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A N T H R O P O L O G I C A L
A S S O C I A T I O N

August 24, 2010

Jorge Chediek
Coordenador Residente das Nações Unidas do Brasil
EQSW 103/104 Lote 01 Bl. D
Brasília DF Cep: 70.670-350

Dear Mr. Chediek:

We, the undersigned, are writing to you with concern about the Belo Monte Hydroelectric Project in northern Brazil, and the human rights issues it raises for Brazil as well as the international community. Please know that we are sending this letter to key individuals and organizations both in Brazil and outside Brazil, and that we join our Brazilian colleagues in the Associação Brasileira de Antropologia (the Brazilian Anthropological Association) and other national and international organizations in urging major attention to this matter.

We represent the American Anthropological Association, the largest professional association of anthropologists worldwide and, in particular, its standing Committee for Human Rights whose purpose is to stimulate informed involvement in the area of human rights among professional anthropologists, and to conduct and bring before the leadership responsible information on selected, anthropologically relevant cases of potential human rights abuse.

The Belo Monte Hydroelectric Project in the northern state of Para, Brazil, is such a case, and knowledgeable anthropologists within our association and in parallel national associations have brought it to our urgent attention. We are concerned that the processes associated with approval of the hydroelectric dam, which would become the third largest in the world, have been unduly hastened and marked by irregularities that may seriously undermine minorities, particularly indigenous peoples.

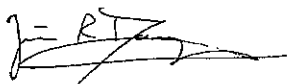
At least three injunctions against the construction of the dam, sought and obtained by court order, raise questions of environmental licensing, the extent of social and environmental impact, and the viability of the project. In addition, full and proper consultation with the communities to be affected has not met the standards for free, prior, and informed consent of the affected populations as stipulated by Brazilian national law and international treaties and conventions to which Brazil is signatory.

Mr. Chediek
Page Two
August 24, 2010

We note that the area to be affected, the Xingu tributary of the Amazon River, is home to twenty-four indigenous societies, whose lands have been demarcated and registered (homologado) under Brazilian law and whose rights to the lands and waterways they traditionally occupy are recognized as *original* (National Constitution of Brazil, Art. 231); it therefore being incumbent upon the Union to demarcate, protect, and ensure them against encroachment and harm.

We remind the entities involved of the human rights of these communities, as protected by the 1988 Charter of the Brazilian Constitution (Art 231), the 1989 Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization of the U.N., and the 2007 U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. With the inalienability of these rights in mind, we urge the Brazilian government to revisit these decisions, and we urge international human rights agencies and organizations to help us do so.

Sincerely,



Virginia R. Dominguez
President
American Anthropological Association



Robin Root
Co-Chair
AAA Committee on Human Rights



Deborah Poole
Co-Chair
AAA Committee on Human Rights

cc: Laís W. Abramo, Diretora de Escritório, Organização Internacional do Trabalho (OIT) do Brasil
Izabella Mônica Vieira Teixeira, Ministra de Estado, MMA - Ministério do Meio Ambiente
Abelardo Bayma Azevedo, Presidente, IBAMA - Inst. Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis
José Machado, Secretário-Executivo do Ministério do Meio Ambiente, CONAMA - Conselho Nacional do Meio Ambiente
Erenice Alves Guerra, Ministra de Estado, Casa Civil da Presidência da República
Márcio Pereira Zimmermann, Ministro de Minas e Energia
Maurício Tiomno Tolmasquim, Presidente, EPE - Empresa de Pesquisa Energética
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A S S O C I A T I O N

August 24, 2010

Laís W. Abramo
Diretora de Escritório
Organização Internacional do Trabalho (OIT) do Brasil
Setor de Embaixadas Norte Lote 35
Brasília DF Cep: 70.800-400

Dear Ms. Abramo:

We, the undersigned, are writing to you with concern about the Belo Monte Hydroelectric Project in northern Brazil, and the human rights issues it raises for Brazil as well as the international community. Please know that we are sending this letter to key individuals and organizations both in Brazil and outside Brazil, and that we join our Brazilian colleagues in the Associação Brasileira de Antropologia (the Brazilian Anthropological Association) and other national and international organizations in urging major attention to this matter.

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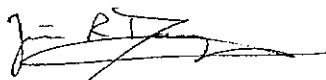
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Ms. Abramo
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A S S O C I A T I O N

August 24, 2010

Izabella Mônica Vieira Teixeira
Ministra de Estado
Ministério do Meio Ambiente
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco B, 5º andar
70068-900 - Brasília - DF

Dear Ms. Vieira Teixeira:

We, the undersigned, are writing to you with concern about the Belo Monte Hydroelectric Project in northern Brazil, and the human rights issues it raises for Brazil as well as the international community. Please know that we are sending this letter to key individuals and organizations both in Brazil and outside Brazil, and that we join our Brazilian colleagues in the Associação Brasileira de Antropologia (the Brazilian Anthropological Association) and other national and international organizations in urging major attention to this matter.

