

People-Powered Solutions: Connecting Local Communities and Global Challenges

Joan Carling

JOAN CARLING [an indigenous activist with salt and pepper hair wearing a traditional woven cloth from her tribe in Cordillera, Philippines, Executive Director, Indigenous Peoples Rights International]:

The world we want is one where there is peace based on justice, there is realization of rights, there is a protection of environment, and that we strive to work together in the spirit of solidarity and unity. It is essential to include Indigenous peoples, especially environment defenders, in combating climate change because we as Indigenous peoples maintain a harmonious and interdependent relations with nature.

So with that, we protect nature, the environment, against destruction and unjust exploitation. And by doing so, we are being criminalized, we are being attacked, or branded as terrorists or anti-development. It's important for decision makers to understand that environment defenders are doing our work to protect the environment so that we can have effective solutions to climate change. We deserve to be respected and protected for the work that we do because we can contribute to change and improve the world for everyone.

End of transcript.