

ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM IN URBAN AND PERI-URBAN AMAZONIA:

Historical Human Rights Violations Exacerbated by the COP30 Preparation Process in Belém, Brazil

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The Dhesca Brasil Platform is a network comprising 59 organizations from all over Brazil that, among other things, works to implement Human Rights Reports. The present mission had as national rapporteurs on Human Rights: Bethânia de Almeida Boaventura and Marina Marçal, with support from the Technical Advisory of Suzany Ellen Risuenho Brasil and support from the Executive Coordination of the Dhesca Platform¹.

The following partnerships supported the Mission: Brazilian Federal Public Defender's Office, State and Federal Public Prosecutor's Office, OAB Pará Human Rights Commission, state parliamentarian Lívia Duarte, municipal parliamentarian Vivi Reis, Amnesty International, Terra de Direitos, Cáritas Brasileira, Centro de Estudos e Defesa do Negro do Pará (Cedenpa) and Centro Brasileiro de Justiça Climática (CBJC).

We thank Camila Ferreira for the layout design and André Hulk for the cover art.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This Executive Summary extracts the central points of the Mission's report “Environmental Racism in the Urban and Periurban Amazon”, prepared by the Dhesca Brasil Platform from a mission that investigated, documented and denounced the human rights violations intensified by the preparation works for the 30th United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP30), in Belém, Pará.

The Mission team listened to leaders from three territories: **Quilombo Abacatal** (Ananindeua), **Vila da Barca** (Belém) and the communities of **Igarapé São Joaquim** (Belém) — Malvinas, Nova Aliança and Água Cristal. These territories were chosen because they represent, each in their own way, the concrete expression of environmental racism in the Amazon.

Listening to these territory leaders revealed a structural pattern of **environmental racism**, a concept that designates the disproportionate exposure of black, indigenous and traditional communities to negative socio-environmental risks and impacts, accompanied by the systematic denial of their rights and their participation in decision-making processes. The preparation for COP30, although promoted under a discourse of sustainability and climate justice, has actually deepened a historical pattern of exclusion and violations, sacrificing historically vulnerable populations in the name of a project of “development” and international visibility.

There is no climate justice without racial, territorial, and socio-environmental justice. The urban interventions in Belém reveal a sharp contradiction between the national government's rhetoric of leading the climate agenda from the Global South by example and the local reality, where the attempt to present an image of a “sustainable city” for the world overlaps with the basic rights of the populations living in it.



Photo: Interventions in the Igarapé São Joaquim territories, July 2025.

2. MEGA-EVENTS AND THE FALSE PROMISE OF SOCIAL LEGACIES

The report contextualizes the situation of Belém from the analysis of previous mega-events in Brazil, such as the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympics. These events, while promising social legacies and development, resulted in a pattern of rights violations that is now repeated in the run-up to COP30. It is estimated that more than **250,000 people** (Popular Committees of the World Cup, 2014) were evicted or threatened with eviction as a result of the works for sporting events, mostly poor and black families who inhabited areas that became the target of real estate speculation, among other violations.

The structural impacts identified in these events include **militarization and repression**, with increased police violence in favelas and outskirt communities under the justification of “public security”; **gentrification and real estate speculation**, which caused property appreciation in central areas and the expulsion of peripheral communities; the **stigmatization of territories**, where favelas and stilts were treated as obstacles to “urban beautification”, legitimizing forced displacement; the creation of **legal exceptions** that “loosened” urban and environmental regulations; and the inexistent **social legacy**, with underutilized equipment and infrastructure privatized for elites.

Although the Conference of the Parties (COPs) of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) are the primary forums for global climate governance, they are also criticized for perpetuating inequality.

In the case of Belém, the preparation for COP30 already demonstrates the same exclusionary logic. **Investments for infrastructure and "requalification" projects are primarily concentrated in wealthy neighborhoods**

and touristic regions. This is accompanied by **rampant real estate speculation**: the number of properties advertised on digital platforms jumped from 274 in 2019 to almost 2,000 in 2025, generating an exorbitant increase in housing and lodging prices. Finally, **local inhabitants are rendered invisible**: the Amazon is used as a worldwide symbol, but its historically vulnerable populations are sacrificed, exacerbating socio-environmental, racial, and territorial inequality in the name of a “international showcase”.