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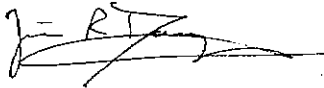
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Ms. Vieira Teixeira
August 24, 2010
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A S S O C I A T I O N

August 24, 2010

Abelardo Bayma Azevedo
Presidente
Inst. Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente
e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis
SCEN Trecho 2 Ed. Sede do Ibama
70818-900 - Brasília - DF

Dear Mr. Azevedo:

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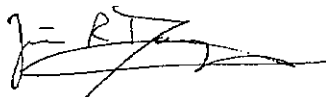
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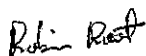
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A S S O C I A T I O N

August 24, 2010

José Machado
Secretário-Executivo
do Ministério do Meio Ambiente
Conselho Nacional do Meio Ambiente
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco B, 6º andar
70068-900 - Brasília – DF

Dear Mr. Machado:

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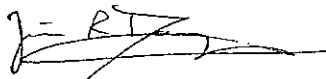
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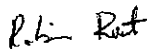
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August 24, 2010

Erenice Alves Guerra
Ministra de Estado
Casa Civil da Presidência da República
Praça dos três Poderes
Palácio do Planalto – 4º andar
70150-900 - Brasília – DF

Dear Ms. Alves Guerra:

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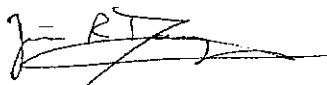
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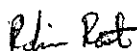
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August 24, 2010

Márcio Pereira Zimmermann
Ministro de Minas e Energia
Ministério de Minas e Energia
Esplanada dos Ministérios Bloco "U"
CEP: 70065-900 - Brasília – DF

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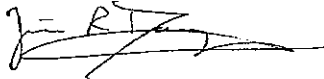
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Laís W. Abramo, Diretora de Escritório Organização Internacional do Trabalho (OIT) do Brasil
Izabella Mônica Vieira Teixeira, Ministra de Estado, MMA - Ministério do Meio Ambiente
Abelardo Bayma Azevedo, Presidente, Inst. Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis
José Machado, Secretário-Executivo do Ministério do Meio Ambiente, Conselho Nacional do Meio Ambiente
Erenice Alves Guerra, Ministra de Estado, Casa Civil da Presidência da República
Maurício Tiomno Tolmasquim, Presidente, EPE - Empresa de Pesquisa Energética
José Sérgio Gabrielli, Presidente, Petrobrás
Roberto Monteiro Gurgel Santos, Procurador-Geral da República, Ministério Público Federal
Márcio Meira, Presidente, FUNAI
Dilma Rousseff, Candidata à presidência da República – PT
José Serra, Candidato à presidência da República – PSDB
Marina Silva, Candidata à presidência da República - PV

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A N T H R O P O L O G I C A L
A S S O C I A T I O N

August 24, 2010

Mauricio Tiomno Tolmasquim
Presidente
Empresa de Pesquisa Energética
Av. Rio Branco, 1 – 11º andar, Centro
CEP: 20.090-003
Rio de Janeiro - RJ

Dear Mr. Tiomno Tolmasquim:

We, the undersigned, are writing to you with concern about the Belo Monte Hydroelectric Project in northern Brazil, and the human rights issues it raises for Brazil as well as the international community. Please know that we are sending this letter to key individuals and organizations both in Brazil and outside Brazil, and that we join our Brazilian colleagues in the Associação Brasileira de Antropologia (the Brazilian Anthropological Association) and other national and international organizations in urging major attention to this matter.

We represent the American Anthropological Association, the largest professional association of anthropologists worldwide and, in particular, its standing Committee for Human Rights whose purpose is to stimulate informed involvement in the area of human rights among professional anthropologists, and to conduct and bring before the leadership responsible information on selected, anthropologically relevant cases of potential human rights abuse.

The Belo Monte Hydroelectric Project in the northern state of Para, Brazil, is such a case, and knowledgeable anthropologists within our association and in parallel national associations have brought it to our urgent attention. We are concerned that the processes associated with approval of the hydroelectric dam, which would become the third largest in the world, have been unduly hastened and marked by irregularities that may seriously undermine minorities, particularly indigenous peoples.

