

## **Against the Genocide of Brazilian Indigenous Peoples**

### **For the embargo/boycott to the products of the agribusiness in Mato Grosso do Sul**

- The state of Mato Grosso do Sul has the second largest indigenous population in Brazil – about 77,000 people – and is the scenario of some of the biggest and worst Human Rights violations in Brazil and the world: episodes of torture, rape, spanking, armed attacks and murders involving militias of gunmen and paramilitary organizations hired by farmers, not to mention malnutrition and suicide rates. There is a genocide\* under way, especially for the Guarani-Kaiowá people.

- More than 400 homicides were registered over the last 12 years. The state concentrates more than 60 per cent of the murders of indigenous in Brazil and over 700 suicide cases. For instance, the homicide rate for the Guarani-Kaiowá tribe in the municipality of Dourados was higher than the one for Iraq for 2010. As the anthropologist Eduardo Viveiros de Castro has announced, we are looking at another Gaza Strip. Iraq faces a rate of 93 murders per 100,000 people, whereas the Dourados village deals with a rate of 145 murders for the same population. Our present statistics show one homicide every 12 days and one suicide every 7 days.

- The report on **Violence Against the Indigenous Peoples in Brazil**, published by the Indigenist Missionary Council (CIMI), registered 138 cases of murder and 135 suicides solely in 2014, from which 41 murders and 48 suicides happened in Mato Grosso do Sul. Data also reveal a sharp increase in infant mortality, as well as deaths by lack of health care, land invasion, illegal exploitation of natural resources, and omission and tardiness in the regularization of indigenous lands.

- Over the last 60 days, there have been more than 15 attacks against five indigenous communities in Mato Grosso do Sul, promoted by farmers and their armed militias, and as revealed by the indigenous, under protection of the police apparatus. Besides the death of indigenous leader Simeão Vilhalva at Tekoha Ñanderu Marangatu, in the municipality of Antônio João, these attacks have resulted in three adults shot, two missing youngsters (who might be dead), several people hurt by rubber bullets and dozens of tortured, spanked people, including children, women and the elderly. In their words, we have reached a point in which the life of a grazing ox is worth more than the life of an indigenous child.

- The violence against indigenous peoples and the ongoing genocide is linked to three intertwined factors:

1. The violation of individual and collective rights is intrinsically related to the historical process of colonization and occupation of the state of Mato Grosso do Sul and the economic model chosen by Brazil, which was implanted through violence, confinement of native peoples and disregard for their fundamental rights. The Brazilian government has become the main responsible for this state of violence, by not following constitutional resolutions and the international treaties it has signed, keeping a neglectful attitude towards the demarcation and homologation of indigenous lands, and not ensuring human and territorial rights for native peoples. In Mato Grosso do Sul, there are more than 50 areas of conflict awaiting land demarcation and homologation as expressed in the Federal Constitution. The cattle herd occupies 23 million hectares of land of the state, whereas the Guarani-Kaiowá ethnic group is formed by 45,000 people and occupies only 30,000 hectares of their traditional lands. If all the

areas claimed by them as indigenous territories are demarcated, they will represent only 2 per cent of the state's total area.

2. The organized actions of ruralists, which have been using their institutions to encourage the confrontation of indigenous peoples. The gravity of the scenario is expressed in episodes such as the "Resistance Auction", organized by Acrissul and Famasul in 2013 to raise funds for such actions with the support of farmers and politicians. This episode was internationally condemned and the amount raised was seized thanks to the efforts of organized social movements.

3. Impunity is another central element in the perpetuation of violence and genocide. Those behind homicides, assaults, torture, rape and spanking are seldom identified or taken to court. If on one hand, there is impunity for those who massacre the indigenous people, on the other hand there is an attempt to criminalize indigenist organizations and indigenous leaders through a Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry against the Indigenist Missionary Council (CIMI).

In face of this critical genocide scenario, the violence perpetrated by ruralists, the omission and neglect by public authorities, and the present impunity; with base on the resolutions of the Magna Carta, the Federal Constitution, and the fundamental right to life, which is a prerequisite for the existence and practice of all other rights; with base on the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948), the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other treaties signed by Brazil, we the indigenous, social, religious, union and cultural entities and organizations find inspiration in the Indian non-violence movement led by Gandhi, the anti-apartheid movement led by Nelson Mandela, and the Delano Grape Strike led by César Chaves, and support the decision of the Terena People Council and the Guarani-Kaiowá Aty Guassú Council to call for a legitimate boycott campaign against the purchase and consumption of agribusiness products from Mato Grosso do Sul, as they are produced on the lands where the indigenous peoples genocide is taking place.

This is a campaign for international organizations to embargo agribusiness products until the Brazilian government definitely tackles the matter. Demarcating and homologating indigenous lands, compensating landowners who acquired their lands in good faith and ceasing all the violence against indigenous peoples. This is a campaign for peace!

