**GROUP WILL DENOUNCE VALE S.A., CORPORATIONS AND GOVERNMENT IN TOUR OF EUROPE**

**UOL NEWS - Jamil Chad - Geneva - 11/10/2019**

In an attempt to put pressure on Vale S.A. and seek laws to prevent further tragedies such as Brumadinho or Mariana, victims of mining dams, lawyers and activists will travel across Europe to denounce the Company, demand responses from the government and European companies and warn of impunity in response to deaths.

The group will meet with investors, politicians and representatives of international organizations in seven different countries starting this weekend. The agenda includes meetings with UN special rapporteurs, hearings with members of the European Parliament and the German Parliament, representatives of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), investors from Vale and mining companies in Brazil, as well as public debates and public demonstrations.

The group is being led by International Articulation of Persons Impacted by Vale and will be represented by Carolina de Moura Campos, general coordinator of the Jangada Community Association – Brumadinho, by Marcela Rodrigues, family member of a victim of Vale’s dam recent tragedy in Brumadinho, and Danilo Chammas, people’s advocate of Justiça nos Trilhos (Justice on the Rails), an Açailândia, Maranhão organization, and Antonia Flávia da Silva Nascimento, resident of the community of Piquiá de Baixo (Maranhão), impacted by Vale's steel industry and railroad.

They will pass through Spain, Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Italy and Belgium.

In Geneva, the group will attend meetings at the UN on ways to hold companies accountable for human rights and environmental violations. In parallel, the group will strengthen the activities of the Amazon Synod that is taking place in Rome during this same period.

"In the coming days, the objective is to denounce the corporate impunity of Vale S.A. and its associated companies, the threat of resumption of operations at the Paraopeba complex in Brumadinho (Jangada mine), the lack of real commitment by the Company and the Brazilian State to measures for comprehensive redress and guarantees of non-repetition of tragedies such as in Brumadinho and the Rio Doce Basin in Minas Gerais, and in Piquiá de Baixo in Açailândia, in the Brazilian Amazon”, the group points out in a statement.

"It is essential to spread throughout Europe the dramatic situation in Brazil. We are sick and tired of extractive projects that lead to cruel deaths and irreversible environmental destruction”, said Carolina de Moura Campos.

"It is well known that Vale lies and misleads society. The remediation processes take place with absurd slowness, based on agreements controlled by the company. They implement the terrorism of dams to appropriate the territories. We live in panic at the risk of new dams ruptures. Only around Belo Horizonte there are 19 dams in an emergency situation”, he explained.

But the victims and representatives will also demonstrate the relationship between the actions of European companies and human rights violations and environmental damage in Brazil. In the group's assessment, meetings with German parliamentarians will be essential to advocate the creation of a law in Germany and another across Europe on due diligence on the entire value chain.

"The goal is to create mechanisms for companies to commit to oversee the origin of the raw materials they use to manufacture their products and to impose conditions on miners and crude iron producers", they said.

On October 22, in Berlin, the group participates in a discussion about the responsibility of German companies. Vale's dam stability certificate was issued by the German company TÜV SÜD four months before the Brumadinho rupture.

"The case shows that German companies must be legally obliged to ensure due diligence for human rights in their activities abroad. This is the demand from the Supply Chain Law Initiative, made up of 64 civil society organizations", they claim.

In Switzerland, they also point out that a study by the Institute of Fiscal Justice points out that, only with Vale S.A., between 2009 and 2015, Brazil lost US $ 12.4 billion in taxes due to under-invoicing of the company's exports.

"Basically, Vale exports to itself in tax havens with sub-invoiced prices, which reduces the payment of proportional taxes (such as the Financial Compensation for Exploration of Mineral Resources – CFEM)", they explain.

"In this way, Vale takes advantage of tax maneuvers using Switzerland as an intermediate storehouse. After selling below market value to its own office in Switzerland, it resells the product adjusted to market value”, they point out.

"There is something we sometimes do not realize," warns Danilo Chammas. "In fact, mining industry kills every day. There is a model that is applied not only in Brazil, but also elsewhere, that is very predatory and irresponsible", he said.

"The impacts of large-scale mining involve the removal of people, violent deaths, disease, air, water and soil contamination. With all this, we still have to deal with the complicity of some European companies, investors, banks and governments", he added.

*\*\* This text does not necessarily reflect UOL's opinion.*