

## About the International Seminar "Waters for the Future" 2025, May 27, 2025

Such an event lacks support from movements historically linked to environmental defense in Minas Gerais. The "Waters for the Future" event initially surprised us positively. Announced by an intense advertising campaign for May 3-5, 2025, at the Unimed-BH Cultural Center of the Minas Tennis Club, centered on the theme of water, it would be all good. However, it has caused much controversy, doubts, and misinformation. Comments point to the significant presence of foreigners unaware of local issues and the absence of the most representative state environmental movements.

It seemed like a futuristic spaceship landing in the mistreated Minas Gerais, promising to defend rivers, mountains, groundwater, and vegetation of Minas Gerais' ecosystems. However, it's enough to remember that we are the state internationally known for technological mishaps and socio-environmental irresponsibility of large mining companies operating here. The tragedies that destroyed two major water ecosystems, the Doce River in 2015 and the Paraopeba River in 2019, resulted in nearly 300 deaths and enormous material and environmental losses. UNESCO is aware of this, and so are major Brazilian and international media outlets.

It's tempting to shout: Brazil, show your face! Untruth offends and is unjust! But mimicry reveals admiration. We're being unconsciously praised. François de La Rochefoucauld, a 17th-century French moralist, would say: "This staging is the homage that vice pays to virtue."

They lack credibility when claiming to guarantee water for the future while destroying our best and largest aquifers in the Hydro-Ferrous Quadrilateral today. There won't be peace, water, and food with the destruction of rivers, aquifers, and vegetation that is happening now, in complete denial of science and the hydrological cycle. This doesn't deserve to be called economy but rather neocolonial predation, which doesn't add technological value or generate qualified jobs.

The underground drought is being produced by those who authorize the abuses of large irrigation and mining, don't control grants, and don't demand payment of the market value of this raw water. The population suffers, assuming the costs with consequent increases in water and energy tariffs generated by this water scarcity, despite torrential rains flooding the Metropolitan Region of BH!

We've lived with routine alarms of sirens in mining territories, remembering the possibility of new mud tsunamis invading houses, roads, villages, killing people, animals, fish, and rivers. In Minas, the RMBH risks compromising short-term domestic and commercial drinking water supply. The COP 30, scheduled for Belém do Pará from November 10-21, 2025, cannot be used

in this way, compromising Brazil's role in environmental issues, implicating UNESCO's name and guests who may believe in this marketing.

This scenario disrespects the dedication of those fighting for the environment in Brazil, suffering constant reprisals. It couldn't be worse when the Senate has just approved the PL 2.159/2021, which creates the General Law of Environmental Licensing, further releasing deforestation. Minas has been championing the destruction of what's left of the Atlantic Forest.

Therefore, in the name of historical truth and information dignity, we formally declare that such an event is not promoted by movements historically linked to environmental defense in Minas Gerais. And whose struggle, over decades, is widely recognized, and many people have paid with their lives or suffered personal, political, and judicial persecution for denouncing environmental crimes.

Truth needs to prevail.

Signed in Belo Horizonte, May 27, 2025.