

Environmental injustice and alternatives for the protection of water as a common good

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Brazil has 12% of all surface fresh water in the world. We have in our territory two of the largest aquifers on the planet - Guarani and Alter do Chão -, and the largest river in the world in terms of flow, the Amazon. However, all this richness, fundamental to life, and which has different meanings and uses for the diversity of cultures and traditions, with their modes of existence, is threatened. With the scarcity of water in the world, Brazil has long been coveted by large corporations. Economic and financial sectors intensify the pressure to turn water into a commodity. This presence of market agents, corporations, has caused serious harm to society. Water injustice is accentuated.

A MapBiomass survey denounces the loss of 15% of the surface water in the Brazilian territory since the beginning of the 1990s. last thirty-six years. The expansion of soy agribusiness and other commodities promotes the ecogenocide of the Cerrado. We are the country that consumes the most pesticides in the world. In the north of the country, in cities in the state of Pará, such as Barcarena, the logistical infrastructure to transport grain commodities also contaminates the rivers with heavy metals.

Agribusiness is responsible for 75% of consumption. Its irrigated sector alone is responsible for 54% of the flow of water withdrawn in Brazil, consuming 4.5 trillion liters per hour, constituting the use that most demands water in Brazil. Considering the flow of water granted to the mineral sector in Brazil, we also found a scenario of profound inequality. Only the water used directly in the productive sector of mineral extraction is 1.8 billion liters per hour.

Less than 9% of water is intended for human consumption. This supply that has been privatized in large steps in Brazil. Contrary to the European trend of remunicipalization of water supply services, the change in the regulatory framework for basic sanitation paved the way for the dismantling of state-owned public companies and, contrary to what it promises, will not lead to universal access to water. The market's tendency to want immediate profit, with the least amount of investment possible, tends to a scenario (already become reality in many Brazilian municipalities) of worsening services in terms of coverage and quality for smaller and poorer municipalities, as well as for regions with greater economic difficulties in large cities.

The predatory use of water by these sectors compromises the lives of indigenous and quilombola peoples, traditional communities, family farmers and residents of the peripheries who understand that water is not just a resource. Water is territory, food, law, health... a common good necessary for life! And that, therefore, cannot be privatized, captured and contaminated by large corporations.

In this sense, FASE works to refuse false solutions to environmental crises, with an agenda that also involves strengthening the democratic management of water and the landmarks for its protection, investment in inspection and imposition of limits to the devastating and privatizing exploitation of water for the production of commodities, the realization of the human right to water through the universalization of public supply and sanitation services and the strengthening of alternatives contained in the knowledge, values and actions that have been woven by the grammar of social struggles around the defense of water .

Practices and social technologies for capturing, distributing, protecting and defending water, popular health surveillance and water decontamination, recovery of springs, restoration of

water bodies, acting in institutional disputes and popular mobilization and direct action in defense of their territories, common and community water management initiatives, among many others, inspire us to build another possible future, more fertile and healthy, because hydrated by a different relationship with water than its condemnation to capture and devastation , based on environmental justice and the defense of common goods.