



Who's Next? *Activists Become Targets in the Struggle for Resources – and Rights*

In Boston, where Grassroots International has its headquarters, it's not uncommon for an outstanding activist to receive a civic award for protecting a water source or blowing the whistle on a misbehaving corporation. Unfortunately, our partner organizations aren't so lucky.

From Brazil to Palestine, committed activists are increasingly more likely to receive a bullet than an award for their good works. Anyone who dares to stand up and fight back to oppose the global grab for scarce resources has become a target for violence.

Since 1983, Grassroots has supported some of the most progressive social movements around the world, offering both financial and political solidarity in their struggle to secure a dignified life. Yet today these movements face increasing violence from forces that will stop at nothing in their reckless pursuit of profit and "progress."

In response to this alarming trend, Grassroots International is mobilizing funds from its network of generous donors to do everything in our power to put a stop to it.

Land and resources are harder to

take when they are being effectively utilized by communities. So, stabilizing the livelihoods of hard-working families – and growing strong, stable local economies – is one way Grassroots International is working to advance community rights.



Rafael Alegria, a farmer and La Via Campesina leader in Honduras, speaking out for peasant land rights and agrarian reform despite death threats from the country's land-grabbing elite.

At the same time, we support the organizing efforts of partners in Latin America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East – and beyond – as they lobby for fair farm and trade policies and advocate against resource grabs.

And when our allies are persecuted for their work – sadly, it's usually a question of "when" and not "if" – we help to raise awareness about their struggles and connect them with allies across the globe for legal defense and security.

Because supporting the legal rights of our partner communities is a fundamental part of our work, Grassroots International awards grants to a number of organizations whose sole purpose is to defend those who engage in resource rights activism; to document human rights abuses; and to protect individuals involved in social justice movements.

And despite incredible odds, there have been many successes to celebrate.

Efforts supported by Grassroots International were critical to suspending plans for one of the world's largest dams in the Brazilian Amazon. Meanwhile, our partnership with the MST (Landless Workers Movement) has helped thousands of impoverished families in Brazil to reclaim their land and livelihoods. And in Nicaragua La Via Campesina's Global Campaign to End Violence against Women succeeded in passing landmark legislation.

Continue on page 2

Inside

Letter from the Director	2
Who's Next? <i>continued</i>	2,4
Deepen Your Support	3

There are some phone calls and emails from our partners that we never want to get. And over the last couple of years, they have come more frequently: Word of assassinations of human rights activists, unlawful arrests of farmers and youth choosing to stay on their own land, death threats against agrarian reform campaigners.

And for all of us at Grassroots International, those people have names. Cicero Guedes, a member of the Landless Workers Movement in Brazil, shot more than a dozen times while he rode his bicycle to the fields. Evelinda Miranda, a 25-year-old Mayan organizer with the national Women's Commission of La Via Campesina, murdered along with seven other community members opposing a mining operation in Guatemala. Dr. Moayad Ahmad Bisharat, coordinator of the Jericho office of the Union of Agriculture Work Committees in Palestine, abducted from his home by Israeli forces. Rafael Alegria, a leader of La Via Campesina and advocate for agrarian reform in Honduras, facing death threats and forced into hiding after the murder of his closest advisor.

The names are many, and each one affirms the work that we do at Grassroots International. We know that the main struggle today is for the power to control the world's resources – land, water, minerals, and food. And the strongest voices for the people, for sustainability and equality come from our partners.

That's why Grassroots International supports more than seeds-and-tools for small farmers and indigenous peoples. We accompany that support with a dogged commitment to defend human rights – and to provide much needed financial and political backing to those on the front lines of efforts to protect the rights to land and water, food sovereignty and climate justice.

The stakes have never been higher. And we remain stalwart in our alliance with those who protect not only their own land but work for the rights of all to a dignified life.

Like our global partners – and like our thousands of U.S. supporters – Grassroots International is resolved to carry forward the banner, in the names of Cicero, Evelinda and all who stand up for justice. Thank you for joining us in this vital work.



Nikhil Aziz



Yet, amidst the successes, there is also tragedy and heartbreak – stories that belie a violent struggle against powerful and ruthless adversaries.

Cicero Guedes was one recent victim. A former sugar cane cutter turned land rights activist with the MST, Cicero was murdered – shot more than a dozen times while riding his bicycle to the fields. His assassination, along with thousands of other murders carried out since the MST began its work more than two decades ago, sends an ominous message to other would-be land rights activists: organize, and you will pay the ultimate price.

The governments of the developing countries in which our partners work are betting heavily on foreign investment and megaprojects — grand infrastructure to tie them into the global economy. Our partners are in the way. They aren't anti-development, but they do stand in the way of "progress" that doesn't advance the interests of people or the environment on which we all depend.

