

Letter from indigenous leader Megaron Txucarramãe to the International Press  
Piraçu community, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2010

We leaders and warriors are here protesting and we are going to continue with the blockade of the ferry which crosses the Xingu river. As long as President Luis Inácio Lula da Silva insists on constructing the Belo Monte dam we will remain here. We are very angry that Lula is saying that he will construct the Belo Monte dam at all costs, even if that means using force!!! Now we Indians and the people who voted for Lula are getting to know who he really is. We are not criminals, we are not crooks and we do not deserve to be treated like this. What we want is that the plans to build the Belo Monte dam be cancelled. We do not have weapons to defend ourselves; if Lula uses force he wants to put an end to us as he has been showing, but the whole world will know that we have died fighting for our rights. We are facing a government which shows itself more and more to be against us Indians. Lula has shown himself to be the Indians' number one enemy and Marcio Meira, the current President of FUNAI (Brazilian government's National Indian Foundation) has shown himself to be the second Brazilian against the Indians. FUNAI does not deal with indigenous issues any more, it no longer maps out indigenous lands, there is no longer any surveillance of indigenous lands, there is no revival of indigenous lands. Our indigenous leaders are prevented from entering the FUNAI office in Brasília by military policemen. We Indians are being seriously abandoned, since we Indians, the first inhabitants of this country, are being neglected by Lula's government which wants to destroy us. This is the situation we are facing.