

Defending the Defenders

Defenders of the environment and human rights face growing risks. Last year, ELAW partner **Eduardo Mosqueda Sánchez** was detained in Mexico on bogus charges, while working to defend the Nahua people in Jalisco State. Dozens of citizens were detained, as well. The citizens were released on bail and Eduardo was detained for many months.

ELAW has helped Eduardo and many partners respond to violent attacks, unjust detention, digital hacking, and threats. We work to empower our partners to take precautions and protect themselves, their data, their clients, and their organizations.

As front line advocates, our partners face direct threats against themselves and their organizations. Indeed, in some cases lawyers are the most attractive targets for those who want to silence dissent because grassroots lawyers give voice to communities and help citizens respond to threats.

In the year ahead, ELAW will provide training to our partners to make these grassroots leaders and the communities they work with more secure. Together, we will dissuade those who would attack defenders, and break the cycle of violence.

