



THE BELIZE INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY

#8 Mayflower Street, Belmopan City, Belize

P.O. Box 418, Belmopan

E-mail: belpo.belize@gmail.com - Fax/Phone: 802-0220

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Honorable Excma. Sra. Dilma Vana Rousseff
Presidenta de la Republica Federal de Brasil
Brasilia, DF, Brasil
Fax: (61) 3411.2222
Email: gabinete@planalto.gov.br

Dear Honorable Excma. Sra. Dilma Vana Rousseff

Greetings from Belize! The Belize Institute of Environmental Law and Policy is a non-government organization that advocates for the protection of the environment through law. We understand the need for development but advocate that any projects are done in a responsible, forward looking manner, with minimal impacts on human rights and the environment.

Brazil is not alone in formulating policies that promote economic growth at any cost, violating laws and the human rights of local traditional communities. It is a common practice even though it ignores the impact on future generations.

We were heartened by the decision of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) early last month when they made an official request to you, the Brazilian Government, to suspend the Belo Monte Dam.

The IACHR clearly stated that you must take precautionary measures to protect the lives and personal integrity of isolated indigenous peoples in the Xingu river basin, as well as effective measures to prevent the spread of diseases and epidemics among traditional communities threatened by the project. This to be done while undertaking a consultation process that is "free, prior, informed, of good faith and culturally appropriate" with indigenous peoples threatened by the project before further work can proceed. These are not unreasonable demands. In fact, they demonstrate, in our opinion, responsible actions.

We join with other groups and individuals from around the world in voicing our concern about your administration's decision to ignore the IACHR recommendations, to pull funding from the IACHR and to withdraw your candidate for Commissioner in 2012. These decisions will certainly result in damage to your reputation as the leader of Brazil.

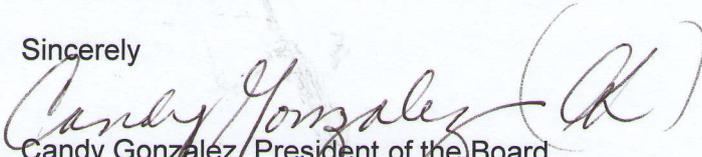
We ask that the Brazilian government comply with the IACHR resolution and not withdraw funding to the IACHR.

By ignoring the facts presented and accepted by the IACHR, you are turning your back on your indigenous peoples and your environment as well as violating international law.

We hope the Brazilian government reconsiders its position and follows its constitution and international law to ensure full recognition of the indigenous people, protect the environment and the lives of the Brazilian people.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely


Candy Gonzalez, President of the Board
Belize Institute of Environmental Law and Policy (BELPO)

cc: Mr. Santiago Cantón
Executive Secretary
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)
Email: cidhoea@oas.org

His Excellency Tomas Mauricio Guggenheim
Embassy of Brazil
12 Floral Park Ave
Belmopan City, Belize
Fax/Phone: 822-0460