

# US Names Afro-Colombian Activist Josefina Klinger "Woman Courage"

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Washington, March 14 (EFE) .- Afro-Colombian activist Josefina Klinger Zúñiga was one of the women who received the "Woman Courage" award from the US Department of State on Monday for her defense of human rights and the environment in the Colombian region of Chocó.

Along with Klinger, 12 women were honored with the International Women of Courage (IWOC) Award, which is presented each year by the United States to "women from around the world who have shown exceptional courage, strength and leadership for the peace, justice, human rights and equality".

In a statement, the State Department noted that Klinger, founder of the organization Mano Cambiada, has "dedicated her life working in a dangerous country for defenders of human rights and the environment" and has "broken down barriers to empower the population Afro-Colombian and indigenous.

Brazilian prosecutor Simone Sibilio do Nascimento also received the award for her "vital role in the fight against organized crime and public corruption, militias and drug trafficking" in Rio de Janeiro.

The Moldovan deputy Doina Gherman was awarded for "promoting the inclusion of women" and the Romanian Carmen Gheorghe for defending "the rights of the gypsies", both from countries allied with the United States in Eastern Europe at a key moment due to the Russian invasion from Ukraine.

The list is completed by the Libyan Foreign Minister, Najla Mangoush, the first woman in office; Nepalese trans activist Bhumika Shrestha; Burmese pro-democracy activist Ei Thinzar Maung; and the Iraqi Deputy Minister of Finance, Taif Sami Mohammed.



In addition, the Bangladeshi lawyer Rizwana Hasan, the Liberian women's rights defender Facia Boyenoh Harris, the South African activist Roegchanda Pascoe, and the Vietnamese writer and journalist Pham Doan Trang have also been awarded.

During the virtual awards ceremony, the Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, had a few words for the "millions of Ukrainian women who have fled their country" in the face of the Russian invasion, including the singer Ruslana Lyzhychko, who received the "Woman Courage" award in 2014. EFE

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