

Munduruku Letter from the Upper and Middle Tapajós and Lower Teles Pires

We, caciques, caticas, warriors, teachers, women, and the Munduruku's indigenous associations Pariri, Wakoborün, Aro, Arikico, Da'uk, Movimento Ipereg Ayü, CIMAT, were gathered on September 14th, 2022, in the village Sawre Muybu, where we organized a hearing to discuss the results of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) research that analyzed the the high levels of mercury in our bodies and in the fish that we eat on a daily basis. Everything that we have already felt as symptoms, we saw the results in this assessment. We are here looking for a solution. First, we want any mining activity within our territory to stop urgently. We blame the current government for its omission and for making us sick with mercury contamination.

Mining only brings sickness. Besides mercury, there is also an outbreak of malaria in our region, as well as diarrhea, hunger, and itchy skin. Our rivers are being destroyed, our streams are dying and our fish are being extinct. Today we are drinking dirty water, our children are bathing in rivers polluted with mud and we are fishing in water that is like milk. We were very sad when we saw those results - who wants their children sick? Besides the diseases, our leaders live under threat and have already suffered serious violences, had their houses burned out and the headquarters of the associations and resistance organizations in Jacareacanga has been destroyed.

While we were meeting to discuss the contamination and a solution for the health of our people, we received news, photos, and videos of another meeting, organized by the Pusuru Association, about carbon credits, in the Karapanatuba village, with the presence of municipal agencies. At this meeting, the company offered money to the association, money that only deceives relatives and brings division. A bag of money is offered to invade the territory. Where does this money come from? We have known since January 2022 that the company Carbonext and the company Mapel Marochi Agricultura e Pecuária LTDA are trying to implement carbon credit projects in the Crepori National Forest. This place is called a Conservation Unit by the government, but in fact is territory traditionally occupied by the Munduruku people, mainly by the 25 villages of the Tropas River, which use both banks of the river. We have already informed this to the Federal Public Ministry since we were contacted by email by these companies.

This same area, the Crepori Flona, is under pressuere by the Brazilian Forestry Service and the ICMBio that are trying to auction off the territory for companies to remove wood, in forest concession projects. We have prepared a

document for the Federal Public Ministry, for the competent public agencies and for the society as a whole, explaining that we are against these projects.

First, everyone should know that the Crepori Flona is Munduruku territory. Second, we know that all these projects are presented with lying justifications. They say they are for forest preservation, to stop illegal activities, but we know that these "solutions" coming from outside do not respect our ways of life and our autonomy to think and care for the territory. We don't need any company to come and control the use of our territory and tell us how to preserve the forest. We know that when companies make these "compensations" it is because they want to continue destroying other places and want to make money with what we have always done on our land, for thousands of years.

This company Mapel Marochi is represented by Leonel B. Marochi. He is also the owner of the company Indussolo, which wanted to steal the lands of riverine peoples, our allies, of Montanha and Mangabal.

Now they say that a large area of the Flona is theirs as well. Our ancestral territories need to be respected, both ours and of the riverine peoples'. Why don't companies ask what solutions we create and offer? For centuries we have been debating non stop what is needed to protect the lands that we have always cared for and that the pariwat has begun to destroy, deceiving and misleading their own relatives.

We have our organizations and we do exchanges with indigenous peoples from all over the country. Our leaders and chiefs have heard from other indigenous peoples how carbon credit projects have caused so much division among them. Everything happening right now is about these promises of money from outside companies.

We already have our life plan, our resistance organizations and alternatives of income generation through traditional products, that must be strengthened. And it should be done by increasing our autonomy and management over the territory, not the other way around.

We know very well our right to free, prior, and informed consultation, which is in ILO Convention 169. This meeting held by Pusuru is worthless. That is why we made our Consultation Protocol. In this document we state that the consultation only works if it is done with all the people, both in the upper and middle Tapajós. We confirm that Pusuru has already been denounced by our caciques for letting pariwat enter our territory. Purusu is Daydu, meaning traitor to the people. Pusuru may be an association, but it does not represent the Munduruku people. Furthermore, there is no point in companies wanting to talk to a leadership on social networks. They have to answer to the Federal Public Ministry for the way they are ignoring our

Consultation Protocol. Two letters against this Carbon Credit project have already been released: one from the leaders of the Cururu river and another from the Dace Association. Now we have joined seven other Munduruku organizations to repeat that the Munduruku people already have their Consultation Protocol and must be consulted in accordance with it about any project neighboring our lands that will impact us. We will repeat the denouncement of those illegal entrepreneurships until you learn to respect our rights.

We do not negotiate our territory and the lives of our children. The lives of our children are priceless. No money can buy it. We will keep fighting, teaching our children without greed and without disease with Karodaybi and Wakoborūn's own government.

We are here to present the following demands:

- Carbonext and Mapel companies immediately stop trying to negotiate our territory with the Pusuru Association

- ban on the sale of mercury in shops and gold purchase houses in the municipality of Jacareacanga and Itaituba.

- immediate cancellation of PLGs on Indigenous Lands and around our territory in the municipality of Jacareacanga /Itaituba

- security and monitoring of defenders threatened in their villages by Funai;

- surveillance of the airstrips of Itaituba and Jacareacanga inside the indigenous territories, through which the mercury and gold are transported;

- continuity of investigation into the crimes of the attack on the Fazenda Tapajós village and punishment of those responsible;

- Sawre Muybu and Sawre Bapim Indigenous Lands be demarcated. The more this demarcation is delayed, the more the invasions, contamination by mercury and all the evils of mining, wood and palm oil extraction and illegal fishing and hunting increase.

We also request:

- Federal Public Ministry must demand the annulment of any contract or document signed, for not having followed our Consultation Protocol

- Federal Public Defender's Office (DPU) to claim compensation from the State and Federal Government that is encouraging the invasion of mining in our territory. It is their fault that we are sickened by mercury.

- Fiocruz and other organizations and doctors to continue the studies on mercury contamination.

- a hearing be organized with the DPU, MPF, and the socio-environmental agencies responsible for protecting the forest, rivers, and indigenous lands, such as Funai, Ibama, and ICMBio, so that the denunciations we have already made are followed up and the agencies work together to support us in the solutions we are already building.