



VIRTUAL ROUND TABLE ON PEASANT RIGHTS

HONDURAS: THE FIGHT FOR LAND ACCESS UNDER THE PANDEMIC

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THURSDAY
15
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16H30-18:00
(CENTRAL EUROPEAN/ZÜRICH TIME)

Via ZOOM

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HONDURAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND PEASANTS ARE COMPLETELY NEGLECTED BY THE STATE. THE SITUATION FOR PEASANT WOMEN IS MUCH WORSE.

ANDREA REGINA PINEDA
(CEHPRODEC).



How are peasant communities experiencing the current crisis in Honduras? What is the contribution of the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants to peasant movements globally and throughout Central America? How has Switzerland implemented the Declaration? How can international civil society support peasant movements and human rights defenders in Central America?

The current crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic makes that in Honduras and other countries in the region, peasant farmers must contend not only with a weak healthcare system, but also with the drastic measures taken to halt the spread of the pandemic, such as restrictions on freedom of movement and the right to free assembly. Certain economic measures that have been implemented as part of the pandemic response privilege private-sector interests, favouring the expansion of agroindustry and extractivism. These measures, supposedly put in place to improve the economic and food security situation, are exacerbating the current humanitarian and social crisis, leading to an escalation of land conflicts between peasant farmers, indigenous peoples, and the private sector. This situation is even more dangerous for women human rights defenders. In this context, and since 2018, peasant movements have a new strategic instrument with which to claim their rights: the Declaration of the Rights of the Peasantry and Other People Working in Rural Areas.