



Franciscans International
A voice at the United Nations

Minas Gerais, February 26th, 2014

Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque
United Nations Special Reporter on the Right to Water and Sanitation

Following your recent official visit to Brazil, we are sending our input for your report on human rights violations in relation to water and sanitation, put together in a participative manner by the different organizations that endorse this document.

The *Carta da Terra* (Land Charter) affirms:

“When you injure the land, you hurt and injure the sons and daughters of the Land”

The social-environment damages caused by mining in Minas Gerais are both notorious and grave.

Water is fundamental to the survival of life. Its definitive and irreversible loss or degradation is without a doubt a grave violation of the human right to water and of the right to life of other living beings and of mother Earth.

We can tell the culture and education of a civilization by the way in which the society treats and relates to its water. The fundamental right to life is brutally disrespected when humans and other living creatures suffer and die for the lack of water. When capital overrides the rights of a community, affecting both surface and underground water, we are also being violated in our human right to water.

Given the seriousness of the facts presented in this document, we request your special attention, so that this matter is duly considered in your report on Brazil, regardless of the fact that it was not included in your schedule of visits.

We are available for more clarifications or to provide more documentation, if necessary.

Sincerely,

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Movement for the Mountains and Waters of Minas (*Movimento pelas Serras e Águas de Minas*)

Movement for the Preservation of the Gandarela Sierra (*Movimento pela Preservação da Serra do Gandarela*)

Coordinator of the coalition that prepared this document

Context:

The State of Minas Gerais, with around 18 million inhabitants has been destroyed by mining since the beginning of its history, in the 17th century. Over the last few decades, in some municipalities the extraction of minerals such as iron, gold, bauxite and uranium has taken place at an accelerated rate and the social and environmental impacts that can already be observed are significant. There is the prospect of new large mining enterprises in the whole territory of Minas Gerais. Among those are the new "mineral goods" such as schist gas, natural gas and "rare earth" minerals. Linked with the extraction of the minerals, five pipelines are being built for the drainage of ore, as well as diverse dams and hundreds of small hydroelectric centers for energy generation. Legislation has undergone grave setbacks to facilitate licensing, with devastating effects for the environment, populations and other life forms in relation to natural and cultural areas.

1. What violations of human rights to water have we identified?

Mining as it is practiced in Minas Gerais constitutes an economic activity that is harmful to water resources, bringing about not only the permanent and irreversible loss to aquifers and to the disappearance of springs, but also the alarming reduction of sub terrain waters and the degradation/contamination of water channels with radioactive and toxic products. In this way the quantity and quality (physical/chemical characteristics) of the waters in Minas Gerais have been deteriorating rapidly, putting at risk the water systems of the entire population of Minas Gerais, which was always considered the water reservoir of Brazil - since it supplies a good part of the river basins of the country.

In the region of Minas known as the "iron quadrangle" – central region of the State, this process of environmental degradation has been happening systematically for decades. Just Vale S.A. alone has 28 open pit iron mines. The cities of Itabira (109,783 inhabitants) and Congonhas (48,519 inhabitants) are already experiencing grave problems with the sources supplying water because of mining.

Studies have confirmed that sources of water 4 km from the mine of Sapécado (municipality of Itabirito – in the iron quadrangle) have dried up due to this economic activity. This happens because the process of mining removes layers of rock (*canga*, ferruginous geo system) that cover the mountains of the region, which are exploded and discarded as "waste material". But these layers are exactly what allow for the replenishment of the water basins because since they are porous they allow the rain water to seep quickly into the earth not coming up to the top until they reach the rivers. Besides this, the destruction of this layer irreversibly alters the environmental equilibrium of the region, with the loss of the extensive biodiversity that exists in this geological formation. After the rock (*canga*) is removed the mineral exploration removes the layer of itabrite, where the iron ore is. But it is in this layer that water is stored and circulates until it spouts in springs generating waterfalls and river channels. Furthermore, when the mining reaches the ground water table (phreatic sheet), it the water must be pumped out to continue mining and this alters the flow of the water, which previously supplied different places where it reached the surface. In its cycle to extract ore mining destroys as well the iron quadrangle which we call the "aquifer quadrangle", since both are the same territorial area. This must be considered a grave violation of the human right to water, because it deals with the permanent and irreversible loss of natural areas that receive and supply water.

In the iron/aquifer quadrangle several different sierras have already been impacted by mining activity (for iron, gold and bauxite) or are threatened by expansions or new ventures: Sierra Azul, Sierra Itatiaiuçu, Sierra Moeda, Sierra Serrinha, Sierra Calçada, Sierra Rola-Moça, Sierra Curral, Sierra

Engenho, Sierra Piedade, Sierra Caraça and Sierra Gandarela. All of the sierras with the exception of Gandarela already present signs of impact on the waters. In October 2013 the World Monuments Fund (WMF) included the Moeda Sierra in the list of world patrimonyes that are threatened and one of the primary reasons was because of the mining. It is in one of the stretches of this sierra, in the municipality of Brumadinho, that the mining company Ferrous Resources intended to initiate one of the five pipelines intended for Minas Gerais. Because of the resistance of civil society against undertaking mining in that municipality the pipeline is today planned to begin in Congonhas. However there is already a recommendation from the Federal Public Ministry requesting the nullification of the previous license and the immediate suspension of the environmental permit, based on a finding that the construction of a pipeline would compromise the water supply in Viçosa (72,220 inhabitants) and other municipalities in the region.

The water supply of Belo Horizonte, the capital of the State and its metropolitan region of more than five million inhabitants depends on the water of two river basins – the Velhas River and the Paraopeba River – that are inserted in the iron quadrangle which is also the aquifer quadrangle, given the geomorphological context and the mining activity outlined above.

At the end of 2013 the River Velha, which is the main source of the River San Francisco, once again suffered the combination of the shortage of water during the dry season and massive releases of sewage, which caused a proliferation of toxic micro organisms known as cyanobacteria: producers of toxins that are highly harmful to humans and to fish. The uncontrolled production of these water organisms makes it obligatory to monitor the quality of the water in the region, because of the risk of having to interrupt the water supplies of the municipalities in the case that a greater concentration of these toxins be detected. That situation would prevent water and fish being used for human consumption. Besides this, in this river basin there are several types and instances of conflicts over water use, not only because of quantity and the possible amount captured for use but mainly conflict over quality. Those involved reveal this information and often the conflict presents itself in a latent form, not yet recognized by the official departments.

The Bela Fama catchment in the Velhas River, in Nova Lima is responsible for the water supply of 63 per cent of Belo Horizonte and part of the municipalities of the metropolitan region, such as Raposos (100%), Nova Lima (98%), Sabará (97%) and Santa Luzia (37%), a total of nearly 1,900,000 inhabitants. The waters that arrive in the Velhas River from the tributaries on the left margins are totally jeopardized, mainly because of the intense mining activities.

On the right side of the Velhas River is the Gandarela Sierra, which represents the last “aquifer” in the region, that is still intact, with a lot of water of excellent quality. It is estimated to hold around 1.6 trillion liters of fresh drinking water, which is recharged by the rains passing through the breastplates of ferruginous ore that covers and protects the highest points of the sierra. This water is slowly released – through natural ducts, channels and cracks on the layers of ore – and feeds more than a thousand springs, dozens of waterfalls and many river channels in the area proposed for the Gandarela Sierra National Park and Sustainable Development Reserve. The wide Prata Stream, whose springs and greater part of its route is in the area proposed for the National Park, is the last strategic reserve with a volume of water of Special Class and Class 1 with a capacity to supply the growing demand for water in Belo Horizonte, because of its nearness to the catchment area of Bela Fama, which is approximately 4 km. away. This stream (ribeirão) which meets the Velhas River in the city of Raposa, is very important because its clean waters are fundamental for the health of this river which arrives in precarious conditions and goes on to meet the San Francisco River.

These two Conservation Units, which civil society requested of the Federal Government (the National Park in 2009 and the Sustainable Development Reserve in 2013) were not created because of mining interests. The Vale corporation, together with the Ministry for the Environment and the State and Federal Governors have been asking that the secure limits for the protection of Sierra Gandarela be altered in order to license their own enterprise “Apollo Mine”. Even so, the Vale corporation itself, in the Environmental Impact Study (Pg. 17), recognizes the impact that would be caused by its intended enterprise on the Gandarela Sierra. *“This means dealing with an activity that promotes a position, such as the interference with the regional tourism potential, with the water supply for the Metropolitan Region of Belo Horizonte, with the conservation of biodiversity....”* (our emphasis). Thus, the possibility of ceasing to protect the Gandarela Sierra, with its relevance to supplying water to a region of more than 5 million inhabitants in order to allow a mega open-pit iron ore venture, is surely a grave violation of the human right to water, even though it has not yet materialized.

The River Paraopeba is highly polluted, even less than ten kilometers from the river head and also in the Metropolitan Region of Belo Horizonte through which it passes early in its course. Preliminary analysis showed high amounts of heavy metals in the most polluted sites of the river, where the presence of cancerous substances, such as total chromium, cadmium and lead is common, which, some say is dumped in the River Paraopeba by its 43 tributaries. There are ongoing studies on the relationship between mining activity and the contamination of rivers by total chromium, but in Congonhas it is a concrete fact that mining compromises the quality and quantity of water from the River Maranhão, an important tributary of the River Paraopeba.

In the River Paraopeba Basin, but specifically in the Middle Paraopeba, Vale and Itaminas wash ore and dump the waste in rural areas of the municipality of Sarzedo, seriously affecting small family farmers and fish farmers, who have lost all their fish production, their source of income, due to flooding, pollution and destruction of dams with muddy water, which also caused them to lose many species of fruit trees, vegetables and animals. In São Joaquim de Bicas, specifically in the place known as Açoita Cavalho, before the mining MMX started, the rural producers participating in family farming used water for producing vegetables in order to sustain their families, children and teenagers to swim, and the adults in the community to fish to feed their families. Today it is no longer possible, because the waters are dried up or contaminated, and residents who still remain in the region receive weekly gallons of water and wonder if MMX will continue to provide water even after the termination of its activities and for the next generation of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The violation of the human right to water for these people meant not only the loss of their way of being, of living and of generating their income from the family farm, but also the loss of the right to leisure and good health. Now their mood or attitudes have changed, walking downcast and depressed, disenchanted with where they have always lived, now dependent on buying food when before they grew and sold food. The emotional testimony of the resident Eni Resende Coelho gives a picture of what is happening with the communities around mining ventures: *“We cannot bear so much suffering any longer. Our community, about 100 families, has always lived from family agriculture, horticulture, ponds with fish, etc. The water was always plentiful for our consumption, to use for agriculture and the animals. Because of the impact caused by mining, we have lost our water, our greatest asset and we now receive water from a water truck, which in turn is in the hands of the mining company itself, and even the water we drink is measured out in gallons.”*

In Eastern Paraopeba in addition the violation of the human right to water from mining, there are other serious problems coming from sources such as the discharge of sewage in the River Paraopeba 24 hours a day from the overcrowded prison in São Joaquim de Bicas near Colônia Santa Isabel (Betim). Waters unfit for human consumption are used to irrigate leafy vegetables that are sold in the

cities of Betim, Mario Campo and Brumadinho, among others; the constant flooding which results in loads of ore being registered within houses that are affected; the population throw their waste, animal waste and untreated sewage into the river that flows through densely populated neighborhoods. Specifically in the sub-basin of the Sarzedo stream, a tributary of the River Paraopeba basin there is a dedicated struggle to save an immense lagoon of approximately 18 square miles, known as the Petrobras Lagoon. It is a victim of the omission and irresponsibility of the local government and the Sanitation Company of the State of Minas Gerais, COPASA. The latter launches without any treatment, the untreated sewage of 200 thousand people into our waters and charges the citizens a huge water bill (an increase of 50 % on the value of the amount paid for water use) which should be charged only after the Sewage Treatment Station is functioning.

