

Notice from COIAB on the Attacks Against the Waiãpi Peoples

The **Coordination of the Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon – COIAB**, together with its state, regional, and local base organizations, mainly with APOIANP (Articulation of Indigenous Peoples and Organizations of Amapá and Northern Pará), publically express their full solidarity and support for the Waiãpi indigenous peoples, given the recent events of the invasion of gold miners in their territory. At the same time, we are expressing our profound and **VEHEMENT REPUDIATION** against this type of action that has been intensifying, mainly fostered by the intransigent, irresponsible, authoritarian, prejudiced, arrogant, and disrespectful positions of the present government, especially of the President of the Republic, Jair Bolsonaro, with his attacks on the rights of the original peoples of this country, particularly the territorial rights already guaranteed within indigenous lands completely demarcated and endorsed by the Federal Constitution of 1988, of which this government has been constantly trying to deviate.

Indigenous peoples, who inhabited this country at the time of the invasion of Brazil and who lived free in all its area, must occupy territories today that are delimited under the juridical stature of indigenous lands, which should at least guarantee adequate conditions for the survival and maintenance of indigenous peoples' society and culture. However, there are numerous threats to the full enjoyment of the already demarcated and titled lands since there are still invasions in these territories. These problems have been faced by indigenous peoples since the sixteenth century, during the European invasion and geopolitical occupation of our territory, mainly motivated by economic projects unrelated to the needs and wants of the original peoples in that century. The invasion for mineral exploration in indigenous territories, mainly in the Amazon, has been occurring without any state control and without the consent of affected indigenous communities. The Yanomami case is an example of how thousands of miners, since the 1980s, have been invading their lands located on the Brazil-Venezuela border and leaving a trail of death and destruction that still haunts that region to this day.

This week, the invasion of gold miners in the Waiãpi Indigenous Lands, which has been a demarcated and titled territory since the 1990s, as well as several other recent cases, are historical and recent occurrences that we can emphatically attribute to the greatest enemy presently known to indigenous peoples, the President of the Republic Jair Messias Bolsonaro and his ministers and indigenous allies, taking into account these new attacks on indigenous territories, whether for gold mining, logging, land grabbing or any other kind of illicit acts on indigenous territories. From the time of their campaign to now in their 7 months of government, they systematically attack indigenous peoples, criminalize indigenous leaders and organizations legitimately representative of these peoples, co-opt and pit indigenous peoples against indigenous peoples, and attempt to usurp indigenous peoples' guaranteed social and territorial rights at any cost. They arm the enemies of the indigenous peoples and intensify conflict in the territories for the sole and exclusive purpose of privileging the historic invaders of indigenous lands, their

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political allies, and the enemies of the indigenous peoples as well as for the illegal exploitation of our lands, buttressed by the archaic discourse of “social and economic development of the country.”

We emphasize our determination to stand firm in the fight for the defense of indigenous peoples’ rights together with our legitimate indigenous organizations and leaders from our bases in the Brazilian Amazon, highlighting that we are willing to stand up to anything and everything for the defense of our territories. Here, we reinforce all of our support to the Waiãpi indigenous peoples, their local representative organizations, and APOIANP. In emphasizing all our necessary support in addressing this situation, we demand an immediate intervention in this regard from the municipal, state, and federal public authorities, aiming to ensure the safety of the Waiãpi peoples and territory and to avoid major aggravations and conflicts in the region.

Manaus, Amapá
July 28, 2019

FOR THE DEFENSE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND TERRITORIES

FOR THE SUPPORT THE WAIÃPI PEOPLES

FOR THE WELL BEING OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

COORDINATION OF INDIGENOUS ORGAZATIONS OF THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON