

WHEN CIVIC SPACE SHRINKS, LOCALISATION WON'T WORK

When people can't organise, speak out, or defend their rights, local CSOs can't realise their potentials and capacities to facilitate local communities responding to crisis.

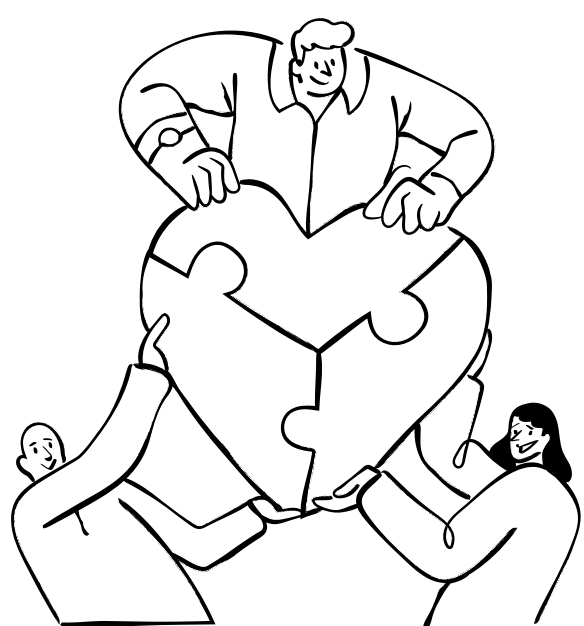
Militarized Civic Life and State Violence

Military and police roles are expanding beyond defense, now including guarding national strategic projects, dispersing peaceful protests, and influencing politics. In Papua and other conflict areas, operations are forcing people from their homes and creating massive humanitarian needs.



Stigmatising Civil Society

CSOs are branded as “foreign agents” and restricted from accessing international funding. These barriers weaken their ability to deliver emergency aid, protect survivors, and push for recovery.



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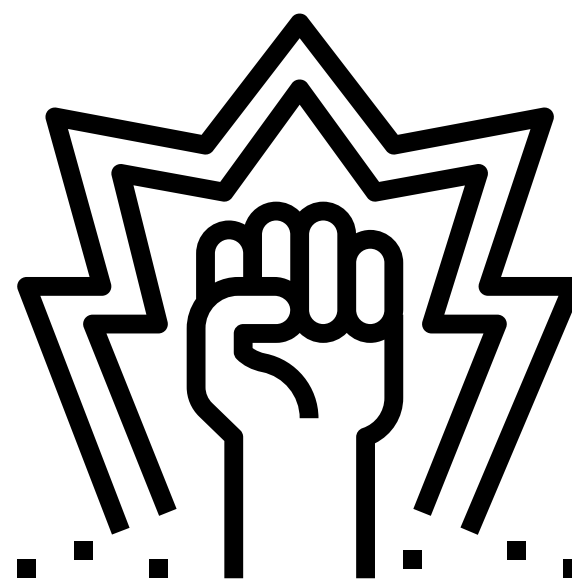


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Targeting Those Who Defend Rights

Human rights defenders, journalists, and environmental activists face intimidation, violence, online harassment, even murder. Vague laws are weaponised to silence dissent and block community-led aid efforts.

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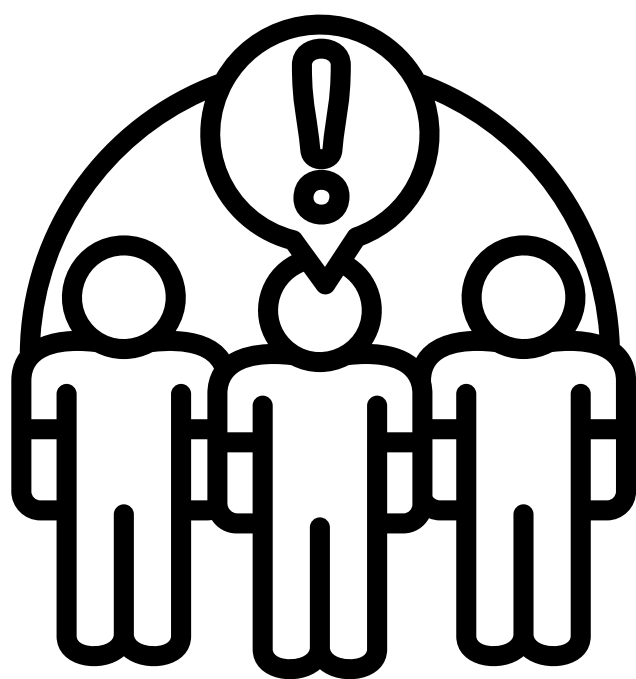
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The Funding Squeeze

Aid is shrinking, core funding is rare, and red tape delays urgent response. The result: slower, less effective humanitarian action when it's needed most.

Land Grabs in the Name of Progress

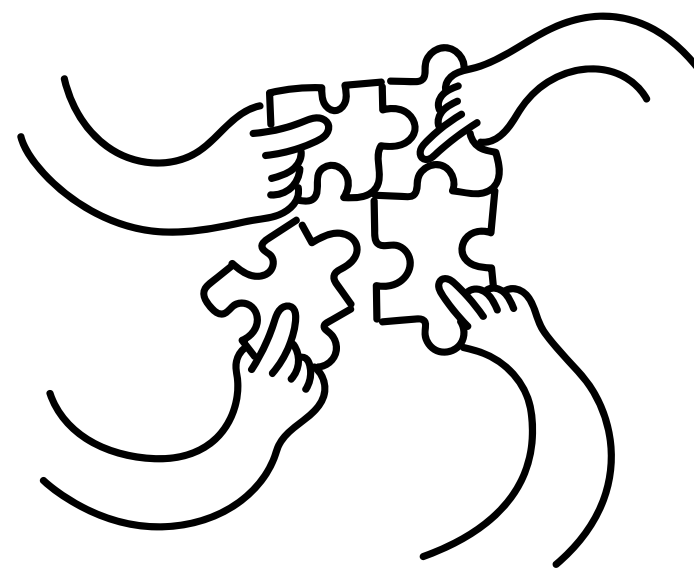
Strategic national projects and “green” energy developments are displacing communities, destroying livelihoods, and sparking recurring humanitarian crises.



Democracy in Retreat

Elections and policy processes are increasingly closed to public participation, especially for disaster and conflict-affected communities.

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Vulnerable Groups Pushed Further to the Margins

Women, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, migrant workers, and LGBTQIA+ people, are excluded from decision-making and their specific needs in crises are ignored.

07



A free and open civic space is also about localisation. When local CSOs can organise, advocate, and mobilise humanitarian response, relief and assistance are faster, fairer, and more effective.

Insights drawn from Freedom of Association Coalition research and advocacy report 2021-2025

YAPPIKA, PSHK, ELSAM, Imparsial, LBH Jakarta, and other organizations are part of Freedom of Association Coalition

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