The municipalities of Conceição do Mato Dentro and Alvorada de Minas are located at the west end of the River Doce basin, at the head of the San Antonio River, near the division of the waters of the basins of the rivers São Francisco and Jequitinhonha, an area declared by UNESCO as the "Sierra Biosphere Reserve Backbone". Despite being in an area of high environmental vulnerability, of difficult recuperation and high priority for conservation and restoration of natural resources, one of the largest mining projects in Brazil - Minas-Rio Project - operated by Anglo American is being implanted. The Environmental Impact Study was incomplete and flawed and licensing was fractioned to reduce the perception of the size of the impacts that the project would cause: licensing was separated from its structures - a mine, pipeline, port and transmission line. Very serious problems have already started in two municipalities and the scene is chaotic in the region. Among these problems are the pollution of streams leaving their water unfit for consumption, the extinction of springs, the explosion of waterfalls and numerous damages to rural and small farmers who have had their activities impeded or harmed by the loss or contamination of water sources.

In the Rio Santo Antonio basin, in addition to Anglo American with the Minas- Rio project, there is the Manabi Mining Company which aims to explore iron ore in Morro do Pilar (3,399 inhabitants) and in Santa Maria de Itabira (10,552 inhabitants) and make the drainage flow through a pipeline. The Manabi already has two concessions (licenses authorizing the abstraction of water) in two rivers in the region of Morro do Pilar, the River Preto and Santo Antonio. Together, the licenses have a total flow of 819 liters per second (l/s), with 718 l/s in the River Santo Antônio and 101 l/s in the Preto River. The captured water, in addition to feeding the pipeline, must also serve the plants that serve the mining activity. To get an idea of the amount of water, a comparison would be all water sources that supply Itabira (109,783 inhabitants) together are 388 l/s. The flow of water granted to Manabi would supply almost three cities of Itabira. In this basin there are already two hydroelectric dams and 22 Small Hydro Plants (SHP) are foreseen for the future. Despite all these developments impacting greatly on water resources, as well as on other environmental and social aspects, there is not one joint assessment of the impact on the territory, on people's lives and on the availability of access to water.

The São Francisco River rises in Minas Gerais, passes through a large part of the state and flows north toward the sea, crossing the states of Bahia, Pernambuco, Sergipe and Alagoas. In the city of Três Marias, below the dam that bears the same name, Votorantim Metais has had a zinc metallurgy since 1956. For many years the company emptied the industrial waste into the bed of the Consciência Stream, a small tributary of the São Francisco River. Subsequently, as a result of political pressure from society, two dams for waste were built: one by the river São Francisco and another near a tributary. Both dams have serious leaks, among other environmental problems. The evidence of contamination has existed since the early 60s, but in 2005, there was a massive die-off of fish, mainly adult Surubins. Fishermen talk about 250 tons of adult fish. The indices of heavy metals well exceeded the standards allowed by environmental legislation. The impact on the life of traditional

fishing communities was huge at the time and continues to today. Organizations and communities denounced the problems to the appropriate entities, but the problem is far from being solved and still leads to problems of contamination for one of the most important waterways of Brazil.

In the North of Minas Gerais, the situation is quite worrying. Between the Valley of the River São Francisco and the River Jequitinhonha the mining companies have begun a new cycle of exploration. The exploration of gold and iron ore will be catastrophic in this region. The mines that are being explored are located in the transition between the Bioma Cerrado and Caatinga. One of the features of the Caatinga is the limited availability of water. The population of this region has always faced serious problems of access to water during the dry season - the months of April to October, in addition to the frequent droughts in the months of January and February. Mineral exploration, with its high demand for water, and intrinsic degradation of water systems, has aggravated problems even in the initial stages.