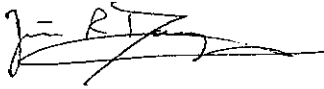
At least three injunctions against the construction of the dam, sought and obtained by court order, raise questions of environmental licensing, the extent of social and environmental impact, and the viability of the project. In addition, full and proper consultation with the communities to be affected has not met the standards for free, prior, and informed consent of the affected populations as stipulated by Brazilian national law and international treaties and conventions to which Brazil is signatory.

We note that the area to be affected, the Xingu tributary of the Amazon River, is home to twenty-four indigenous societies, whose lands have been demarcated and registered (homologado) under Brazilian law and whose rights to the lands and waterways they traditionally occupy are recognized as *original* (National Constitution of Brazil, Art. 231); it therefore being incumbent upon the Union to demarcate, protect, and ensure them against encroachment and harm.

Mr. Tiomno Tolmasquim
August 24, 2010
Page Two

We remind the entities involved of the human rights of these communities, as protected by the 1988 Charter of the Brazilian Constitution (Art 231), the 1989 Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization of the U.N., and the 2007 U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. With the inalienability of these rights in mind, we urge the Brazilian government to revisit these decisions, and we urge international human rights agencies and organizations to help us do so.

Sincerely,



Virginia R. Dominguez
President
American Anthropological Association



Robin Root
Co-Chair
AAA Committee on Human Rights



Deborah Poole
Co-Chair
AAA Committee on Human Rights

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A S S O C I A T I O N

August 24, 2010

José Sérgio Gabrielli
Presidente
Petrobrás
Av. Chile 65
Cep: 20031-912 Rio de Janeiro RJ

Dear Mr. Gabrielli:

We, the undersigned, are writing to you with concern about the Belo Monte Hydroelectric Project in northern Brazil, and the human rights issues it raises for Brazil as well as the international community. Please know that we are sending this letter to key individuals and organizations both in Brazil and outside Brazil, and that we join our Brazilian colleagues in the Associação Brasileira de Antropologia (the Brazilian Anthropological Association) and other national and international organizations in urging major attention to this matter.

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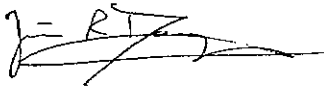
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Mr. Gabrielli
Page Two
August 24, 2010

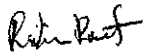
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Co-Chair
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A S S O C I A T I O N

August 24, 2010

Roberto Monteiro Gurgel Santos
Procurador-Geral da República
SAF Sul Quadra 4 Conjunto C Bl. A
Gabinete C11
Brasília/DF – CEP 70050-900

Dear Mr. Monteiro Gurgel Santos:

We, the undersigned, are writing to you with concern about the Belo Monte Hydroelectric Project in northern Brazil, and the human rights issues it raises for Brazil as well as the international community. Please know that we are sending this letter to key individuals and organizations both in Brazil and outside Brazil, and that we join our Brazilian colleagues in the Associação Brasileira de Antropologia (the Brazilian Anthropological Association) and other national and international organizations in urging major attention to this matter.

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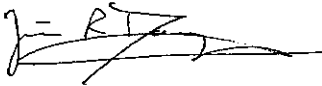
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Mr. Monteiro Gurgel Santos
Page Two
August 24, 2010

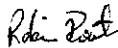
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Robin Root
Co-Chair
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A N T H R O P O L O G I C A L
A S S O C I A T I O N

August 24, 2010

Márcio Meira
Presidente
FUNAI
FUNAI - SEPS Quadra 702/902
Projeção A, Ed. Lex 70.390-025
Brasília/DF

Dear Mr. Meira:

We, the undersigned, are writing to you with concern about the Belo Monte Hydroelectric Project in northern Brazil, and the human rights issues it raises for Brazil as well as the international community. Please know that we are sending this letter to key individuals and organizations both in Brazil and outside Brazil, and that we join our Brazilian colleagues in the Associação Brasileira de Antropologia (the Brazilian Anthropological Association) and other national and international organizations in urging major attention to this matter.

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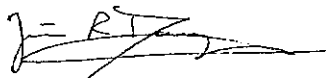
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Mr. Meira
Page Two
August 24, 2010

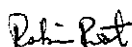
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A S S O C I A T I O N

August 24, 2010

Dilma Rousseff
Candidata à presidência da República - PT
SHS Qd. 03 Bl. H Brasília Imperial Hotel
Brasília DF - 70312-000

Dear Ms. Rousseff:

We, the undersigned, are writing to you with concern about the Belo Monte Hydroelectric Project in northern Brazil, and the human rights issues it raises for Brazil as well as the international community. Please know that we are sending this letter to key individuals and organizations both in Brazil and outside Brazil, and that we join our Brazilian colleagues in the Associação Brasileira de Antropologia (the Brazilian Anthropological Association) and other national and international organizations in urging major attention to this matter.

