



**Jonathan Hill, President**  
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8 May 2017

Exma. Ministra Carmen Lúcia  
Supremo Tribunal Federal – STF  
Brasilia, BRAZIL  
cc: Dr. Ricardo Lewandowski  
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Your Honorable Ministra Carmen Lucia:

The Executive Board of The Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America (SALSA) stands together with its sister professional organizations to repudiate the decision of the Parliamentary Inquiry Commission (CPI) of the Brazilian Congress' Chamber of Deputies relating to the activities and procedures of the Brazilian Association of Anthropology (ABA).

The Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America (SALSA) is an international, independent, professional society for scholars and practitioners who specialize in the anthropology of the lowland regions of South America. Its main goals are to foster sound and ethical research by anthropologists on the peoples and environments of lowland South America, and to promote the education of students and the general public on the region. SALSA, moreover, seeks to facilitate connections and develop exchanges of information among its members, who reside in Latin America, Europe, the United States, and elsewhere; and to disseminate original, quality scholarship through its journal, conferences, and website. The Society publishes the journal, *Tipiti*, and hosts an international professional meeting every year and a half. SALSA has a voting membership with an elected board of directors, bylaws, and official status as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. Today SALSA is the largest international association of lowland South American anthropology specialists in the world.

The Executive Board of SALSA expresses its concern with the decision of the Parliamentary Inquiry Commission (CPI) regarding the activities of research with traditional communities. We fear that the decision may criminalize anthropologists and other professionals by alleging that they have breached fiduciary regulations and

responsibilities. We therefore stand with ABA, which we recognize as one of the most highly respected professional scholarly associations in the world. We believe that the CPI's interference can only be interpreted as a strategy to intimidate and disrupt the work of highly respected professionals. It could threaten academic freedom and the freedom to do research, endeavors that are fundamental to all scientific work. Scholars around the world are aware of the high quality of scientific research produced by Brazilian anthropologists in books and articles read by academics as well as students. Such works have contributed powerfully to the strong reputation held by Brazilian researchers worldwide.

We solicit your understanding; we urge you to exercise your authority to stop the CPI of the Chamber of Deputies, whose initiatives and attacks are unfairly and discriminatorily directed at ABA.

Sincerely on behalf of the Executive Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan D. Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Jonathan Hill, President