

Letter to Aritâna

We who are blockading the ferry (which crosses the Xingu river) have seen the message that you and your brother sent to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, where you say that this man is not treating us Indians as brothers, as friends, nor as relatives.

That's right Aritâna... Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has shown himself to be the number one enemy of the Indians, of the environment and of the rivers. He wants to modify the Xingu river.

It is clear that he and his government are enemies of nature and they are against the preservation of the environment.

With the construction of the Belo Monte dam that he is supporting, our river will no longer be this beautiful river which our creator made for us Indians.

We are angry, since many of our relatives voted to reelect him (Lula), thinking that he would govern democratically, taking into consideration the Indians and the environment. Our relatives thought that he would consider us Indians as people, but this is not happening with indigenous communities under Lula's government. Look at FUNAI in Brasilia, which does not solve any problems... it only says no to the Indians.

We understand that he wants to destroy us: when he says that he is going to construct Belo Monte at all costs, this is very clear.

It would be better for him to get rid of FUNAI and of us Indians.

That way, he can get rid of the Amazon, of the rivers, the forest, and do whatever he wants with Brazil. If he destroys us, we will not be alive to see this huge destruction. So he can do whatever he wants. Because we do not accept the Belo Monte dam, we do not accept money, we do not accept the zoning of Mato Grosso state. This government wants to get rid of our riches such as the fish, the animals and the rivers.

We see Lula as a devil, a true monster.

We indigenous leaders in protest want to ask you Aritâna, as an important leader, not to refer to the Lula government using the words

'We are very sad'.

No, no, we are not sad. We are revolted by this government, we are revolted by Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

'We ask your Excellency'.

No, no, we should not address our enemy with affection... where is Lula's consideration of the Indians?

We want our leaders to be stronger in their words addressing this government which is against us.

We ask for the support of our relatives so that we can join in the protest:

Leaders:

Kaiabi, Kalapalo, Yawalapiti, Meinako, Auweti, Kamaiura, Waura, Matipu, Txicão, Juruna, Yudja, Suiá, Nafukauá, Kuikoro, Trumai

Indigenous leader Megaron Txucarramae