#### **SUBSCRIBERS:**

Process of Networking and Dialogue between European Ecumenical Agencies and Partner Organizations in Brazil (PAD)

Landless Workers' Movement (MST)

Brazilian Institute of Social and Economic Analyses (Ibase)

Indigenist Missionary Council (CIMI)

Unified Workers' Central (CUT) – MS

Brazilian Anthropology association (ABA)

CDDH Marçal de Souza Tupã – i

Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB)

National Association for Indigenous Action (ANAI)

Comunità di S. Francesco Saverio, Trento, Italy

Caritas Brazil

National Council of Christian Churches of Brazil (CONIC)

National Human Rights Movement (MNDH)

Brazilian Associations' Central (CBA) and Journalists Without Borders

Lutheran Foundation of Diakonia (FLD)

World March of Women

DhESCA Brazil - Platform of Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Human Rights

National Committee for the Defense of Territories from Mining

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Indigenous Youth Network (REJUIND)

National Commission of the Indigenous Youth (CNJI)

Forum of Climate Change and Social Justice

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Indigenous Educational and Research Institute (Iepé)

Center for Indigenous Work (CTI)

Organic Environmental Conservation Association (ACAÓ)

Support Movement for the Indigenous Peoples (MAPI)

Ka'apor Council

Ka'apor Ta Hury Association – Gurupi River

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International Education Bureau (IEB) – Brazil

Uma Gota no Oceano

Cooperation of Indigenous Peoples from the South - Arpinsul

Institute for Society, Population and Nature (ISPN)

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Movement of Those Affected by Mining (MAM)

Documentation Center Eloy Ferreira da Silva (Cedefes)

*BEM TE VI Diversidade* Association

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JUPIC) – SVD Services

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Inter-Franciscan Service for. Justice, Peace and Ecology (Sinfrajupe)

RBJA

Franciscan Action for Ecology and Solidarity (AFES)

Research Group on Environmental Justice (NINJA) – Federal University of São João del Rei

Forum of People Affected by the Oil and Petrochemical Industry of the Guanabara Bay (FAPP – BG)

Paulo Jackson Movement Association – Ethics, Justice and Citizenship – BA

Brazilian Antinuclear Articulation

Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil (IEAB)

Jubilee South Brazil

Pastoral Land Commission (CPT)

Mission Council among Indigenes (COMIN)

Koinonia – Ecumenical Presence and Service

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State Committee for the Education on Human Rights in Piauí (CEEDHPI)

Human Rights Commission of Passo Fundo (CDHPF)

Forum of Mercosul Women/PI

Center for the Protection of Human Rights and People's Education in Acre (CDDHEP)

Nereu Ramos Foundation (Finer) – Lages, SC

National Human Rights Movement - SC

National Human Rights Movement - RS

Fishers' Pastoral Council (CPP)

PJR/ TB

Rural Youth Pastoral (PJR)

Pastoral Care of Migrants (SPM)

**Genocide Act – Law 2889, of October 1<sup>st</sup> 1956. Section 1 Whoever, with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial ou religious group as such: a) kills members of that group; b) causes serial bodily or mental injury to members of that group; c) deliberately subjects the group to conditions of life that are capable of causing the physical destruction of the group in whole or in part; d) adopts measures to prevent births within the group; e) transfers by force children of the group to another group;**

Main exporting companies:

1) Eldorado Brasil Celulose - US\$ 544 million – 15.5 per cent of the total

2) Adm do Brasil - US\$ 362 million – 10.08 per cent of the total

3) Bunge Agribusiness and Food Company - US\$ 299 million – 8.32 per cent of the total

4) JBS - US\$ 254 million – 7.07 per cent of the total

10) Adecoagro Vale do Ivinhema US\$ 88 million – 2.45 per cent of the total

Main importing companies:

- 1) Petrobras - US\$ 1,833 billion – 66.5 per cent of the total
- 2) JBS - US\$ 139 million – 5.07 per cent of the total
- 6) Marfrig Global Foods - US\$ 33 million – 1.2 per cent of the total

Main exporting countries:

- 1) China - US\$ 1.441 billion – 40.1 per cent of the total
- 2) Italy - US\$ 202 million – 5.64 per cent of the total
- 3) Argentina - US\$ 171 million – 4.77 per cent of the total
- 4) Nederland - US\$ 149 million – 4.16 per cent of the total
- 5) Vietnam - US\$ 111 million – 3.1 per cent of the total

Main exported products:

- 1) Soybeans - US\$ 1.222 billion – 34.01 per cent of the total
- 2) Cellulose - US\$ 727 million – 20.23 per cent of the total
- 3) Boneless beef - US\$ 264 million – 7.35 per cent of the total
- 4) Cane sugar - US\$ 255 million – 7.11 per cent of the total
- 5) Maize grain - US\$ 216 million – 6.02 percent