desks in countries or regions where defenders are at particular risk**
- **building the capacities of individual defenders, organisations, networks, and communities to analyse risk and improve their security**
- **researching good protection practices and challenges in protection and translating our findings into manuals, reports and other tools**
- **advocating for Nation-States to protect human rights defenders through the recognition and compliance with international instruments, and the passing of public policies**

**What do  
we do?**

**#StandwithHRDs  
#DefendtheDefenders**

# Our Approach to the Protection of HRDs

---

**Right to defend human rights:** We promote a rights-based approach to the protection of HRDs, seeing them as subjects of rights, rather than objects of protection.

**Collective protection:** We promote collective strategies that strengthen the group and allow for more sustainable protection practices that go beyond individual security measures.

**Protection networks:** We promote the strengthening of internal and external solidarity networks among HRD groups and communities so that they are better positioned to confront threats and attacks.

**Psycho-social approach:** We understand that care and protection are indivisible. This means that protection strategies should address the individual and collective emotional impacts that HRDs experience as part of their struggles and processes, as well as integrate strategies for individual and collective well-being as a part of protection.

**#StandwithHRDs**  
**#DefendtheDefenders**



# HRDs

# Defenders

The right to defend human rights arises from the (non-binding) Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. The Declaration is mostly around the right to defend rights, and about doing it without being afraid of the consequences of it.

---

“Defenders” is not a “standard”, plain category of actors... there is a diversity of defenders engaged in the defense of all human rights, in different contexts, facing different barriers and discrimination, and enjoying different levels of recognition and solidarity. In terms of defending defenders, there is no one-size-fits-all defenders due to the diversity of defenders and contexts

**#StandwithHRDs**  
**#DefendtheDefenders**



# Defending the Defenders

**Defending the defenders: primary stakeholders, duty-bearer stakeholders, key stakeholders.**

**Primary stakeholders:** Defenders themselves have a primary stake around it. There are a number of interventions focusing on supporting defenders, contributing to building their capacities, etc. This is a necessary and crucial, but not sufficient line of action to contribute to defend defenders, especially when defenders confront resourceful, powerful actors.

**Duty-bearer stakeholders:** State and government authorities must protect defenders, and they are in many cases the only actors that actually can protect them, even if some of (or all) of these authorities are putting pressure or directly attacking defenders.

**Key stakeholders:** are targeted partners where we focus efforts for support and intervention such women human rights defenders, environmental justice defenders

**#StandwithHRDs**

**#DefendtheDefenders**

# Some stories of our work



**Through a new lens: a video contest to foster new narratives on WHRDs in Indonesia**

**Defending the river is protecting lives and communities in Minas Gerais, Brazil**

**Protection system in East Africa**

**Opening Breaches for Justice in Guatemala**

**#StandwithHRDs  
#DefendtheDefenders**



# PI Tools and Resources

## **Focus Observatory**

public tool that can be used to facilitate the comparison, design and evaluation of current and future public policies created for the protection of human rights defenders

## **POLICY MAKERS TOOLS**

Our tools for policy makers on trial observation, public policies and criminalisation

## **DEFENDERS TOOLS**

Our manuals, publications, facilitators guides, best practices and other tools for human rights defenders

## **PROTECTION MANUALS**

Our series of protection manuals on the protection of human rights defenders

## **E-LEARNING**

On-line trainings on security and protection management for defenders and social organizations

**#StandwithHRDs**

**#DefendtheDefenders**





# Contact Us

Reach out for inquiries, comments,  
or if you want to have copies/links  
to our resources!

## Email Address

[mae.ocampo@protectioninternational.org](mailto:mae.ocampo@protectioninternational.org)

---

## Website

[www.protectioninternational.org](http://www.protectioninternational.org)