



29th Session of the Human Rights Council
General Debate on Agenda Item 4
June 23 – 24, 2015
Oral Statement on Human Rights and Education in Brazil

Thank you Mr. President.

VIVAT International, the Movement of People Affected by Dams and the Coordination Team and Assistance to the Black Communities in the Valley of Ribeira wish to bring to the attention of the Human Rights Council some gaps in the Right to Education in Brazil.

In the 21st Century families and communities in all regions of the world continue to make great efforts to educate their children. This is often the case where government infrastructure and resources are insufficient or lacking completely.

While this is happening in many rural areas of Brazil, we focus on one example here – that of the community of the “quilombo” of three canals, in the Municipality of Adrianopolis, in the State of Parana.

Children who live in towns and villages that are remote or distant from resource rich centres have an extra burden when they want to access education. They have to travel long distances to attend school and often this difficulty is reinforced by the lack of proper road.

The only access - and that is in the State of Sao Paulo - that one has to a school, to stores, to a health clinic and to other necessities is by crossing the Turvo River in dangerous boats, without life saving vests, or crossing on shaky bridges, which place the life of the children at risk.

In the schools of “Barra do Turvo” where these students attend, they tell us that they will not accept more students next year. The school transportation is done and financed through the Barra do Turvo Municipality. The city office of Adrianopolis states that they cannot accept these students, since they have no authorization to carry (students) by bus on the roads of Sao Paulo.

We respectfully urge the government of Brazil to:

- respect to basic Human Right: Right to education that is guaranteed on the Constitution.
- provide effective access to Right to Education,
- provide adequate and safe schools to include each quilombola child.