It is a giant clash of values that will have a profound impact on our world and its future. With so much money at stake and available resources quickly diminishing, tensions are likely to escalate.

Yet even in the face of such ominous threats, we cannot back down. That's why Grassroots International has created mechanisms like the Presente Fund, which enables us to respond to the urgent need for human rights defense, wherever it arises.

Deepen Your Support

Become a Monthly Giving Partner

When you give a recurring gift and join our Sustaining Partner program, you'll join a community of supporters working for social change around the world.

Your steady, reliable support allows Grassroots to maximize our impact and to take on long-term

movement building projects in the Global South.

Because these gifts are automated, it means less work on your end, and ensures that more of your donation goes directly to our program work.

Some reasons to become a Sustaining Partner include:

- Fighting for the human rights to land, water, and food 365 days a year without ever having to write a check or buy another stamp again
- Saving paper and hassle by giving electronically instead of by mail
- Investing in “bottom-up” social movements and community-based organizations around the world
- Being organized! We'll keep track of your total giving and send you a single tax receipt at the end of the calendar year
- Getting special invitations and opportunities to learn the latest about the work you support and exchange ideas directly with Grassroots International staff
- Allowing Grassroots to confidently plan our programs in advance because we are able to count on your support
- Receiving a free Grassroots apron to show your support for food sovereignty whether you're cooking in the kitchen or grilling out in the yard!

Questions? Please call Shannon Duncan at 617.524.1400 x13 or email sduncan@GrassrootsOnline.org

Become a Sustaining Partner today!



Marchers from around Haiti protest against the seeds donated by Monsanto that have the potential to ruin local food economies.



Millions of Brazilians marched on July 11, 2013 in major cities across the country in demonstrations for national social movements.

Everyone has a right to land, water and food! Enclosed you'll find my gift to build grassroots movements around the world for a just and sustainable future.



☐ I'd like to make a gift right now:
☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other: \$ _____

☐ Please send me information about including Grassroots International in my will or insurance policy.

Name _____

Address 1 _____

Address 2 _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

I'll give by: ☐ Check (payable to *Grassroots International*)
☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

Card# _____ Sec. Code _____ Expires _____ / _____

Signature _____

Your e-mail, please, so we can keep you informed about how your support helps. (We never share your e-mail.)

- Questions? Contact Shannon Duncan at 617.524.1400 or sduncan@GrassrootsOnline.org
- Prefer to donate online? Visit www.GrassrootsOnline.org/donate

Our complete annual report is available on our website or by mail upon request.

Your gift is tax deductible. Grassroots International is a 501c3 Corporation



Board of Directors

Leticia Alcantar	Marie Kennedy
Jean Entine	Taij Kumarie Moteelall
Meg Gage	Anil Naidoo
Ellen Gurzinsky	Amelita Pascual
Catherine Hoffman	Tarso Luis Ramos
David Holmstrom	Wenda Tai
Hayat Imam	Nikhil Aziz, Executive Director
Chad Jones	
Soya Jung	

Staff

Nikhil Aziz, *Executive Director*

Shannon Duncan,
Individual Giving and e-Advocacy Coordinator

Malkah Feldman,
Associate Director of Strategic Philanthropy

Jovanna Garcia Soto,
Program Coordinator for Latin America

Jonathan Leaning, *Institutional Giving
and Communications Coordinator*

Sara Mersha,
Director of Grantmaking and Advocacy

Opal Mita, *Administrative Coordinator*

Orson Moon,
Director of Administration and Finance

Mina Remy, *Program Coordinator for
the Middle East and Haiti*

Carol Schachet,
Director of Development and Communications

Lydia Simas, *Program Assistant*

Who's Next? *Continued from p.2*

Our partners are not backing down, and neither are we. We will not allow so many deaths – and so much struggle for justice – ever to have been in vain. Grassroots International staffer Carol Schachet penned this poem following Cicero Guedes' death:

*On the day Cicero Guedes died
 His name spread across wires and wireless networks
 The latest in an all-too-long scroll of heroes of humanity
 Whose work passes to the next woman or man.
 And whose name evokes the response, always,
 Presente!*

As the global struggle for justice, equality – and the earth itself – rages on, Grassroots will be there, always, hand in hand with those who courageously carry on the fight. We hope we can always count on loyal friends like you, to be right there with us.



Grassroots International works to create a just and sustainable world by building alliances with progressive movements. We provide grants to our Global South partners and join them in advocating for social change. Our primary focus is on land, water and food as human rights and nourishing the political struggle necessary to achieve these rights. Grassroots International is supported entirely by private donations, which are tax-deductible.