



MOVIMENTO DOS ATINGIDOS POR BARRAGENS - MAB

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FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA, THEY WILL NOT SILENCE US: # 3 YEARS OF MUD AND STRUGGLE

November 5th of 2015, the ore tailings dam owned by Vale and BHP Biliton (named Samarco) ruptured, its tailings contaminated 43 municipalities alongside the Doce River Basin until the Sea in the state of Espírito Santo. It destroyed houses, ways of living, sources of income, dreams and life projects. It's known as the biggest social and environmental crime of Brazil.

Three years after, most families are not satisfied with the conduction of repair process. Many families are not officially recognized as affected, although have made registrations.

In March of 2016, State and Federal Government signed the Conduct Adjustment Agreements, which resulted in the creation of the Renova Foundation with the capital of the companies to coordinate and implement 41 programs of repair and reconstruction, with the superintendence of the Inter-federative Committee, compound by State representatives. Since its creation Renova Foundation has not complied with the goals and deadlines set in the agreement, not even under the enforcement of fines. The Foundation has a policy of conducting the process that has generated numerous violations, such as the failure to recognize women as affected and hampering their financial autonomy. In August this year, the judgment of the 12th Federal Court of Minas Gerais approved a new agreement between the Federal Public Ministry, the Public Defender's Office, the Public Prosecutor's Office of Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo, the Public Defender's Office of the State of Espírito Santo for the treatment of integral repair, with its mechanisms under construction.

These three years has been marked by the complete disrespect to the rights of participations and organization of the people affected; their voices are being completely ignored when it comes to drafting all agreements that entail changes in their lives, completely damaging the full reparation process as it does not guarantee complete restitution, provides no guarantees of non-repetition, and does not ensure the right to memory and history of the people involved.

Women affected:

Regarding the recognition of women, half of the registered people are women, however, only 30% are receiving some compensation policy and most of them are dependent on their husbands. In the recent unified registration policy, only one emergency card per family is provided, and the majority is for men. In addition, the various problems of sickness have overwhelmed women, since they are the ones who work in the care of the home, due to the unequal division of domestic work by the reproduction of patriarchy. Difficulties in access to quality water to feed and drink and absence of fish have led to food insecurity, which also puts women at risk.

Health:

With regard to health, recent studies in the city of Barra Longa have confirmed the contamination of 12 children with heavy metals. This situation is repeated in other cities in which people took the initiative to conduct their own exams. In many affected



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municipalities, the water supply comes from the Doce River, as well as the tradition of eating the fish. The serious risks to the health of the consumption and intake of heavy metals have not yet been properly diagnosed, there are no initiatives either by the public power or by the companies. In addition to the uncertainties of the repair process have caused various psychosocial damages in families such as depression, anxiety and suicide attempt.

Sea:

Finally, about the process of repairing the sea, this was only recognized as being affected by pressure from the studies of the Chico Mendes Institute, having no more effective work on the mud situation at sea. No studies are being done by MPF experts or companies on the severity of the impacts on marine fauna and on the lives of the families that depended on it. There is only one controversial discussion about the creation of an extractive reserve that does not find good resonance in the affected traditional communities.

Claims (agenda):

- Maintenance and extension of the right to the support card (women, workers and merchants);
- Agility in the construction of resettlement;
- Health: follow-up and case study (health card);
- Fair compensations with agility and follow-up;
- Denounce to the judiciary;
- Restructuring of life (environmentally, economically and culturally);
- Alternative supply of clean and potable water;
- Leisure and ways of life;
- Rural technical assistance;
- Implementation of the promised advisory;
- Rail concession renewal.

We will continue fighting for rights and justice.