



Letter in support of the Mining CPI: for the end of the mining mafia and in defense of life, climate and the Amazon

In light of the revelations of Operation *Rejeito*, which dismantled a multi-billion reais corruption scheme in Minas Gerais and exposed the capture of public institutions by private interests, the Volta Grande do Xingu Alliance¹, — a network of social movements, traditional communities, researchers, and civil society organizations committed to defending the Amazon — comes forward to express its full support for the immediate establishment of the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry (CPI) on Mining, filed on September 17 in the House of Deputies by Congresswoman Duda Salabert (PDT-MG).

Brazil has been marked by a succession of tragedies caused by predatory mining. From Mariana to Brumadinho, from Maceió to so many other silenced cases, the country's recent history reveals the same script of horror: lives taken, rivers turned into toxic mud corridors, communities buried under the logic of impunity and collusion between companies and public authorities. These episodes cannot be treated as accidents; they are premeditated crimes, the result of state capture by private interests and chronic negligence by agencies that should protect people and the environment.

Today, we are witnessing the advance of the Canadian mining company Belo Sun in the Volta Grande do Xingu, in Pará. The project directly threatens Indigenous lands, riverside communities, and the greatest aquatic biodiversity of the Amazon. Its license has been suspended since 2017 by court order, due to flaws and irregularities in the consultation process with Indigenous peoples of the region.

¹ A Aliança Volta Grande do Xingu é uma rede diversa formada por ativistas, pesquisadores e organizações nacionais e internacionais das áreas ambiental, indígena, indigenista, de direitos humanos e de movimentos sociais. Entre os membros que compõem a Aliança, estão: Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil (APIB), Coordenação das Organizações Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira (COIAB), Movimento Xingu Vivo Para Sempre, Associação Interamericana de Defesa Ambiental (AIDA), EKO, Justiça Global e Amazon Watch.



Furthermore, the company has been denounced for land fraud, through the illegal acquisition of plots in federal agrarian settlements, and for employing armed security guards to intimidate local residents. Independent studies also point to an unacceptably high risk of tailings dam failure, which could transform the Xingu River into a new scene of environmental tragedy within hours².

From Serra do Curral in Minas Gerais to the Volta Grande do Xingu in Pará, the same pattern is evident: regulatory capture, fraudulent licensing, intimidation of communities, and contempt for life. In other words, the revelations of Operation *Rejeito* confirm that corruption, fraudulent licensing, and criminal schemes permeate Brazil's mining sector.

No more mining tragedies

The CPI is therefore imposed as an instrument of transparency and defense of the public interest, capable of exposing the activities of companies and agents that profit at the expense of environmental destruction, violence against communities, and the erosion of national sovereignty.

This is not only about holding past actors accountable, but also about preventing new tragedies from happening. The establishment of the CPI is also an act of respect for the memory of the victims of Mariana and Brumadinho, and a safeguard to prevent Belo Sun and other mining projects in the Amazon from consolidating a legacy of death, contamination, and dispossession of peoples.

We reiterate that mining in Brazil, as it is currently structured, represents a real threat to democracy, social justice, and the constitutional protection of Indigenous lands and the

² EMERMAN, Steven H. *Evaluation of the Tailings Dam, Cyanide Use and Water Consumption at the Proposed Volta Grande Gold Project, Pará, Northern Brazil*. Spanish Fork: Malach Consulting, LLC, 2020. Report prepared at the request of Amazon Watch. Available at: https://xinguvivo.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Volta_Grande_Report_Emerman.pdf. Access in: 22 set. 2025.



commons. It is not possible to speak of development when the cost is paid with dead rivers, displaced villages, and families buried under toxic sludge.

On the eve of COP30, Brazil cannot persist in a mining governance model marked by corruption and impunity. The establishment of the CPI is also a gesture of responsibility toward the international community, investors, and governments that demand coherence between Brazil's climate discourse and its practice.

Therefore, the Volta Grande do Xingu Alliance demands the immediate establishment of the Mining CPI and urges each and every deputy of this House to sign and support Congresswoman Duda Salabert's request. The National Congress now faces a historic choice: to align itself with life, justice, and democracy, or to remain complicit in a system of death.

Volta Grande do Xingu Alliance

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