



DUBLIN
Front Line Defenders – Head Office
Second Floor, Grattan House
Temple Road, Blackrock
Co. Dublin, A94 FA39, Ireland

info@frontlinedefenders.org
www.frontlinedefenders.org

phone +353 1 212 3750
fax +353 1 212 1001

BRUSSELS
Front Line Defenders – EU Office
Square Marie-Louise 72
1000 Brussels
Belgium

euoffice@frontlinedefenders.org
www.frontlinedefenders.org

phone +32 2 230 9383
fax +32 2 230 0028

21 June 2019

Brazil: Imminent eviction of residents of Jane Julia camp

On 25 June 2019, a public hearing is due to be held at the Agrarian Court of Redenção to discuss the eviction of human rights defenders and residents of the Jane Julia camp, located on the Santa Lúcia farm in south-eastern Pará.

The [Jane Julia camp](#) is a rural settlement of land rights defenders and peasant workers at the Fazenda Santa Lúcia, in the south east of Pará. Over 200 families live in the settlement and they are responsible for most of the produce sold and consumed in the region. The residents have remained in the area despite the high levels of violence associated with land grabbing and forced displacement encouraged by local agribusiness elites.

On 25 June 2019, the forced eviction of those in the Jane Julia camp is due to be discussed in a public hearing at the Agrarian Court of Redenção, and the date of the eviction will almost certainly be decided.

On 24 May 2017, 10 human rights defenders were killed on the Santa Lúcia farm, including Jane Julia, the woman human rights defender who acted as the camp leader. The human rights defenders were members of the [Liga de Campones Pobres \(LCP\)](#), a movement of rural workers who protect the land rights of their communities against land grabbing and the associated violence. The [Pau d'Arco Massacre](#), as this incident became known, involved 17 members of the civilian and military police. To this day, only the material perpetrators have faced criminal accusations. The intellectual authors of the massacre have not yet been identified.

The possession and ownership of one of the areas where the massacre took place, the Jane Julia camp, remains under dispute. The titles of ownership have been questioned since 2002, as the sale of the land had previously been agreed with the National Institute of Colonization and Agrarian Reform (Instituto Nacional de Colonização e Reforma Agrária), for the purpose of creating an agrarian reform settlement. However, due to recent cuts in the Institute's budget, a judge from the Agrarian Court of Redenção has reinstated the process of land dispossession and set a hearing to evict residents from the area.

This is the latest in a [series of planned evictions](#) of at least 11 communities in the south and south-east of Pará, in areas with disputed ownership or which are undergoing the process of agrarian reform. Among these locations, there are areas of consolidated occupation of over 10 years, such as [Camp Dalcídio Jurandir](#) (Maria Bonita farm), in Eldorado dos Carajás, as well as sites of massacres which are still under investigation, such as Camp Jane Julia.

Front Line Defenders remains extremely concerned at the imminent eviction of over 200 families in the Jane Julia camp, as well as at the risk of displacement that they are facing, as the land titles to the Santa Lúcia farm are still being disputed and the intellectual authors of a previous massacre relating to the farm remain at large.

Front Line Defenders has visited the area on previous occasions and has condemned the situation in Para. Front Line Defenders remains concerned about the impunity for crimes committed against human rights defenders and rural workers and the lack of an effective government structure that could effectively respond to threats and attacks against human rights defenders.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Brazil to:

1. Suspend the decision to evict the residents of the Jane Julia camp until the dispute concerning the ownership and possession of the land is resolved;
2. Take all necessary measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of the human rights defenders and residents of the Jane Julia camp, in coordination with them;
3. Carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the Pau d'Arco massacre, prioritising the patterns of targeted violence against land rights defenders in Pará, with a view to publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards;
4. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in Brazil, especially those defending land rights, are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.

Front Line Defenders respectfully reminds you that the United Nations Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1998, recognises the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders, their right to freedom of association and to carry out their activities without fear of reprisals. We would particularly draw your attention to Article 12 (2): *“The State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration.”*

Please inform us of any actions that may be taken with regard to the above case.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Anderson
Executive Director