Photo: Interventions in the São Joaquim Stream Territory, July 2025

² OBSERVATÓRIO DAS METRÓPOLES. Dossiê Megaeventos e Violações dos Direitos Humanos no Brasil. Nov 4 2014. Available at: <https://www.observatoriodasmetropoles.net.br/dossie-megaeventos-e-violacoes-dos-direitos-humanos-no-brasil-2/>. Accessed: Aug 10, 2025.

3. DIAGNOSIS OF VIOLATIONS IN THE TERRITORIES

3.1 Quilombo Abacatal (Ananindeua)

With more than three centuries of existence and resistance, Quilombo Abacatal, located in Ananindeua, in the metropolitan region of Belém, is a territory of collective memory and black and indigenous Amazonian ancestry, formed by descendants of the “Três Marias”, daughters of Olímpia, enslaved woman. The community preserves traditional ways of life, cultural and spiritual practices that reinforce the deep connection with the land and the forest.

Currently, Quilombo houses about 150 families (approximately 600 people). Although a significant part of the community has reached higher education, the socioeconomic situation remains marked by precariousness: 46% live with a monthly income equivalent to the minimum wage and 40% with up to three times minimum wage. Historically focused on family farming, the community suffered profound impacts due to violations that resulted in environmental degradation and reduction of their territory.

Environmental racism in Quilombo is expressed both in the absence of basic infrastructure — such as sanitation, health, transportation and education — and in the implementation of projects that disregard the existence of the community. As a leader denounces: **“Everything that no one wants, they throw here: trash, sewage, unpaved roads. It is always the quilombo that pays the price”.**

The trajectory of Abacatal is marked by several forms of rights violations. In the 1990s, mineral exploration of sand and clay resulted in large craters (the so-called “curvões”), which degraded soil and local water resources, compromising agricultural activities and food security. In the 2000s, the implementation of housing projects under the “Minha Casa, Minha Vida” program brought new problems: the sewage from these units was discharged into the streams that cut through the Abacatal, contaminating the waters. In 2006, the installation of the Marituba landfill and the operation of the Guamá Landfill intensified environmental degradation, with 66% of residents reporting health problems, such as respiratory diseases and abdominal pain, resulting from contamination of streams and air by the irregular disposal of solid waste. As one leader described, **“the smell of the dump enters our house, sickens the children, kills the fish. We feel environmental racism in our bodies”.**

The **Rodovia Liberdade** (highway) project, in **2016**, increased tensions, with the proposal of an expressway cutting areas of traditional use and environmental protection without any prior consultation with the community. In **2017**, the installation of the **Marituba Energy Substation** and the so-called “linhões” (2018-2019), high-voltage power lines, brought new socio-environmental impacts, including deforestation and risks to the safety of residents, also without community participation in the licensing process.

Additionally, in 2024, the construction of **Avenida Liberdade**, linked to the preparation of Belém for COP30, deepened the impacts of environmental degradation, forced displacement, and territorial isolation. The Avenida Liberdade project provides for the

construction of an expressway of 13.3 km, with two lanes in each direction, connecting the Avenida Perimetral to the Alça Viária, in Marituba, part of the metropolitan Environmental Protection Area (APA) of Belém. Although the original layout was partially altered after numerous mobilizations and incidences of the Quilombo leaders, the plan is still located less than two kilometers from the territory, in disregard of the buffer area recognized as indispensable for its protection.

The community denounces that the enterprise directly violates the **right to consultation and free, prior and informed consent**, in flagrant violation of ILO Convention 169. The territory has its own Consultation Protocol, prepared by the community, which has never been respected. While the Quilombola Components Study (ECQ) was conducted, the **Quilombola Basic Environmental Plan (PBAQ)**, which is required to provide proper mitigation and compensating measures, was never implemented. The agreed-upon compensating measures, such as territorial expansion and the construction of a healthcare center, have yet to be realized.

