



Associação de Missões Transculturais Brasileiras – AMTB (Association of Brazilian Cross Cultural Missions), representing 47 Brazilian cross cultural missionary agencies, 14 of these among indigenous tribal communities, and the Conselho Nacional de Pastores e Líderes Evangélicos Indígenas – CONPLEI (National Council of Evangelical Indigenous Pastors and Leaders), with the judicial support of ANAJURE – Associação Nacional de Juristas Evangélicos (the National Association of Evangelical Judges and Lawyers), rooted in constitutional principles such as, freedom of speech, freedom of thought and religious freedom (Art. 5º, IV, VI and IX, Federal Constitution), issues the present statement to the Public Sectors of the Federative Republic of Brazil and to the Public in general:

1) As we have seen the adoption of public policies and administrative steps to stop missionary activities in Indian areas, which are based on incorrect assumptions – without connection to the actual, historical and legal reality – that missionaries have been harmful to those people, the time has come to provide legal and legitimate evidence to the effect that these assumptions cannot be supported, in view of the historical facts of the last 100 years. We are aware that mistakes were made in the past in the name of a mistaken Christianity, but missionaries have acted in Brazilian Indigenous areas for the good of these people, in the areas of physical, social, cultural and linguistical preservation. With this in mind, we are not going to accept statements that are insults, slander or calumnies of any nature in regards to our agencies and missionaries, and are not backed by due evidence.

2) Since we have seen many people suggesting that our actions among the indigenous peoples are merely catechetical, it is time to bring to the public attention, the actions carried out by our agencies in the past few decades. There are actions related to health, education, subsistence and the people's linguistic and cultural preservation, which have been recognized by the official Indian associations, first the SPI (Serviço de Proteção ao Índio – Indian Protection Service) and also the FUNAI (Fundação Nacional do Índio – National Indian Foundation), before this time of institutional persecution from certain sectors. According to the report “Brazilian Indians”, published in 2010 by the Office for Indian Affairs of the Associação de Missões Transculturais Brasileiras - DAI – AMTB (AMTB's Department of Indian Affairs), there are 257 social programs among 182 indigenous tribal ethnicities developed and carried out by missionaries, as well as more than 100 thousand medical and dental care

projects that took place between 2010 and 2012, the greatest part of these were carried out without any financial support from the government. In the same way, our agencies have produced meticulous methodological and scientific work in the academic area, with more than 600 new works about Indian languages in Brazil, which have the added effect of preserving an important memorial and a cultural collection of our nation. It is of great significance that most of the existing materials produced in tribal languages have been developed by missionary institutions, making this a greater effort with greater results, than the projects that are financially supported by public federal or state universities. We also want to point out that, in land disputes and cases of exploitation, missionary agencies have always acted for the good of the tribal peoples.

3) in the face of many attempts to ideologically control and to curtail the rights of the indigenous communities, an illegal and unconstitutional procedure which also ignores principles such as the autonomy of will and self-determination of the indigenous peoples, in an attempt to maintain a state of state control and tutorship which is already legally and academically surpassed and outdated, the time has come to take a firm stand for the constitutional rights of the indigenous communities, which are guaranteed by our Constitution as well as international conventions. In support of this, it is worth mentioning the: Convention 169 – International Work Organization – approved by the Brazilian National Congress on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1993 , which gained its power through Legislative Decree No. 143 on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2002; the Statement of Rights for Indian Peoples, approved by the General Assembly of the Organization of the United Nations on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007, of which Brazil is signatory; and several statements of the Inter-American Court for Human Rights pertaining to the Organization of American States, all of which defend the principle of self-determination of peoples and the capability of indigenous peoples to make international deals and have their own order of law, in coexistence with other national states where they have representation. It is vitally important to assure rights such as Religious Freedom for the indigenous peoples.

4) As we face frequent persecutions and attempts to impede missionary activities with Indian peoples in Brazil, the time has come to denounce that certain segments of the Brazilian Society, unfortunately, some of which are linked to the government, guided by an ideology which is decidedly anti-Christian and anti-democratic, have insidiously promoted an ideological and religious persecution of our missionary agencies and missionaries, taking away some of their essential civil liberties, such as: Freedom of Religion, Worship and Speech. Up until now, our agencies have held a balanced clean, peaceful, respectful and tolerant posture, seeking merely to defend themselves. It is time to take steps to fight for our constitutional and legal rights in political and legal arenas. The history of our missionary action is our expression of Christian testimony, so we will not be remiss in the face of persecution or false charges to the honor of individuals or our missionary agencies. We are not going to passively accept the curtailing of our constitutional rights – nor those of the indigenous peoples – to serve one another and to freely share our faith and

beliefs, always voluntarily, respectfully and submitting ourselves, as always, to the current parameters of law.

As a first step toward this, our institutions place themselves at the disposal of the Brazilian public society and the Public Sectors of the Federative Republic of Brazil, and, in particular, the official Indian administrative offices and the Brazilian Public Prosecutor, in order to discuss the above matters and to finally see the Brazilian state conducting itself without unconstitutionally hindering or illegally restricting and our historical actions in Indian lands.

That is all for the moment.

Brasília, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Cassiano Batista da Luz  
Presidente  
Associação de Missões Transculturais Brasileiras (AMTB)  
[www.ambt.org.br](http://www.ambt.org.br)

Henrique Terena  
Presidente  
CONPLEI (National Council of Pastors and Leaders)  
[www.conplei.org.br](http://www.conplei.org.br)

Dr. Uziel Santana dos Santos  
Presidente  
ANAJURE (Associação Nacional de Juristas Evangélicos)  
[www.anajure.org.br](http://www.anajure.org.br)