



**An open letter from Goldman Environmental Prize winners to government leaders
regarding the 2012 Earth Summit**

We are the recipients of the Goldman Environmental Prize. We have been threatened. We have been tortured. We have been jailed. We have died from industrial toxins in our blood. We have been killed.

We are the recipients for the Goldman Environmental Prize. We are from 81 countries. We are grassroots activists. We are national ambassadors. We are indigenous people. We are environment ministers. We are women. We are men. We are elders. We are youth.

For over two decades the Goldman Environmental Prize has honored individuals for the great risks we take to protect the environment. Now we ask you to take a risk. Attend the Earth Summit in Rio and lead us into action.

The Earth Summit is a profound opportunity to move us forward in our global commitment to protect the planet, a commitment that was recognized 20 years ago at the historic Earth Summit of 1992. Since then the people of the planet have brought back endangered species, conserved fragile territories, and developed alternatives to some of our most destructive practices. Again and again communities have won great battles.

But let's face it, environmental leadership has come from civil society, people like us who put our lives on the line to protect the environment. Now, urgently, we request that governments take the lead in protecting the planet we all share. For future generations, we urge you to attend the Earth Summit and make real commitments toward sustainable development. We urge you to take a risk, as we have done, to defend Earth.

Sincerely,

Jane Akre
United States, 2001

Kaisha Atakhanova
Kazakhstan, 2005

Giorgos Catsadorakis
Greece, 2001

Rudolf Amenga-Etego
Ghana, 2004

Oral Ataniyazova
Uzbekistan, 2000

Pisit Charmsnoh
Thailand, 2002

Ikal Angelei
Kenya, 2012

Rashida Bee
India, 2004

Choi Yul
South Korea, 1995

Randall Arauz
Costa Rica, 2010

Robert Brown
Australia, 1990

Matthew Coon Come
Canada, 1994

Prigi Arisandi
Indonesia, 2011

Caroline Cannon
United States, 2012

Willie Corduff
Ireland, 2007

Paul Cox Western Samoa, 1997	Lois Gibbs United States, 1990	Hilton Kelley United States, 2011
Julio Cusurichi Palacios Peru, 2007	Janet Gibson Belize, 1990	Eha Kern Sweden, 1991
Dai Qing China, 1993	Anna Giordano Italy, 1998	Manana Kochladze Georgia, 2004
Demetrio do Amaral de Carvalho East Timor, 2004	Małgorzata Górska Poland, 2010	Michal Kravcik Slovakia, 1999
Tuenjai Deetes Thailand, 1994	Maria Gunnoe United States, 2009	Jean La Rose Guyana, 2002
Elias Diaz Peña Paraguay, 2000	Syeda Rizwana Hasan Bangladesh, 2009	Jesús León Santos Mexico, 2008
Feliciano dos Santos Mozambique, 2008	Lynn Henning United States, 2010	Dmitry Lisitsyn Russia, 2011
Raoul du Toit Zimbabwe, 2011	Von Hernandez Philippines, 2003	Luis Macas Ecuador, 1994
Wadja Egnankou Ivory Coast, 1992	Noah Idechong Palau, 1995	Thuli Makama Swaziland, 2010
Corneille Ewango Democratic Republic of Congo, 2005	Laila Iskandar Egypt, 1994	Myrsini Malakou Greece, 2001
Pablo Fajardo Mendoza Ecuador, 2008	Yuyun Ismawati Indonesia, 2009	Atherton Martin Dominica, 1998
Tarcísio Feitosa da Silva Brazil, 2006	Hugo Jabini Suriname, 2009	Bernard Martin Canada, 1999
Maria Elena Foronda Farro Peru, 2003	Margaret Jacobsohn Namibia, 1993	Alexis Massol-González Puerto Rico, 2002
Edwin Gariguez Philippines, 2012	Sarah James United States, 2002	M.C. Mehta India, 1996
Sofía Gatica Argentina, 2012	Christine Jean France, 1992	Olya Melen Ukraine, 2006
	Chavannes Jean-Baptiste Haiti, 2005	Vera Mischenko Russia, 2000

Emma Must England, 1995	Rosa Hilda Ramos Puerto Rico, 2008	John Sinclair Australia, 1993
Ricardo Navarro El Salvador, 1995	Carlos Alberto Ricardo Brazil, 1992	Ursula Sladek Germany, 2011
Harrison Ngau Laing Malaysia, 1990	Marina Rikhvanova Russia, 2008	Olga Speranskaya Russia, 2009
Alexander Nikitin Russia, 1997	Humberto Ríos Labrada Cuba, 2010	José Andrés Tamayo Cortez Honduras, 2005
Evaristo Nugkuag Peru, 1991	Oscar Rivas Paraguay, 2000	Bruno Van Peteghem New Caledonia, 2001
Odigha Odigha Nigeria, 2003	Stephanie Roth Romania, 2005	Jorge Varela Márquez Honduras, 1999
Oscar Olivera Bolivia, 2001	Eugène Rutagarama Rwanda, 2001	János Vargha Hungary, 1990
Marc Ona Essangui Gabon, 2009	Ignace Schops Belgium, 2008	Orri Vigffúson Iceland, 2007
Juan Pablo Orrego Chile, 1997	Heffa Schuecking Germany, 1994	Ka Hsaw Wa Burma, 1999
Garth Owen-Smith Namibia, 1993	Tuy Sereivathana Cambodia, 2010	Cath Wallace New Zealand, 1991
Medha Patkar India, 1992	Champa Devi Shukla India, 2004	Craig Williams United States, 2006
Alexander Peal Liberia, 2000	Silas Siakor Liberia, 2006	Steve Wilson United States, 2001
Francisco Pineda El Salvador, 2011	Marina Silva Brazil, 1996	Luis Yanza Ecuador, 2008
Nat Quansah Madagascar, 2000	Andrew Simmons St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 1994	Yu Xiaogang China, 2006
Sophia Rabliauskas Canada, 2007	Hammerskjoeld Simwinga Zambia, 2007	Sviatoslav Zabelin Russia, 1993