As a Quilombola leader summarized:
“They talk about sustainability for the world, but here for us, there is only destruction left. They want to show a modern city, but they hide that they are going over a Quilombo that is more than 300 years old”.



Photo: Implementation of Avenida Liberdade, bordering the Quilombo Abacatal territory, June 2025.

3.1.1 Recommendations

To the State Executive Branch of Pará and the Municipality of Ananindeua:

- Fully comply with and implement the agreed-upon conditions in the Quilombola Component Study (ECQ), suspending any activities located in Areas of Direct Influence (AID) of Quilombola lands until the Basic Environmental Plan (PBAQ) is prepared, as determined by the environmental licensing regulations and Inbra Normative Instruction No. 111/2021.
- Readapt the layout of Avenida Liberdade, or face administrative prosecution and judicial annulment of the license, because the current layout violates the Quilombo's environmental buffer zone, which conflicts with current environmental legislation, as per Law No. 9.985/2000 (Brazilian National System of Conservation Units - SNUC) and Conama Resolution No. 428/2010.
- Ensure participatory consultation to prepare and present the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan for the City of Ananindeua and the State of Pará, in accordance with Law no. 14.904/2024, which establishes guidelines for the preparation of adaptation plans to climate change.
- Ensure the effective participation of communities in the construction of the Ananindeua City Master Plan, in compliance with the City Statute (Law no. 10.257/2001), which requires the democratic management of cities and the participation of the population in the formulation, execution and monitoring of urban development plans, programs and projects.

To the Federal Executive Branch:

- Require the precautionary suspension of the environmental license related to the expansion project of Avenida Liberdade - based on the right to Prior, Free and Informed Consultation and the violation of specific rules defined by Inbra - to prevent the continuity of the works until the consultative process is carried out properly, guaranteeing the consent or evaluation of the impacts by the community, as recommended by Convention No. 169 of the International Labor Organization (ILO) on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, promulgated in Brazil by Decree No. 5.051/2004.
- Promote the registration of members of Quilombo Abacatal and their leaders in federal programs to protect human rights defenders and environmentalists, with the implementation of personalized security measures, such as surveillance, monitoring and emergency measures, according to Decree No. 6.044/2007, which approves the National Policy for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (PNPDDH), and Decree No. 9.937/2019, which provides for the Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Communicators and Environmentalists (PPDDH).

To the Federal Legislative Branch:

- Ratify the Escazú Agreement to protect environmental defenders in Brazil, a country with the highest number of activist murders in Latin America, as per the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) signed by Brazil.
- Strengthen the performance of federal agencies (FUNAI, FCP and Incra) to monitor, supervise and safeguard the territorial rights of traditional peoples and communities of the Amazon in the face of potentially polluting projects and activities that may be installed in the vicinity of their territories, observing the existing legislations for licensing, and the right to consultation and free, prior and informed consent.

To the Federal Prosecution Office - MPF:

- File a Public Civil Action, with request for an injunction, aiming at the immediate suspension of the works of Avenida Liberdade for violating licensing procedures, ILO Convention 169 and art. 68 of the Transitional Constitutional Provisions Act (ADCT) of the Federal Constitution.
- Supervise the performance of the land and environmental agencies operating in the state of Pará, requesting information about compliance with the rights of traditional peoples and communities affected by the work of Avenida Liberdade.

To the Federal Public Defender's Office:

- Establish a procedure for the urgent protection of the leaders of Quilombo Abacatal who are under threat, and create security protocols for the leaders who are already under direct threat, with the support of public security agencies.
- Expand the work of the National Human Rights Defender's Office in the State of Pará, strengthening the relationship with local communities and their channels of judicial representation.