The Carpathian Canadian Gold Company has had its environmental licenses for gold mining in Riacho dos Machados suspended as a result of the impact on local systems caused by its mining for gold. It still presents a great risk to the public dam at the Bico de Pedra Dam because the dam for the company's waste is upstream and may be contaminated by cyanide, arsenic and other metals that are in the explored area. If this reservoir is contaminated the region will collapse, because these waters supply an irrigated area for food production, and also supplies several municipalities in the region. The company has also opened artesian wells in neighboring communities, illegally, to enable the exploration for gold, causing serious problems to the local population.

The exploration of iron ore is also a major threat in the north of Minas Gerais. Companies intend to explore the ore and transport it by pipelines to the port of Ilheus, in the south of Bahia State. . To do that they already have a concession to remove water from the Irapé dam and they intend to build two dams to supply the demands of the exploration.

In Paracatu, the Canadian company Kinross owns the River Paracatu Mining Company, a gold mine located in Paracatu, Northwest region of Minas Gerais. Since 1987 (under the name RPM) it has explored the Morro do Ouro mine and is currently the sole owner. The company has licenses to research mining in over 20 hectares around this mine, including an urban area, and is planning a major productive expansion.

Through the exploration of the open-pit mine, Kinross has caused incalculable harm to people and the environment. The company produces 15-20% of all the gold exported by Brazil, with an average annual production level of 15 tons. The gold content of this mine is extremely low, the lowest in the world, with 0.40 grams per ton of earth. The exploration of this low gold content generates a huge amount of waste and is only made possible, among other factors, because of the low cost, which leaves enormous environmental and social liabilities and with the growing gold rush in the world is seen as way to invest in the midst of the economic crisis.

The arsenopyrite rock, which contains large amounts of arsenic, as well as sulfur, iron and gold, creates environmental contamination from the arsenic. The concentration of this metal in the ore of Morro do Ouro mine ranges from less than 2500 ppm to over 4000 ppm. The average concentration is 1100 ppm, which means 1 kg of arsenic per ton of ore. 300 million tons of ore have already been extracted from the Morro do Ouro and deposited by Kinross in the basin of rejects in the valley of the Santo Antonio (sub-basin of the São Francisco River) This means that the company has placed about 300 tons of arsenic at this site. With its expansion project, which aims to triple its production, the Kinross company threatens to deposit more than one million tons of this toxic product in the

Paracatu River Basin, a tributary that contributes the greatest volume of water to the São Francisco Basin, which serves a large part of the semi arid region of Brazil.

It is worth mentioning that only one gram of arsenic is sufficient to kill 7 adults. Thus 300 thousand tons of arsenic can cause a tragedy beyond all proportion. The operation of the mine under these conditions generates a series of grave environmental problems such as water pollution (arsenic, lead, cadmium, mercury and cyanide), high consumption of water, destruction of springs, access to public supply of water, as well as noise (detonation/noise), soil and air (dust) pollution. Then there is the use of cyanide, the threat of destruction to areas like the Machadinho stream, the arsenic released in the reject dams and lakes with acid drainage, the rising levels in the dams for rejects, - which was not anticipated in the environmental permit that authorized its implementation. The local population and some civil society organizations are still denouncing the fact that the company does not have an effective risk management plan regarding the problems caused and thus there are many doubts and uncertainties, such as the treatment of the stock of arsenic and its final destination after the closing of the mine.

Recently, the Council for the Defense of Human Rights (Conselho de Defesa dos Direitos da Pessoa Humana) recognized that the cause of the chronic poisoning of the population of Paracatu, a city of 100,000 inhabitants, is the release of arsenic by open-pit gold mining activity. Also the map of conflicts involving environmental injustice and health in Brazil selected, among others, the case of Kinross because of its social and environmental and health relevance and because of the reliability and consistency of the information presented, recognizing the people and groups affected in their territories by projects and policies based on a vision of development considered unsustainable and detrimental to health. The document says that the population of Paracatu is chronically exposed to arsenic and other toxic substances contained in the rejects from open-pit gold mining activity, undertaken by Kinross. High rates of renal, neurological, cardiovascular, cancer, blindness, diabetes, and bone marrow failure have been identified in Paracatu.

