

Ofício nº 038/2025/ABA

Brasília-DF, 08 de agosto de 2025.

To Mr. Gordon Mathews
President, WCAA
Co-Chair of the WAU Steering Committee

To Mr. Isaac Nyamongo
President, IUAES
Co-Chair of the WAU Steering Committee

Subject: ABA Statement on the Recent Expulsion of Brazilian Anthropologists from the WAU Congress.

In light of the recent expulsion of Brazilian anthropologists from the 2025 WAU (World Anthropological Union) Congress and the subsequent use of the institution's global email list to defame these colleagues, the Associação Brasileira de Antropologia (ABA-Brazilian Association of Anthropology) wishes to express the following:

- we believe that authoritarian measures by an individual or a reduced number of scholars do not serve the best interests of our institutions;
- different political views are an integral part of the democratic decision-making process and they should be respected, not condemned. They certainly should not be used as a pretext to publicly attack and expose colleagues without giving them the right to respond.
- WAU has spaces for discussion so that opinion conflicts can be resolved without publicizing their progress and results in widely accessible public channels, using inappropriate terms.
- the improper and non-institutionalized reaction within WAU constitutes a form of disrespect toward Brazilian anthropologists as a whole.

Since at least 2004, when the World Council of Anthropological Associations was founded at our national congress in Recife, the ABA has always cooperated in a supportive way to the development of a global community of anthropologists. Years later, in 2018, Brazil hosted a major, successful IUAES World Congress. Several Brazilian colleagues have dedicated their

time and energy to consolidating both institutions. One of the colleagues mentioned in the unfortunate message has also served as chair of the WCAA. Sadly, the 2025 WAU Congress organizer's actions revealed his desire to damage the WAU. Without considering the consequences, he stated that he had denounced the Union to an American government agency at a time when the social sciences and humanities are vulnerable in that country.

At the same time, misuse of the WAU logo may have created the false impression that the message represented the Union's official position. Therefore, we respectfully call on the WAU to grant the affected colleagues the right to defend themselves by disseminating this message and any others they deem necessary to set the record straight.

We are confident that the WAU will uphold its democratic traditions.

This message was approved by the Board of Directors of the Brazilian Association of Anthropology at the XV Meeting of Anthropology of the MERCOSUR, Salvador, Bahia, August 8, 2025.