

Contextualizing Security

Security strategies for human rights defender and activists



WE
EFFECT

GREENPEACE

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Speed Dating

- Introduce yourself and where you're from
- Name one fun fact about yourself
- What is one security strategy you employ in your daily life/work as an activist?



Collective agreements



Exercise 1 (15 mins)

Draw your trip to arrive to the Youth Symposium (or another trip/event/protest you have attended). Consider the following:

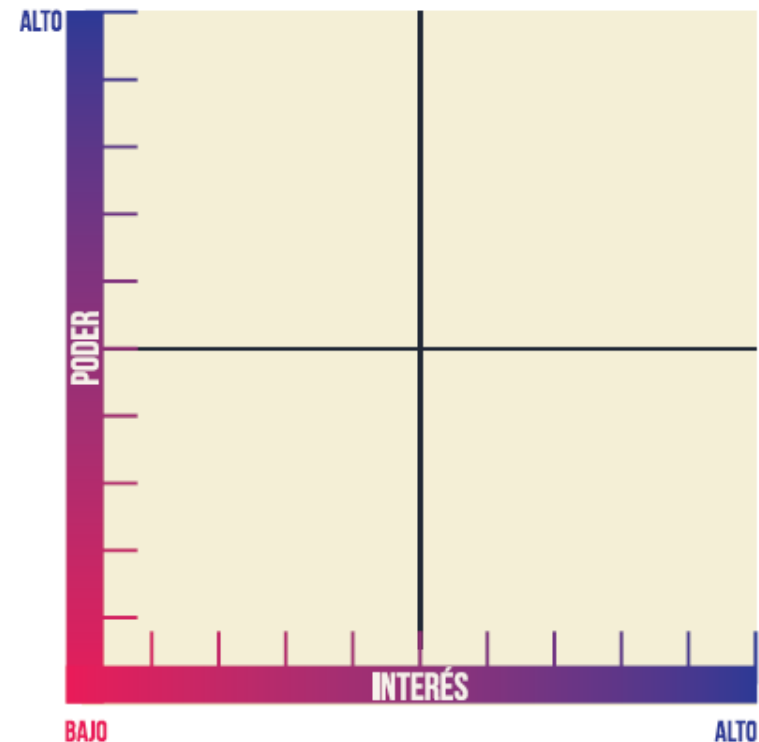
- How did you communicate before/during the trip/event?
- How did you prepare for the event?
- What did you take with you?
- How did you travel/move around and with whom?
- How were you feeling?
- What devices were you using?
- Where there incidents over the course of the trip?



Exercise 2 (15 mins)

In pairs, identify possible security incidents or risks during the course of your trip/event. What were some of the risks encountered? Indicate them on the map. Consider:

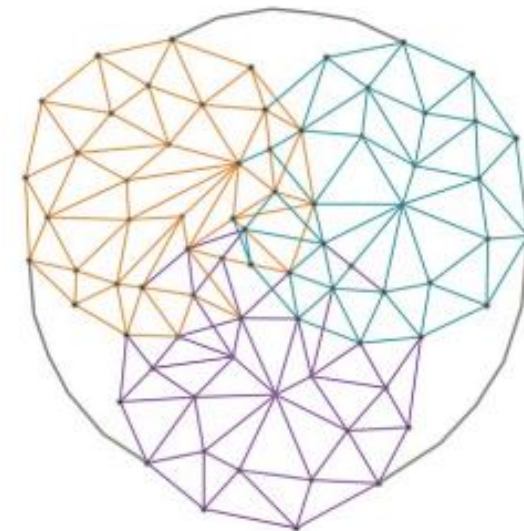
- Your state of mind
- Your devices
- Potential allies & contact
- Who you were with/who you encountered
- Borders
- Your bags



Discussion (30 mins)

Points for discussion:

- What were some of the risks identified during the exercise?
- How would you categorize these risks?
- Did you assess risk before/during your trip? What tools did you use to understand risk?
- Did you feel that there were specific characteristics that increased your risk (age, gender, sexuality etc.)
- Did your state of mind impact your risk?
- Did you understand the environment? Did you understand the actors?
- Did you have support?
- Did you tell anyone about these risks?

