

Ofício nº 042/2025/ABA

Brasília-DF, 18 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 informs to its Members and the Scientific Community about WAU.

The ABA informs its members and the scientific community as a whole that ABA's members who were arbitrarily excluded from the World Congress in Guatemala have been reinstated and their expulsions annulled.

Curiously, the current WAU leadership has invited the ABA and other associations that criticized the authoritarian behavior of the Congress organizer(s) to amend the terms of previous messages about this issue. By doing so, they appear to be turning to deliberately ignoring the undemocratic decision-making process behind this affair and ignoring the position of associations representing several thousands of anthropologists. Even worse, the WAU continues to deny the right of response to the colleagues who were victimized by the global email sent in its name.

We therefore reiterate the terms of our document (see ABA Newsletter No. 15/2025, 13 August 2025, available at <https://www.abant.org.br/aba/informativo/2025345>) and once again kindly request that the WAU disassociate itself from the defamatory message that has been circulated worldwide. We hope that this position will also be expressed globally.

At the same time, the ABA wants to make it clear that we wish the Guatemala congress will be a success. However, we cannot remain silent when the right to defense has been consistently denied to two Brazilian colleagues by the fiat of a person or a small group.

Unfortunately, with its last communiqué the WAU seems to hesitate to take proper measures to avoid aggression and unilateral defamation made in its name.

IUAES and WCAA have a history in which ABA has played an important role. This relationship has always been based on clear principles that defend democratic decision-making and mutual respect. The Brazilian Association has consistently acted in cooperative and positive ways with all of our sister organizations but we cannot abandon some of the most essential principles of any good interinstitutional relationship: democracy, transparency, and responsibility. Ignoring serious acts and disagreements does not mean that they have been resolved.