To International Organizations:

- Request information from the Brazilian Government about rights violations against communities and traditional groups affected by the work on Avenida Liberdade, and then monitor and supervise compliance with the solutions presented.
- Submit a complaint to CERD (the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination), based on the racial and geographical selectivity of violations observed by enterprises in Amazonian communities under the responsibility of the Brazilian State. The current situation shows a widespread picture of socio-territorial violations, which disproportionately affect quilombola communities, according to international treaties to which Brazil is a signatory, and which prohibit racial discrimination in all its

forms, such as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), and the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance (CIRDI).

- Request precautionary measures to protect leaders in the Inter-American Human Rights System (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights – IACHR), based on the imminent risk of irreparable damage to life and personal and collective integrity, as recommended in the American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José).
- Send communications to the UN Special Rapporteurs (Right to Adequate Housing, Racism, People of African Descent, Environmental Defenders), to increase the global visibility of the case and connect it to the international debate on environmental racism.

3.2 Vila da Barca (Belém)

Vila da Barca is one of the largest urban stilt communities in the Amazon and a territory recognized for its historic struggles for decent housing and socio-environmental justice in Belém. Located on the shores of Guajará Bay, close to the historic center of the city, this water-based community is home to about 7,000 people, mostly black, riverine and low-income families, who live in conditions of precarious housing, land insecurity and chronic absence of sanitation, accessibility and other public services. Consolidated since the mid-20th century, when migrants, fishermen and urban workers occupied the flooded areas in search of affordable housing, the community started by building houses on wooden stakes, the so-called “Palafitas Amazônicas”. This housing typology expresses both the symbiotic relationship with the waters - which has become a cultural and identity reference for riverine life - and the problem of historical lack of public policies, that are treated as “a problem to be eradicated”, rather than a responsibility to which the State should be held accountable. This community faces systematic denial of the right to adequate housing and permanence in their territory, being constantly stigmatized and threatened with forced displacement.

Recognized as a **Special Zone of Social Interest (ZEIS)**, Vila da Barca should be a priority for investments in urbanization and land regularization. However, in reality, these people face the complete absence of basic sanitation, precarious living conditions, and a loss of social and cultural identity. The community is often portrayed as a “postcard for poverty,” reinforcing stigmas that legitimize exclusion and lack of public investments. As one resident denounces: **“They want to show a clean city to foreigners, but they throw the garbage and sewage on us”.**

Violations that have long plagued the community have been exacerbated as part of the COP30 preparations. In 2024, the construction of a Sewage Pumping Station (EE) was announced at the community entrance with more than 7.6 km of piping network planned. The project, financed by the City of Belém in partnership with the Pará Sanitation Company (Cosanpa), was presented as part of the “sustainable legacy” of COP30, but from the beginning the contradiction was clear: **instead of directly serving the population of Vila da Barca, the station was designed to pump sewage from wealthy neighborhoods**, such as Umarizal, Reduto and Nazaré, to the Una Treatment Station. After a popular initiative by the community for effective participation mechanisms in the

evaluation and implementation of the project, in April 2025 a Public Hearing was held, after construction had already begun. The meeting was purely informative, with no analysis or plan for safeguarding or mitigating the impacts, that violate community rights.

In July 2025, the Government of the State of Pará announced the concession of Cosanpa for \$1.4 billion to **Aegea Saneamento e Participações S.A.** with the promise of universal access to water by 2033 and 90% sewage coverage by 2039. However, this process of privatization and commodification of the human right to water has been marked by protests and accusations of lack of transparency, also raising fears such as: increased tariffs, making the service inaccessible, especially for low-income communities; loss of state control over an essential service; risk of divestment in historically vulnerable areas; and loss of control over a strategic asset such as the Greater Amazon Aquifer System (SAGA).

The leaders of Vila da Barca have sought to expand their networks of solidarity and political articulation, connecting to other movements fighting for socio-environmental justice and the right to the city in Belém, such as the Igarapés Resistance Movement. This articulation reinforces that the local struggle is part of a broader process against environmental racism and urban exclusion. Collective mobilization and resistance reaffirm a broader political project: the right to exist, remain and live with dignity in a territory historically marked by inequality.

As one leader reported:

“We have been hearing promises for decades. They started buildings that were never finished, evicted families with no compensation, and left only crumbs. It's as if they wanted us to give up existing”.



