

**The All-Party Parliamentary Human Rights Group (PHRG),
Colombia Caravana of Lawyers,
Peace Brigades International and ABColumbia
invite you to a panel event:**

Colombian Human Rights Defenders Under Threat:
*How can the UK Government help ensure they can continue
to defend victims' rights, reclaim land and promote peace?*

Wednesday, 29 October 2014, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m
Committee Room 19, House of Commons
Cromwell Green Visitors Entrance – Please allow 20 minutes to clear security

Speakers:

Yomaira Mendoza and Enrique Cabezas
Colombian land restitution leaders from Curvaradó

Professor Sara Chandler
Chair, Colombia Caravana of Lawyers, and
Chair, Law Society's Human Rights Committee

Louise Winstanley
Programme and Advocacy Manager, ABColumbia

Chair: Jeremy Corbyn MP

Please RSVP events@abcolombia.org.uk if you would like to attend.

The following questions will be explored:

- **How can the risks faced by land restitution leaders and human rights defenders be addressed?**
- **What impacts do economic interests in this region have on human rights?**
- **How can the UK Government adhere to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and encourage 'due diligence' by UK companies, promote genuine free, prior and informed consent processes in conformity with Colombian law and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 169, and hold companies to account?**

Background Information:

At this event, we will examine the continuing pressures facing human rights defenders in Colombia.

Land restitution leaders Enrique Cabezas and Yomaira Mendoza from the Curvaradó River Basin in Chocó, both been forced to leave the country due to threats. They will first discuss the situation they face in trying to reclaim land from which their community was forcibly displaced and which is being illegally used by powerful economic interests for African palm oil cultivation, coca leaf cultivation, cattle ranching, mining and logging. The case of Curvaradó is emblematic, and its outcome will serve as an indicator of how successful Colombia is likely to be in terms of its ability to return land to displaced communities.

The Colombian Caravana of Lawyers will then present its interim report following the visit of over 60 lawyers to Colombia in August to meet with, and record the testimonies of, human rights defenders in 7 regions.