

Item 4 (b) Round Table on Environmental Defenders

Intervention by Anna Clara Botto, Youth and Environment Europe at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention.

Thank you Chair.

On behalf of Youth and Environment Europe,

Let us be reminded that as we speak, in this comfortable room, there are people at the frontline whose lives are in severe threat.

It is with great regret, shock and profound sadness that we take the floor to pay homage to the families of Bruno Pereira and Dom Philips, Brazilian indigenous expert and British journalist whose lives were brutally taken while they were denouncing illegal fishing, mining, logging and drug-trafficking activities in the Brazilian Amazon forest.

Their bodies have returned to their families only a couple of hours ago after weeks of searching.

We cannot give anything back to their families now, but we sincerely hope that all of the parties here are strongly and jointly committed not to let those crimes keep being repeated.

Thank you.

Statement by Justice and Environment on the behalf of the European ECO Forum on the Roundtable Discussion on the Rapid Response Mechanism at the third Extraordinary Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention

I merely want to express our regret that there is no governmental representative from Belarus present today for this Roundtable and its discussion, as we have all heard, and benefitted from, these highly interesting presentations and other interventions which highlight both dire, sometimes horrific problems, as well cases, instruments and practices demonstrating good practices. It is a highly important event.

It is a shame therefore that no Belarus governmental representative is here, because we all know Belarus is a Party to the Convention known to have penalized, persecuted and harassed its environmental defenders. This could thus have been a valuable opportunity for them to listen, learn and engage.

Thank you.