



# **SANGTERRA**

**EXPOSED EARTH DEFENDERS**



Threats on the

# Defenders of the Earth

Portraits / Testimonies

A Multimedia Project by La Boîte à Images/Box of Images asbl

Photo: Maxima Chaupe, Pérou - © Christophe Smets



# **Wake up, Humanity! Time is Running Out**

**Berta Caceres**

**Activist of the Lenca community of Honduras**

**Murdered on March 2, 2016**

## The Project

Over the past four years, no fewer than 800 people have been murdered for defending their land and our environment, according to the report by the NGO Global Witness\*. That's between three and four people each week, on average—four times the rate compared to a decade ago. These grim statistics reflect only the visible part of the iceberg; many deaths are not recorded. The trend continues this year, with TK environmental murders already recorded around the world.

A problem not well known to the general public.

The pressure on the planet's natural resources is increasing and violence is also increasing as a result. The economic, social and environmental stakes are enormous. The growing need for land to meet consumer demand - that is, all of us - is leading to this deadly violence all over the world. Quick profits are privileged over lives and human rights. The unwillingness of many governments and companies to act responsibly, ethically or even legally is one of the main drivers of crimes against environmental advocates.

Projects that cause these environmental and human rights violations are often financed by the savings or investments of ordinary people, usually without their knowledge. From energy to agriculture, «development» projects in much of the world are leading to chronic deforestation, massive displacement and climate chaos.

At the same time, calls for the protection of the planet are becoming more and more numerous and urgent, but many defenders of the earth are being silenced. Today, the sixth mass extinction of species is very real, posing a significant threat to terrestrial biodiversity.

**Our project wishes to take stock of the existing situation and try to answer several essential questions: Who are these defenders of the Earth who are being murdered? What is our share of responsibility as consumers and Western citizens in this situation? How can we all act, at each of our levels?**

## Les défenseurs de l'environnement tués en 2018

Un total de 164 militants écologistes tués



Source : Global Witness

© AFP

## Who

?

La Boîte à Images (The Image Box) is a Belgian non-profit association created in 2001, mainly active in the field of photography, with a social, cultural, educational and humanitarian vocation. It sets up activities related to image education and disseminates and promotes the work of photographers engaged in a human and civic approach.

The objective of the association is to reflect important social themes through images, particularly in the form of exhibitions and multimedia projects.

La Boîte à Images develops many associative partnerships around diversified socio-cultural projects.

## The team

Camera operator: Jean-Noël Lansival (Cara de Mono)

Freelance journalists : Quentin Noirfalisse, Manon Masset (BE) + occasional collaborations with local and international journalists according to current events and topics covered.

Photographer: Christophe Smets (La Boîte à Images)

Production : La Boîte à Images

## How?

- Realization of 25 portraits / testimonies in the form of video capsules of  $\pm$  4 minutes intended for distribution on social networks and NGO websites.
- Realization of 50 photo portraits + captions in the form of large format prints for a street art exhibition, which will be offered for rent to cities around the world.
- Production of a documentary in 52 minutes: putting threatened people and the ecosystems they represent into perspective with the action of multinationals and the risks of systemic collapse of human society.
- Website: presentation of the project, the theme and the people met. Links to reference sites that address the issue.
- Pedagogical: activities in schools on the preservation of the Earth in relation to human rights
- Making off of the project: video sequences and photos for social networks to promote the project.
- Book: a beautiful documented publication, published in parallel with the exhibition with a DVD containing the capsules.
- Production of reports for the media (written press + television) according to current events and the countries visited, in line with the project's themes.

## Where?

Twelve countries: [Brazil](#), [Philippines](#), [Peru](#), [India](#), [Guatemala](#), [Honduras](#), [Mexico](#), [Cameroon](#), [DRC](#), [Indonesia](#), [Sierra Leone](#), [Russia](#), [Romania](#), [Colombia](#), [Cambodia](#) (non-exhaustive list)

## Distribution (planned)

° Press Publications:

International Newspapers like El Pais, New York Times, The Guardian, Le Monde, Le Temps

Exposure: / Distribution:

- Televisions : ARTE, RTBF (belgian television), France Télévision, BBC International
- Web : Via partners NGO, 350°
- Others : European Parliament, COP 26, GIEC / IPCC assemblies, IUCN (International Union for Nature Conservation), Festivals and public areas.

## Contact

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