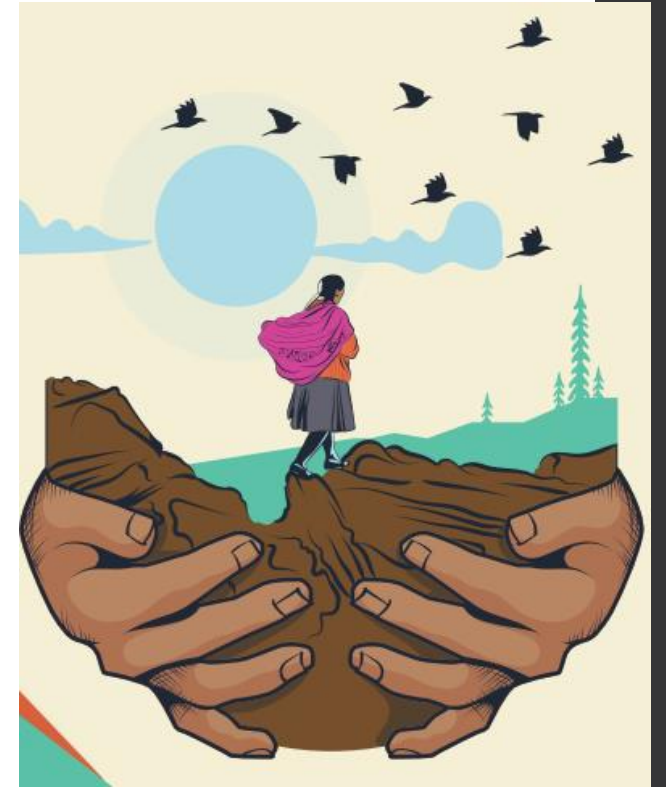


Holistic Security

- △ Physical Security
Threats to our physical integrity. Threats to our homes, buildings, vehicles.
- △ Psycho-social Security
Threats to our psychological wellbeing.
- △ Digital Security
Threats to our information, communication and equipment.
- Holistic security analysis, strategies and tactics.

Conclusions

- Security is an everyday consideration
- Different security dimensions are linked
- Caring for your wellbeing is a security strategy
- Security is community – Actor Mapping Tool
- Understanding risk – Context Analysis & Risk Analysis Tools. This practice should be contextual, flexible and continuous.
- Intersectionality matters



Security Toolkit HRDs



The infographic features a circular logo at the top left with the text 'PROTECTING OURSELVES' and 'SECURITY TOOLKIT'. Below the logo is a dark blue box with white and red text. The main body of the infographic contains three columns of text with red headings. At the bottom, there is an illustration of a man in a white shirt and straw hat holding a potted plant, with two large hands holding a landscape of mountains and trees above him.

PROTECTING OURSELVES
SECURITY TOOLKIT

If you are a **human rights defender** or part of an organization or movement that defends human rights, the land, the community or the environment, this information can help **you protect yourself and your work.**

WHO ARE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS?
Human rights defenders are people, groups, organizations or institutions that promote or defend one or more universally recognized human rights or freedoms **without the use of violence.**

WHAT DOES SAFETY MEAN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS?
It means an environment where individuals, groups, organizations or movements that defend human rights can feel safe and carry out their work without coming to any harm.

WHAT IS PROTECTION?
The state has the primary responsibility for protecting human rights defenders. However, there are measures that can be taken individually or collectively to reduce risk. **Self-protection is what we do to avoid harm. We can all help towards protecting our lands, families, communities and ourselves.**

WHAT IS THIS TOOLKIT FOR?
This toolkit is an introduction on how to defend human rights safely. It sets out 10 steps with practical exercises to help you stay safe while you are advocating for your cause and protecting your wellbeing.

Ten-step guide to security for HRDs.

Further Resources

- Rethinking protection – JASS:
https://justassociates.org/sites/justassociates.org/files/jass_mch6_rethinking_protection_power_movements_4.pdf
- Holistic Security – Tactical Tech Collective: <https://holistic-security.tacticaltech.org/index.html>
- New Protection Manual for Human Rights Defenders – Protection International:
<https://www.protectioninternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Protection-Manual-3rd-Edition.pdf>
- Integrated Security, the Manual – Kvinna till Kvinna:
<http://www.integratedsecuritymanual.org/>

For more info: alice.stevens@amnesty.org or leave your email to receive a copy of Amnesty's toolkit (available in Spanish, English, and Portuguese)