The situations presented here do not represent all of the violations of the human right to water caused by mining in Minas Gerais.

2. What are the structural causes of this? What power relations within society are behind these violations?

The fundamental cause is the development model proposed by the federal and by most state governments, which seeks maximum profit in the short term at any cost. To develop is to grow, to generate sizeable profit for powerful financial conglomerates that have their assets in the stock market. Thus, we have on one side the large financial conglomerates, the legislative power, the judicial power, the executive power, and the powerful of mass communication imposing their interests. On the other hand, a few grassroots organizations, segments of the Churches and Universities, a few politicians committed to the interests of the people, and an alternative media join in resistance to the imposition of this model of development. The correlation of forces is completely uneven.

There is no constructive relation open to dialogue, one that considers the rights of future generations or elaborates suggestions to be discussion in specific participative forum on live in the territories involved. It is the power of financial capital generating a kind of sub-citizens, turning the subjects into mere dwellers of territories from which they may be evicted or relocated, alienated from their own history under the guise of the developmental model of neo liberalism.

In this scenario, mining is seen from the perspective of leveraging the so-called “development” and “growth” of the country through the export of minerals that helps with the Brazilian trade balance, with the collection of resources by states and municipalities where it occurs and with the support of electoral campaigns. Thus, this economic activity rules over all else in territories in which it has interests, such as Minas Gerais, and commands or controls governments, instances of public management, technical, political and press groupings, using different mechanisms such as co-optation, harassment, threats, espionage and corruption. Large (national and international) mining companies that operate in Minas Gerais have the endorsement and support of the Federal, the State and Municipal Governments and other public bodies associated with them. They act illegally and immorally in most cases of licensing and operation of mining projects and/or their structures. There are numerous denounced cases of violation of rules, procedures, and requirements, so that companies do not have to undertake the basic precautions to avoid generating significant impacts, especially with regard to the actual size and the social and environmental feasibility of their operation.

There are several ways in which the power relations are manifested and acted out:

- Disrespect of the rights of the people living in the territories sought for mining, people who maintain emotional and cultural ties with these territories
- The "assets of our land" are seen as mere resources to be exploited and the dispute between large companies and small economies is unequal
- Abuse of power by our government and public agencies that give permission to companies, interested only in financial gains, to use water in a way that is harmful to the population.
- Communities are not considered as important local stakeholders; instead there is a relationship of an imposition of force, including harassment of residents by the companies
- There is no transparency with regard to the handling the licensing and implementation of projects and the entrepreneur imposes its projects without prior consultation with the residents, counting on a whole legal, sociological and financial apparatus and instruments to enable their interests.
- The entrepreneurs organize forums with local, state and national authorities and the communities are not invited. So they do not participate in these decision-making forums, leaving them to have to try to reverse harmful actions taken against their way of life and against nature, a struggle of resistance without clarification of what happens in these forums. Thus, the affected communities are excluded from decision-making processes, leaving them only the option to participate in hearings, which in their format serve only to ratify decisions taken earlier by the interests of financial capital.
- The purchase of properties of interest for mining is done in a piecemeal fashion and often using imposed mechanisms, such as memoranda of intent signed by the State Government with miners. This way the former inhabitants disperse to different localities, breaking the dynamics of coexistence that existed for years. There is the imposition of the urban style of life, disregarding their historical roots, alternative economies and local traditions.
- The entrepreneurs establish ties with the authorities responsible for public education and begin to act within the public school system by imposing an understanding of their economic activity through methodologies and materials that extol the need and importance of their enterprise. They use an eco-capitalistic language and a false environmental education, brainwashing the people with the imposition of the market ideology.
- Entrepreneurs finance cultural events bearing the company logo and advertising their interests. The objective is to buy our culture. They seek to impose a new cultural model, investing in stocks that present a balanced reality with mineral exploration. They unleash an cultural-ideological process which assesses the environment as totally favorable to mineral

exploration and which believes that the environmental damages are insignificant consequences, requiring small corrective actions and compensation.

