

ABA in defense of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Environment and Life

The Association of Brazilian Anthropology (ABA), through its *Traditional Peoples, the Environment and Large-scale projects' Committee* and together with its *Indigenous Issues Commission*, strongly condemns the recent National Congress actions against indigenous people's rights and the dismantling of current environmental and social policies. We consider that the approval of Provisional Measures 1.154/23 and 1.150/22 and the urgent vote on Bill 490/22 in the Chamber of Deputies, on last May 24, represent a serious setback for Brazilian democracy. The voting of Bill 490/22 affronts the will of the majority, which elected a government program based on environmental commitments in the face of climate change and of indigenous rights, which are programs directly intertwined with the country's international policies.

We express our deep indignation at actions that put the environment, the indigenous peoples and the democracy itself at risk. The insistence on the continuity of an anti-environmental and anti-indigenous agenda causes perplexity as are still facing a humanitarian crisis and the evidence of genocide against the Yanomami and the Guarani-Kaiowá peoples. Such an agenda disdains the increasing scientific contributions on environmental and indigenous issues in Brazil. There is, in fact, accumulated knowledge, uttered in a wide range of notes and technical opinions published by scientific associations and entities on themes such as: the alleged Temporal Frame for the demarcation of Indigenous land, Environmental Permits, Conservation of the Atlantic Forest, Mining in Indigenous Lands and Protected Areas, among others.

Particularly the proposal to alter the form of demarcation of Indigenous Lands, foreseen in Bill 490/22, means, in practice, an opening for predatory economic exploitation of ethnic territories, especially those located in the Cerrado and the Amazon regions, where some of the planet's main watersheds are found. If these measures are approved, together with those that affect the administrative structures of the Brazilian State, the country will end up intensifying the promotion of racial and ethnic discrimination, contradicting the 1988 Federal Constitution and the international conventions and agreements to which it is a signatory, such as ILO Convention 169.

In light of the above, it is clear that an escalating crisis of civilization is being promoted by institutions that, in the name of an extractive economy with colonial roots, continue to perpetuate attacks on protecting our environmental resources and disrespecting fundamental constitutional rights.

The ABA publicly reaffirms its commitment to defend indigenous rights and the fight for the environment on behalf of current and future generations, scientific knowledge, social and climate justice, as well as the constitutional and democratic principles of our country.

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