

# INDIAN LAW RESOURCE CENTER

CENTRO DE RECURSOS JURÍDICOS PARA LOS PUEBLOS INDÍGENAS

MAIN OFFICE \* 602 North Ewing Street, Helena, Montana 59601 \* (406) 449-2006 \* mt@indianlaw.org  
WASHINGTON OFFICE \* 601 E Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003 \* (202) 547-2800\* dcoffice@indianlaw.org



## **Indigenous Peoples of the Brazilian Amazon Rainforest Washington D.C., September 23-27, 2019**

### **About the C.O.I.A.B. delegation**

The delegation of indigenous community leaders and attorneys from C.O.I.A.B. have brought their fight to Washington, D.C., to inform the D.C.-based international organizations, O.A.S. high level officials, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, U.S. government officials, human rights organizations, and others about their struggle to protect the lands and forest they depend upon for physical and cultural survival in the Brazilian Amazon against unprecedented fires, agribusinesses and mining interests. They hope to build alliances with relevant institutions that can apply international pressure to Brazil's public and private sector actors that are now threatening indigenous and other protected lands in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest.

### **Luiz Henrique Eloy Amado, C.O.I.A.B. Legal Counsel**

Luiz Henrique Eloy Amado is the legal counsel of C.O.I.A.B. and an indigenous attorney from the Terena People's village of Ipegue, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil. Eloy Terena, as he is commonly known, has first-hand knowledge on the situation of indigenous peoples in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest and an extensive experience on defending criminalized indigenous grass-root leaders and representing indigenous communities in land rights cases before Brazil's Supreme Federal Court. Eloy Terena holds a law degree from the Catholic University Don Bosco (UCDB) (2011) in Campo Grande, the capital city of Mato Grosso do Sul. He also holds a Masters degree in Local Development from UCDB (2014) and PhD in Social Anthropology from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (2019). His life is under continued threat because of his legal work to defend indigenous leaders and communities from the Amazon rainforest.

### **Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (C.O.I.A.B.)**

C.O.I.A.B. is the largest indigenous regional organization in Brazil, founded on April 19, 1989, with the mission of defending land rights, health, education, culture and sustainability of indigenous peoples and indigenous organizations. C.O.I.A.B. mobilizes roughly 160 distinct peoples and 440,000 individuals, nearly 60% of the country's indigenous population, who collectively occupy approximately 110 million hectares in the Amazon territory of Brazil. These figures do not include

indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation. C.O.I.A.B. itself is a member of the Articulation of the Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (A.P.I.B.), the largest indigenous organization in Brazil. For further information, visit <https://coiab.org.br/>.

## **Indian Law Resource Center**

The Indian Law Resource Center is a non-profit law and advocacy organization established and directed by indigenous lawyers and experts of the Americas. The Center is based in Helena, Montana, and also has an office in Washington, D.C. The Center provides legal assistance without charge to indigenous peoples throughout North, Central and South America that are working to protect their lands, resources, human rights, environment and cultural heritage. The Center seeks to overcome the grave problems that threaten indigenous peoples by advancing the rule of law, by establishing national and international legal standards that preserve their human rights, and by challenging the governments of the world to accord justice and equality before the law to all indigenous peoples of the Americas. For further information, please visit us online at <https://indianlaw.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/IndianLawResourceCenter/>.