Please email or fax the letter below to the following representatives of the Brazilian government:

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President of the Republic

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Secretary of Social Affairs SG/PR

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9 May 2013

Dear President Dilma,

We seek a peaceful resolution for the current occupation at the Belo Monte Dam construction site.

We recognize as legitimate and support the claims of the Munduruku people, the Xingu people and other indigenous peoples of Brazil – may their right to free, prior and informed consent be respected. Their human rights are based on the democratic principle of the Brazilian state and are guaranteed both in art. 231 of the Federal Constitution and in the international instruments that have been incorporated into national legislation, such as ILO Convention 169, which is guaranteed by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, ratified by the government of Brazil.

The National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) and the Federal Public Prosecutors (MPF) have followed the negotiations of the occupation. According to FUNAI’s report, the occupation is peaceful, allowing the entry and exit of workers and food. The government's negotiating proposal was presented to the occupiers last night, May 8, and the occupiers should have the time they need to evaluate it. Also last night, the Regional Federal Tribunal (TRF-1) ruled that the indigenous groups could be expelled by the use of force.

The MPF issued a statement criticizing the court’s decision to allow the use of police force and demanded a continuation of negotiations without using violence (http://goo.gl/YrFLa).

We reject the use of force against a peaceful demonstration of indigenous people who have the courage to fight for their rights. We demand that the federal government find a peaceful resolution for this conflict within the framework of a respect for the human rights of indigenous peoples, the Federal Constitution of Brazil and international treaties.

Sincerely,

(name, title, organization)