

*— Eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties —  
to the Aarhus Convention side event —*

# Defending the Defenders: AWARENESS RAISING, TESTIMONIES & MUTUAL LEARNING



Wednesday  
19 Nov



8.30 AM  
9.30 AM



Room H.207–209, Building H,  
Palais des Nations + online



Refreshments  
provided

The event will offer a dedicated space for learning from environmental defenders and raising awareness of the need for their protection. We will hear testimonies, discuss the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders, and turn the lessons learned into recommendations for the better protection of defenders.

## Agenda:

- 1 Welcome and opening by the BE LIFE project
- 2 Protection of environmental defenders across Aarhus Parties: Trends and worries, Testimonies reinforcing the importance of the Mandate
- 3 Keynote address: Michel Forst statement on 1st mandate and priorities, and lessons learned
- 4 Lessons learned and recommendations for the next intersessional period by BE LIFE project

*Supported by: EEB, Guta Association, Friends of the Earth England Wales and Northern Ireland, Wildlife and Countryside Link, Social Justice Center, Aarhus Centres Bosnia and Herzegovina, Environment People Law, Ecohome, CEE Bankwatch Network, Not1More, Youth and Environment Europe, Justice and Environment*