- The low economic income of the population, the creation of socio-economic dependency on mega-corporations, and the lowering of social and psychological conditions of the people and affected region. There is an economic and political monopoly by a minority.

3 . Are there groups that have suffered violations in a particularly disproportional way?

All affected or threatened by violations to the human right to water suffer. We highlight those who lose the right to life or get sick from lack of water, usually residents of the areas where mining activity is carried out and where its structures of processing, disposal and energy needs are imposed, regardless of whether in urban or rural areas. Also the rural small-scale agriculture, livestock, beekeeping and fish farming families that, when the quantity and quality of water in their territories was altered, found that their activities were unviable, which forced them to look for another locality and activity to gain their livelihood. In the context of the permanent and irreversible loss of aquifers, all living things that depend on them suffer disproportionately the violations because they no longer have the means to survive.

4. What activities do you take to ensure the monitoring of the human right to water?

We, social and environmental organizations and movements operating in Minas Gerais (Brazil) listed below, are deeply concerned. So we are acting in different ways and on different points, networking increasingly and organically networking our actions, not only in monitoring the human right to water but also the other rights which are violated by mining activity.

To guarantee the monitoring of the human right to water, we closely follow the licensing procedures, we participate in public hearings, we denounce the illegalities and noncompliance of the law, we mobilize popular demonstrations, we send representations to the Federal State and Public Ministries, we plan actions of resistance to stay in the territories, we inspect the fulfillment of conditions, organize meetings, courses and conferences to assist in organizing and educating the citizens of the community, we publish manifestos, we prepare petitions and collect signatures, perform interventions and acts of protest in support of our cause.

We are citizens who dream, demand, and act to preserve and restore life in our communities and our planet. We want to help change the ideology that prevails in the society we live in (consumerism, individualism, rush, greed, arrogance). We want to help build a new history and to interact, protect and be protected by other forms of life that inhabit our planet. And nothing survives without water.

Groups organized in Minas Gerais that network to confront the mining industry:

4 Cantos do Mundo

Abrace a Serra da Moeda

Articulação Popular São Francisco Vivo (APSFV)

Associação de Conservação Ambiental Orgânica (ACAÓ)

Associação de Defesa e Desenvolvimento Ambiental de Ferros (ADDAF)

Associação do Patrimônio Histórico, Artístico e Ambiental de Belo Vale (APHAA-BV)

Associação para a Recuperação e Conservação Ambiental (ARCA AMASERRA)

Associação Pró-fundação Universitária do Vale do Jequitinhonha (FUNIVALE)

Centro de Ecologia Integral de Betim (CEIBE)
Educafro Minas
Grupo Rede Congonhas
JUFRA (Juventude Franciscana)
MOC-ECO (Movimento Comunitário, Cultural Ecológico e Esportivo da Média/Baixa Serra do Curral)
Movimento Artístico, Cultural e Ambiental de Caeté (MACACA)
Movimento Contra a Barragem de Rejeitos de Raposos
Movimento pela Preservação da Serra do Gandarela
Movimento pelas Serras e Águas de Minas (MovSAM)
Movimento Serra do Rola-Moça Sempre Viva
ONG Gota D'água do Alto Paraopeba
Ordem Franciscana Secular – OFS
Serviço Franciscano de Justiça, Paz e Integridade da Criação - Província Santa Cruz
SINFRAJUPE - Rede Inter-franciscana de Justiça, Paz e Ecologia
SOS Serra da Piedade
União das Associações Comunitárias de Congonhas (UNACCON)
Unidos por Conceição (UNICOM)