Photo: Construction of the Sewage Pumping Station in Vila da Barca, July 2025.

3.2.1 Recommendations

To the Executive Branch of the State of Pará and the Municipality of Belém:

- Review the design of the Sewage Pumping Station, ensuring that the community of Vila da Barca is a direct beneficiary of the sanitation system, and that its members are consulted in prior, free and informed consultation processes, in accordance with the principles of democratic management of the city, according to the **City Statute (Law no. 10.257/2001)** and **Law no. 14.026/2020** (New Legal Framework for Sanitation).
- Ensure the **maintenance of the classification of Vila da Barca as a Special Zone of Social Interest (ZEIS)** within the scope of the participatory process of revision of the Urban Development Master Plan (PDDU) of the city of Belém, ensuring security of tenure and protection against forced displacement, as well as priority for urbanization, sanitation projects and land regularization, according to the **City Statute (Law no. 10.257/2001)**, **Law no. 13.465/2017**, which provides for urban land regularization, and **Law no. 14.026/2020** (New Legal Framework for Sanitation).
- Implement dignified and participatory resettlement plans, in case of necessary displacement, strictly observing international safeguards against forced displacement and ensuring adequate housing alternatives, according to the **City Statute (Law no. 10.257/2001)**.
- Implement integrated projects for decent and adequate housing, basic sanitation and land regularization, with effective participation of the Vila da Barca community, according to the PDDU of the city of Belém, the **City Statute (Law no. 10.257/2001)**, **Law no. 13.465/2017**, which provides for urban land regularization, and **Law no. 14.026/2020** (New Legal Framework for Sanitation).
- Conduct participatory consultation to prepare and present the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan of the State of Pará and the City of Belém, including Vila da Barca and other vulnerable communities in the process of defining priorities and strategies, according to **Law no. 14.904/2024** and **Law no. 12.187/2009**, which establish the need for social participation in the preparation of climate plans.
- Conduct participatory consultation on the aspects of basic sanitation and access to drinking water of the City of Belém Health Action Plan, launched at Climate Week in New York in September 2025, ensuring that communities affected by the absence or precariousness of these services participate in the definition of goals and strategies, according to **Law no. 8.080/1990** (Health Law) and **Law no. 8.142/1990**, which establishes the principle of community participation in SUS management.

To the State Public Defender's Office:

- Supervise compliance with the rights of communities involved in administrative environmental authorization processes for basic sanitation improvement works in the State of Pará.
- Promote the filing of a collective action, with a request for injunction, that requires the

inclusion of the Vila da Barca community in the municipal basic sanitation system and claiming compensation for collective moral damages resulting from the historical exclusion of access to essential services.

To the State Public Prosecutor's Office:

- Investigate civil and criminal liability for the possible irregular destination of construction waste and sewage from upscale neighborhoods to the Vila da Barca community, constituting an environmental crime and environmental damage that can be repaired, according to Criminal Law No. 9.605/1998, which provides for criminal and administrative sanctions derived from conduct and activities harmful to the environment, and Civil Law No. 6.938/1981, which establishes in its Article 14, § 1, strict civil liability for environmental damage.
- Notify the state of Pará to provide information on the disposal of waste and other impacts associated with construction projects to improve basic sanitation in its territorial limits.

To the Federal Executive Branch:

- Promote the registration of members of Quilombo Abacatal and their leaders in federal programs to protect human rights defenders and environmentalists, with the implementation of personalized security measures, such as surveillance, monitoring and emergency measures, according to Decree No. 6.044/2007, the National Policy for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (PNPDDH), and Decree No. 9.937/2019, the Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Communicators and Environmentalists (PPDDH).
- Ensure the application of federal resources for basic sanitation and land regularization according to the guidelines of the Special Areas of Social Interest (ZEIS), requiring the state government to apply resources already provided for areas recognized as of social interest, according to the **City Statute (Law No. 10.257/2001)**, **Law No. 13.465/2017**, which provides for Urban Land Regularization (Reurb), establishes general rules and procedures applicable to urban land regularization, including demarcated areas such as ZEIS, and **Law No. 14.026/2020** (New Legal Framework for Sanitation).
- Link international financing related to COP30 and other climate events to the execution of public works and projects that directly benefit the residents of Vila da Barca and other vulnerable communities, in line with the principles of climate justice and equity.