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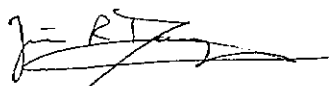
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Ms. Rousseff
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August 24, 2010

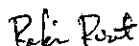
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August 24, 2010

José Serra
Candidato à presidência da República - PSDB
Comissão Executiva Nacional
Avenida L2 Sul, quadra 607
Edifício Metrôpolis, cobertura 2
CEP 70200-670 - Brasília-DF

Dear Mr. Serra:

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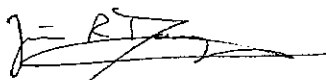
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Mr. Serra
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August 24, 2010

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A N T H R O P O L O G I C A L
A S S O C I A T I O N

August 24, 2010

Marina Silva
Candidata à presidência da República - PV
Rua Inácio Pereira da Rocha N° 170
05432-010 Vila Madalena São Paulo - SP

Dear Ms. Silva:

We, the undersigned, are writing to you with concern about the Belo Monte Hydroelectric Project in northern Brazil, and the human rights issues it raises for Brazil as well as the international community. Please know that we are sending this letter to key individuals and organizations both in Brazil and outside Brazil, and that we join our Brazilian colleagues in the Associação Brasileira de Antropologia (the Brazilian Anthropological Association) and other national and international organizations in urging major attention to this matter.

We represent the American Anthropological Association, the largest professional association of anthropologists worldwide and, in particular, its standing Committee for Human Rights whose purpose is to stimulate informed involvement in the area of human rights among professional anthropologists, and to conduct and bring before the leadership responsible information on selected, anthropologically relevant cases of potential human rights abuse.

The Belo Monte Hydroelectric Project in the northern state of Para, Brazil, is such a case, and knowledgeable anthropologists within our association and in parallel national associations have brought it to our urgent attention. We are concerned that the processes associated with approval of the hydroelectric dam, which would become the third largest in the world, have been unduly hastened and marked by irregularities that may seriously undermine minorities, particularly indigenous peoples.

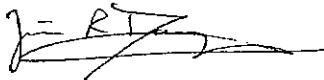
At least three injunctions against the construction of the dam, sought and obtained by court order, raise questions of environmental licensing, the extent of social and environmental impact, and the viability of the project. In addition, full and proper consultation with the communities to be affected has not met the standards for free, prior, and informed consent of the affected populations as stipulated by Brazilian national law and international treaties and conventions to which Brazil is signatory.

Ms. Silva
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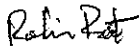
We note that the area to be affected, the Xingu tributary of the Amazon River, is home to twenty-four indigenous societies, whose lands have been demarcated and registered (homologado) under Brazilian law and whose rights to the lands and waterways they traditionally occupy are recognized as *original* (National Constitution of Brazil, Art. 231); it therefore being incumbent upon the Union to demarcate, protect, and ensure them against encroachment and harm.

We remind the entities involved of the human rights of these communities, as protected by the 1988 Charter of the Brazilian Constitution (Art 231), the 1989 Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization of the U.N., and the 2007 U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. With the inalienability of these rights in mind, we urge the Brazilian government to revisit these decisions, and we urge international human rights agencies and organizations to help us do so.

Sincerely,



Virginia R. Dominguez
President
American Anthropological Association



Robin Root
Co-Chair
AAA Committee on Human Rights



Deborah Poole
Co-Chair
AAA Committee on Human Rights

cc: Jorge Chediek, Coordenador Residente das Nações Unidas do Brasil
Laís W. Abramo, Diretora de Escritório, Organização Internacional do Trabalho (OIT) do Brasil
Izabella Mônica Vieira Teixeira, Ministra de Estado, MMA - Ministério do Meio Ambiente
Abelardo Bayma Azevedo, Presidente, IBAMA - Inst. Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis
José Machado, Secretário-Executivo do Ministério do Meio Ambiente, CONAMA - Conselho Nacional do Meio Ambiente
Erenice Alves Guerra, Ministra de Estado, Casa Civil da Presidência da República
Márcio Pereira Zimmermann, Ministro de Minas e Energia
Mauricio Tiomno Tolmasquim, Presidente, EPE - Empresa de Pesquisa Energética
José Sérgio Gabrielli, Presidente, Petrobrás
Roberto Monteiro Gurgel Santos, Procurador-Geral da República, Ministério Público Federal
Márcio Meira, Presidente, FUNAI
Dilma Rousseff, Candidata à presidência da República – PT
José Serra, Candidato à presidência da República – PSDB