



Funders Briefing:
“Land Grabs and the Criminalization of Social Movements”

June 20th

9am PDT; 12pm EDT; 6pm in Heidelberg

Please RSVP to Saulo Araujo at saraujo@grassrootsonline.org by Thursday, June 13.

Land grabbing, a global phenomenon, is threatening the livelihood of thousands of peasants and indigenous families. Large tracts of land are being diverted from food production for local communities to the production of agro-fuels, the extraction of gold, and the construction of “clean” energy projects. As the advocacy for families’ rights to land and food grow nationally and globally through social movements such as Via Campesina International and the World March of Women, the criminalization of local communities and organizers poses an immediate threat to the lives of families who are excluded from policy discussions in the first place.

This briefing with Flavio Valente, FIAN International, and Maitri Morarji, Wellspring Advisors, will address the interconnection between the two topics and provide funders with a fresh analysis on what's happening on the ground and in the global policy arena.



Flavio Valente is the Secretary General of FIAN International, a global civil society organization that has advocated for the realization of the right to food for more than 20 years. FIAN consists of national sections and individual members in over 50 countries around the world, and has consultative status to the United Nations. From 2002 to 2007, Mr. Valente was the Brazilian National Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Adequate Food, Water and Rural Land. He was for many years the Technical coordinator of ABRANDH (Brazilian Action for Nutrition and Human Rights) a Civil Society organization linked to the World Alliance for Nutrition and Human Rights (WANAHR). Flavio served as a member of the coordination of the Brazilian Forum for Food and Nutritional Security (FBSAN), from 1998 to 2007.



Maitri Morarji is a Program Officer in the Women’s Rights Program at Wellspring Advisors. Maitri coordinates the land and property rights initiative and oversees grants in the International Women’s Movement theme. Prior to joining Wellspring in 2008, Maitri was the Program Officer for East Africa at American Jewish World Service. Maitri has also conducted research in the UN’s Department of Peacekeeping Operations on peacekeeping and conflict resolution for the first Annual Review of Global Peace Operations, published by the Center on International Cooperation. She was also the Development Officer for Foundation Relations at the Global Fund for Women, and a Policy Associate at Grameen Foundation USA. A native of India and Sweden, Maitri received her BA in History from the University of California, Berkeley, and her MA in International Affairs from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Other sponsors of this call are IHRFG’s Latin America Working Group and Grassroots International.

