

August 25, 2019

Communiqué in support of indigenous communities of the Amazon and the social movements that work for the preservation of the region.

We—the organizations signed below—support the protests that are not shown by the Brazilian mass media, denounce media complicity in the concealment of information, and join in solidarity with the indigenous communities that stand up for the wellbeing of our common territory.

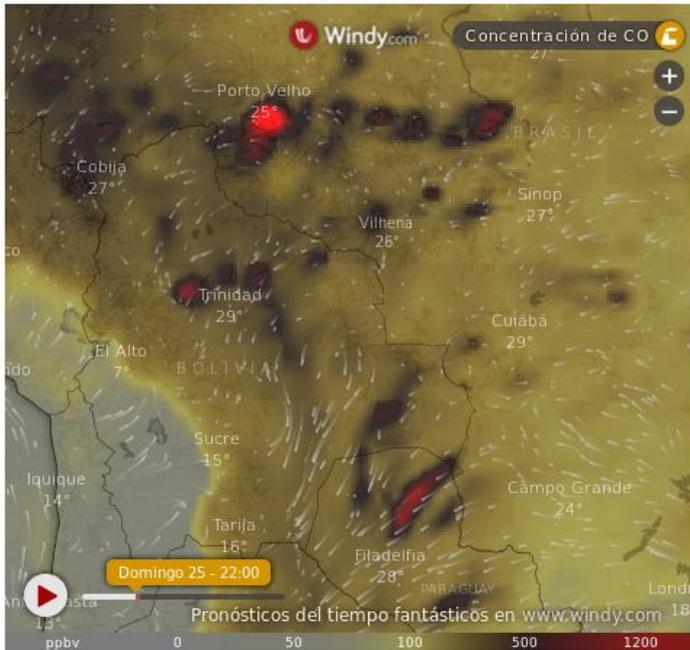
“Why is it so hard to believe that if we harm nature we harm ourselves? We do not observe the world from outside. We are not separated from it.” ... “I am a shaman of the forest and I work with the forces of nature, not with the forces of money or weapons” Davi Kopenawa, Yanomami, shaman and Yanomami spokesman.

According to a 2016 study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the rainforest is at risk of becoming a savanna when deforestation reaches 20 to 25% of the total canopy cover. Currently, deforestation in the Amazon is 17% according to the latest report by Mongabay.

At this time, the progress of the fires is leaving only ashes. We are forced to witness this biocide in the green lungs of our continent. The fire threatens the survival of enormous biodiversity as well as the great cultural diversity for which the Amazon and the Mato Grosso are treasured. 98.5% of the indigenous territory of Brazil is located in the Amazon, and the towns that resist and fight for cultural respect today are seeing their houses being burnt with total indifference from the national government.

International law supports the property rights of land by indigenous peoples who have been stripped of their territories around the world. However, one of the first acts of the current president of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, was to withdraw responsibility for the demarcation of indigenous territories from the Department of Indigenous Affairs, FUNAI, and to give this responsibility to the Ministry of Agriculture, whose anti-indigenous position is notorious. And as the organization Survival denounced at the time, this was “practically a war declaration against Brazilian indigenous people.” *“This is my life, my soul. If you apart me from this land, you are taking my life off”*, Marcos Veron (Guarani).

According to the data of Brazil’s National Institute of Spatial Research (INPE), there have been 72,843 fire sources reported in Brazil between January 1st and August 19th of 2019. Thus, forest fires are approximately 80% higher than those recorded for the same interval during 2018.



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Currently, the fire expands without the Brazilian national government having a plan of action, and –as if this was not enough—Jair Bolsonaro accuses NGOs that work to protect the Amazon to have started this disaster themselves.

We repudiate this unjust criminalization of our Brazilian brothers and sisters who work through social organizations to preserve the Amazon, which contains nothing less than 20% of the freshwater of the planet (Macedo, M. & L. Castello, 2015). The battle of these movements, in combination with the 900.000 people belonging to 305 indigenous communities hosted in Brazil, is our battle too. Therefore, today we tell you that they are not alone; letting the Amazon and the Mato Grosso burn is a grievance against the entire world.

We urgently demand the respect of indigenous people’s human rights, and we request immediate reliable information on the plan of action that will be carried out to protect the Amazon and the Mato Grosso.

Signatures: [CREAS](#), [REDAF](#), [APDH \(Regional Impenetrable Chaqueño\)](#), [MEDH](#), [ASOCIANA](#) and [JUM](#).

