

Why are we here

Early this morning (Sunday, July 16) we, the Munduruku people of the upper and middle Tapajós River and the lower Teles Pires River, began a peaceful occupation of the São Manoel Hydroelectric Plant construction site. We number 200 indigenous people—among us chiefs, women, shamans, leaders, warriors, and children—and we are here representing 138 Munduruku villages to assert our rights.

This action was proposed during the second meeting of Munduruku women, “Aya Cayu Waydip Pe,” which took place May 8-10 in Santa Cruz village, Jacareacanga (Pará). The principal problems discussed during this meeting were all matters resulting from the construction of the Teles Pires and São Manoel dams.

Our sacred sites *Karobixexe* (the Seven Falls Waterfall) and *Dekuka’a* (Mountain of the Monkeys) have been violated and destroyed. Our rivers, the Tapajós and the Teles Pires, are dying. Our rights, which are guaranteed by the Federal Constitution and which only came to exist in that document after much indigenous blood had been spilled, are being violated. Not even our right to prior consultation has been respected.

We cannot forget our relative Adenilson Kixi Munduruku, murdered in November 2012 by the Federal Police in Teles Pires village during Operation Eldorado. We demand justice!

After hearing the concerns of Munduruku women we decided to be here peacefully in the site of the São Manoel dam, out of pain and sorrow. We are not invaders here. The only invaders are the government and the companies responsible for these dams being constructed in the Teles Pires River.

We, the Munduruku people, are here in one of our most sacred locales. We know that our struggle is legitimate, as we are fighting for our rights that have been clearly violated by the construction of these dams. We hope that our list of demands will be answered, and we will not leave until this happens.

All aid in support of our struggle is welcome.

SAWE!

The Munduruku People
July 16, 2017

List of Demands

We, the Munduruku people, who are peacefully occupying the construction site of the São Manoel Hydroelectric Plant, require that the government and companies responsible for the construction of the Teles Pires and São Manoel dams meet our demands.

Our conditions are as follows:

1. We want to visit the funerary urns, which were exhumed and robbed by the dam company, in the place where they were. Until now, the company has not told us the exact location of the urns;
2. After this visit we demand that the stolen urns be taken to land that to which no *pariwat* (white, non-indigenous person) has access. The return of the urns must be accompanied by the shamans;
3. We demand that the companies responsible for the dams respect our rights and that they create a “Munduruku Fund” with resources to be administered and invested by us Munduruku in the following realms:
 - a. The construction of our own indigenous university
 - b. Supporting our relatives, and without interference from the dams
 - c. Protecting our sacred sites
 - d. Preserving our culture and history;
4. We demand the demarcation and homologation of Sawré Muybu Indigenous Territory;
5. We demand that the government conduct free, previous, and informed consent, in accordance with our own protocol, for the construction of any project that impacts us directly or indirectly;
6. We want the company to hold a public meeting in Missão Cururu village to clarify the issue of impacts already caused by the dams and to offer a formal apology to the Munduruku people for the destruction of our sacred sites;
7. The creation of a museum of the Munduruku people, in Teles Pires village, named for our relative Adenilson Kixi Munduruku, murdered by the Federal Police during Operation Eldorado in November 2012;
8. The creation of a museum of the Munduruku people in the city of Jacareacanga, named for the sacred sites Karobixexe and Dekuka’a, which were destroyed by the Teles Pires and São Manoel dams;
9. We demand that the companies responsible for the São Manoel and Teles Pires dams attend to the demands and conditions of the indigenous communities along the Teles

Pires River, as stipulated in the PBAI (“Indigenous Environmental Program”), with efficiency and quality;

10. We want a Guest House to be built in Jacareacanga, equipped to support indigenous peoples and with the capacity to meet the demands of the Munduruku people, independently of the PBAI;
11. Guarantee the purchase of a large bus and a truck (with at least 20-ton capacity) for the transportation needs of the indigenous people on the Jacareacanga road (*ramal*), independently of the PBAI;
12. We demand that the government stop the construction of new hydroelectric plants in Amazonia. Enough!

The chiefs, women, shamans, leaders, and children who are peacefully occupying the construction site of the São Manoel Hydroelectric Plant demand the presence of:

- The President of FUNAI (National Indian Foundation)
- The Minister of Justice
- The general directors of the São Manoel and Teles Pires dams
- The Federal Public Ministry
- The General Secretary of the President of the Republic
- The Minister of the Environment
- The Minister of Mines and Energy
- The President of IBAMA (Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Resources)

We will only leave this site if our demands are met. We are not open to negotiations, for what has already been destroyed is priceless and nonnegotiable. We are demanding what we are entitled to, and respect for the Munduruku people.

SAWE!!

The Munduruku People
July 16, 2017