

TEMER GOVERNMENT AND CONSERVATIVE AGRIBUSINESS LOBBY JOIN FORCES TO UNDERMINE BRAZIL FUTURE

In recent years, social, environmental, human and rural worker rights have been targeted in systematic attacks by specific groups of interest within the Brazilian Congress and Executive branch. Currently, not even Constitutional rights are safe.

These systematic and coordinated attacks have now being taken into a new level. Amidst the political chaos gripping Brazil, the agribusiness lobby within the Congress and the old political oligarchies dominating the Federal government are pushing through, in an organized manner and in record time, a package of measures that includes human rights violations, “normalization” of environmental crimes and promotion of land grabbing and chaos in land tenure issues. If approved, these measures will result in an unprecedented rollback in the entire system of protections for the environment, traditional populations and rural workers, leaving Brazil in a position where important democratic achievements for the society could disappear.

Attempts to annihilate land reform and social land use policies, proposed in Provisory Measure (MP) 759, are coupled with reduction of protected areas, making land frauds easier and legalizing land grabbing, not to mention the assault over Indigenous rights and lands. Overall, these coordinated attacks are aimed at securing land for rampant resource exploitation and for sale, through a bill aimed at allowing foreigners to purchase Brazilian lands.

The list of reversals continues with attempts to weaken environmental licensing and regulation of mining; approve and allow the use of more pesticides, including those banned in other countries; occupy public land of high environmental value; grant amnesty for environmental crimes and attack labor and social rights of small landholders and rural workers.

To push this agenda through quickly, Temer government and the agribusiness lobby have set up fast-track proceedings within the Brazilian Congress and made excessive use of Provisional Measures, including bills that were being discussed by the Legislative branch, preventing the wide participation of civil society and experts.

In addition to putting the Brazilian sovereignty and food security at risk, the approval of these measures will result in concentration of land; economic inviability of small rural producers and family agriculture, *quilombolas* and indigenous peoples; an increase in violence and disputes over land; and favoring land-grabbing and the commercial exploitation of rural settlements.

These will result in more deforestation, effectively undermining efforts by society that reduced deforestation in the Amazon by around 80% between 2004 and 2014, while distancing Brazil from international commitments on climate and biodiversity conventions, as well as on indigenous and human rights. This combination of factors could maximize the dynamics of climate change, seriously harming the economy, rural producers and entire populations in the countryside and in cities.

The participation of the Federal Government in the attack orchestrated against rights, areas of diversity and the environment is a political and historical rollback, not to mention an abdication

of Brazilian Government's constitutional obligation to protect minority rights, reinforcing the impression of a country where nature and knowledge of the natural environment are subverted by short-term economic interests, reproducing the exclusive model of expanding agribusiness and promoting the implementation of infrastructure projects frequently linked to corruption schemes and poor management of public resources.

In light of the above, the undersigned organizations and movements, from different areas of activity, come together to denounce and resist the perverse agenda of the Brazilian Government and the agribusiness lobby to dismantle the social and environmental achievements, and call on the public and other sectors of civil society to join forces to stop the reversal of these protections.

Signatories:

1. 350.org
2. Actionaid
3. AdT/Amigos da Terra
4. AFES/Ação Franciscana de Ecologia e Solidariedade
5. ANA/Articulação Nacional de Agroecologia
6. Amazon Watch
7. APIB/Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil
8. Apremavi/Associação de Preservação do Meio Ambiente e da Vida
9. Articulação para o Monitoramento dos Direitos Humanos no Brasil
10. BVRio
11. CBJP/Comissão Brasileira Justiça e Paz
12. CIMI/Conselho Indigenista Missionário
13. Comissão Dominicana de Justiça e Paz do Brasil
14. Comitê Nacional em Defesa dos Territórios Frente à Mineração
15. Comissão Pró-Índio de São Paulo
16. CONAQ/Coordenação Nacional de Articulação das Comunidades Negras Rurais Quilombolas
17. Conectas Direitos Humanos
18. CNS/Conselho Nacional das Populações Extrativistas
19. Consulta Popular
20. CPT/Comissão Pastoral da Terra
21. CUT/Central Única dos Trabalhadores
22. Engajamundo
23. Escola de Ativismo
24. FASE/Federação de Órgãos para Assistência Social e Educacional
25. Fórum Mudanças Climáticas e Justiça Social
26. FURPA/Fundação Rio Parnaíba
27. Greenpeace Brasil
28. Grupo Carta de Belém
29. IBASE/Instituto Brasileiro de Análises Sociais e Econômicas
30. ICV/Instituto Centro de Vida
31. IDESAM/Instituto de Conservação e Desenvolvimento Sustentável do Amazonas
32. IDS/Instituto Democracia e Sustentabilidade
33. IEMA/Instituto de Energia e Meio Ambiente
34. Intersindical - Central da Classe Trabalhadora
35. IMAFLORA/Instituto de Manejo e Certificação Florestal e Agrícola

36. IMAZON/ Instituto do Homem e Meio Ambiente da Amazônia
37. INESC/ Instituto de Estudos Socioeconômicos
38. International Rivers Brasil
39. ISA/Instituto Socioambiental
40. Mater Natura - Instituto de Estudos Ambientais
41. MAB/Movimento dos Atingidos por Barragens e Plataforma Operaria e Camponesa para Energia
42. MAM/Movimento pela Soberania Popular na Mineração
43. MCP/Movimento Camponês Popular
44. MMC/Movimento de Mulheres Camponesas
45. MPA/Movimento dos Pequenos Agricultores
46. MST/ Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra
47. MTST/Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Teto
48. Núcleo de Estudos das Diversidades, Intolerâncias e Conflitos - Diversitas/USP
49. Núcleo de Pesquisa e Extensão em Ambiente, Socioeconomia e Agroecologia/NUPEAS-UFAM
50. Observatório do Clima
51. Organon/Núcleo de estudo, pesquisa e extensão em mobilizações sociais da UFES
52. PHS/Hospitais Saudáveis
53. PJR/Pastoral da Juventude Rural
54. RAMH/Rede Acreana de Mulheres e Homens
55. Rede Brasileira de Informação Ambiental
56. REDE GTA
57. Sinfrajupe/Serviço InterFranciscano de Justiça, Paz e Ecologia
58. SBE/Sociedade Brasileira de Espeleologia
59. SOS Mata Atlântica
60. Toxisphera Associação de Saúde Ambiental
61. Uma Gotinha no Oceano
62. União Brasileira de Mulheres/UBM
63. UNALGBT/União Nacional de Lésbicas, Gays, Bissexuais, Travestis e Transexuais
64. Via Campesina
65. WWF Brasil