

Dilma Rousseff
President of Brazil
Praça dos Tres Poderes
Palácio do Planalto
70150-900
Brasilia, Brazil

May 28, 2013

Dear President Rousseff:

The undersigned organizations urge you to take immediate steps to investigate recent allegations concerning illegal surveillance and infiltration of Brazilian human rights organizations and to prosecute any and all responsible parties.

In March of this year, the former director of intelligence for the Brazilian mining company Vale lodged a complaint with public authorities regarding illegal spying activities allegedly carried out by the company in collaboration with the Brazilian intelligence agency, Agência Brasileira de Inteligência (ABIN). The allegations concern phone tapping and illegal access to email and computer files. They also concern the infiltration of human rights organizations Justice on the Rails (Justiça nos Trilhos) and the Landless Workers' Movement (Movimiento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra – MST). According to the former intelligence officer, these infiltrations began in 2008 and are on-going.

The company has since acknowledged that it hired public intelligence personnel, and that it monitors both Justice on the Rails and the Landless Workers' Movement.

We call on the Brazilian government to undertake a thorough, timely and transparent investigation into these serious allegations, including an examination of the role played by public employees and agencies in any wrongdoing.

We further call on the Brazilian government to guarantee the human rights of personnel at Justice on the Rails and the Landless Workers' Movement, as required under international law.

These allegations are the most recent manifestation of a global trend involving the intimidation, harassment and criminalization of human rights defenders. We express our solidarity with Justice on the Rails and the Landless Workers' Movement and the critical work that they undertake.

Asociación CEIBA – Guatemala
Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace
CENSAT Agua Viva - Amigos de la Tierra Colombia
El Colectivo de Coordinación de Acciones Socio Ambientales de Bolivia (COLECTIVO CASA BOLIVIA)

Comité pour les droits humains en Amérique latine (CDHAL) - Canada
CooperAcción - Perú
GRUFIDES Perú
Justicia, Paz y Salvaguarda de la Creación - Chile
La Fundación EcuMénica para el Desarrollo y la Paz – FEDEPAZ - Perú
Halifax Initiative - Canada
Mines minerals & RIGHTS - India
MiningWatch Canada
El Observatorio Latinoamericano de Conflictos Ambientales OLCA - Chile
Oficina de de Justicia, Paz e Integridad de la Creación de los Padres de San
Columbano
La Organización Ciudadana Ambiental de Salamanca OCAS - Chile
PIPlinks - UK
United Steelworkers of Canada
United Steelworkers Local 5328 – Hamilton, Canada
United Steelworkers Local 9346 – Sparwood, Canada