

Hon. Mr. Governor Roberto Richa
State of Parana

c/o:

Hon. Mr. Hamilton Serighelli
Governor's Advisory for Conflict Rural Affairs
hlserighelli@yahoo.com.br

Dear Sirs:

I want to express my concern about the violence against landless rural workers in the State of Paraná, especially in relation to the encampment with 2,500 families, in the region of Laranjeiras do Sul. These working families need land for their survival and for the production of healthy food for the consumption of thousands of families in neighboring municipalities.

I received information about death threats against some leaders of the region many of them made in public spaces, particularly at the members of national coordination of the MST – Antonio de Miranda. The families of landless workers know of the existence of gunmen in the region.

Last week, a group of gunmen kidnapped an entire family of peasant settlers near the encampment. This family was providing support for the landless in the encampment. On Friday, January 30, their disfigured bodies were found and still there is no information on the perpetrators of this barbarity.

I ask that you take the necessary measures for the protection of landless rural workers and the police quickly clarify who the perpetrators of the threats against the encampment and slaughter of the landless family. Please be advised that I will continue to monitor the development of the facts related to this situation as well as the performance of the competent authorities.

Kind Regards,

cc: Camilo Bernardo
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