To International Organizations:

- Request precautionary measures to protect leaders in the Inter-American Human Rights System (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights – IACHR), based on the

imminent risk of irreparable damage to life and personal and collective integrity, as recommended in the American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José/ACHR).

- Send communications to the UN Special Rapporteurs (Right to Adequate Housing, Racism, People of African Descent, Environmental Defenders), to increase the global visibility of the case and connect it to the international debate on environmental racism.



Photo: Stilt houses in Vila da Barca, July 2025.

3.3 Igarapé São Joaquim (Belém)

The Malvinas, Nova Aliança and Água Cristal communities, located on the banks of the São Joaquim Igarapé, in Belém, make up historically marginalized popular territories marked by serious rights violations. These settlements have consolidated over the last three decades, when migrant families and urban workers, excluded from the formal housing market, occupied floodplain areas and canal banks in search of affordable housing.

Today, these communities bring together hundreds of families living in precarious conditions, many in makeshift homes, without regular connection to the water, sewage and energy networks, facing recurrent flooding and chronic absence of basic sanitation.

In 2024, the city announced the implementation of the Igarapé São Joaquim Urban Park, presented as a symbol of sustainability and modernization. The project of the Park was chosen through a National Public Tender for Architecture and won by the company GSR Arquitetos, from Brasília. The original idea was to recover the banks along the canal, with bike paths and wooded squares, walkways, public transport routes and reforestation of

the banks.

Announced as a socio-environmental legacy of COP30, the **Urban Park** would benefit about 100,000 people — a linear forest of 5 km in length —, funded by resources from Itaipu Binacional, and, with a period of 12 months of execution, would be delivered in early August 2025. Only one of the four planned steps, the smallest of which, was prioritized for COP30. The work comes down to only **720 meters** (about 15% of the original plan), focusing on the most visible stretches for those who arrive in the city through the airport, revealing its character of “urban makeup”.

Far from solving the historical problems of flooding, this construction project aggravated them. The deforestation of riparian vegetation, which served as a natural barrier, and the reduction in the channel's width, intensified floods that now bring contaminated water into the homes of residents. Instead of climate justice, communities are getting more exposed to the impacts of extreme events. **"The entire stream is silted up, some parts are becoming islands. They removed all the trees from the banks that we had been taking care of for years, and started grounding"**.

The process was conducted without any prior consultation, disrespecting the original project to which the community had access at the time of approval. Meetings were held with restriction of records, and mobile phones were confiscated from the leaders present in the meeting. As one resident denounces: **"This 720-meter work is just a business card for those coming from the airport. For us, it brought more problems than solutions"**.

Faced with the violations, the **Igarapés Resistance Movement (MRI)** was founded in February 2025, advocating not only for the implementation of the original project, but a model of urban development that is sustainable, democratic and socially just. However, DRM leaders face threats, persecution and lawsuits, highlighting the criminalization of resistance.

As the movement states:

"It is not possible to talk about sustainability without including those who live and protect this territory".



Photo: Construction works in the Igarapé São Joaquim territories, July 2025.

3.3.1 Recommendations

To the State Executive Branch of Pará and the Municipality of Ananindeua:

- Implement the original project approved for the Igarapé São Joaquim Urban Park in its entirety, respecting the technical, environmental and social specifications originally agreed with the community and provided for in the impact studies.
- Immediately reactivate the Management Council of Parque São Joaquim, deactivated since 2024, under penalty of managerial wrongdoing for violation of the principle of social participation and democratic management, according to the **City Statute (Law no. 10.257/2001)**.
- Ensure the permanence of families residing in communities by implementing an inclusive urbanization plan that avoids forced displacement and guarantees the right to adequate housing, in accordance with international human rights standards, as stipulated in the **City Statute (Law no. 10.257/2001)** and Article **6 of the Brazilian Federal Constitution of 1988**, included by Constitutional Amendment No. 26/2000.
- Encourage the implementation of integrated projects for decent and adequate housing, basic sanitation and land regularization, with effective participation of the community in the construction and revision of the Urban Development Master Plan (PDDU) of the City of Belém, according to the **City Statute (Law no. 10.257/2001)**.
- Conduct participatory consultation to prepare and present the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan of the State of Pará and the city of Belém, including communities affected by extreme weather events and socio-environmental vulnerabilities, according to **Law No. 14.904/2024**, which establishes guidelines for the preparation of climate change adaptation plans at the federal, state, and municipal levels, and **Law No. 12.187/2009**, which establishes the National Policy on Climate Change.
- Conduct participatory consultation on the aspects of basic sanitation and access to drinking water of the City of Belém Health Action Plan, launched at Climate Week in New York in September 2025, ensuring that communities affected by the absence or precariousness of these services participate in the definition of goals and strategies, according to **Law no. 8.080/1990** (Health Law) and **Law no. 8.142/1990**, which establishes the principle of community participation in SUS management.

To the State Public Prosecutor's Office:

- Initiate a managerial wrongdoing action for the violation of the principle of social participation, due to the deactivation of the São Joaquim Park Management Council and the absence of adequate public consultations on projects that directly affect communities.

To the Federal Executive Branch:

- Promote the registration of members of Quilombo Abacatal and their leaders in federal programs to protect human rights defenders and environmentalists, with personalized security measures, such as surveillance, monitoring and emergency measures, according to Decree No. 6.044/2007, the National Policy for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (PNPDDH), and Decree No. 9.937/2019, the Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Communicators and Environmentalists (PPDDH).
- Demand the implementation of an emergency plan for basic sanitation and urban drainage systems for the Malvinas, Nova Aliança, and Água Cristal communities, recognizing the situation of socio-environmental vulnerability and the risk to the public health of these populations, according to **Law no. 14.026/2020** (New Legal Framework for Sanitation).

To the Federal Prosecution Office - MPF:

- Establish an investigative procedure on the use of resources of Itaipu Binacional, identifying potential misuse and anomalies in the application of public resources intended for urban and environmental infrastructure projects.

To International Organizations:

- Request information from the Brazilian Government about rights violations against communities and traditional groups affected by the work on Avenida Liberdade, and then monitor and supervise compliance with the solutions presented.
- Request precautionary measures to protect leaders in the Inter-American Human Rights System (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights – IACHR), based on the imminent risk of irreparable damage to life and personal and collective integrity, as recommended in the American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José).
- Send communications to the UN Special Rapporteurs (Right to Adequate Housing, Racism, People of African Descent, Environmental Defenders), to increase the global visibility of the case and connect it to the international debate on environmental racism.





4. CROSS-SECTIONAL EXAMINATIONS: A PATTERN OF ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

An in-depth analysis of these three territories exposes a structural pattern of environmental racism that extends beyond single incidents and is institutionalized as official policy. This analysis points to the existence of **coloniality in Amazonian urban planning**, in which black, quilombola and peripheral populations are systematically treated as “sacrifice zones”.

The elements that make up this pattern are: the **invisibility and denial** of the existence, culture and rights of these communities in the planning processes; the **unequal distribution of investments**, with public resources concentrated in wealthy areas while impoverished regions lack basic services; the **disproportionate impacts**, in which the burden of projects (displacement, pollution, floods) falls on the poorest, while bonuses (real estate appreciation, tourism) are captured by the elites; the **absence of free, prior, and informed consultation and mitigation plans**; and the **criminalization of popular mobilization**, treating resistance as a crime.

The central contradiction is that an event that should represent the vanguard of global climate justice is, in its preparation process, exacerbating socio-environmental injustices, reinforcing the thesis that the fight for the climate is inextricably linked to the fight against racism and the confrontation of all inequalities.

Photo: Construction works on Avenida Liberdade, bordering the Quilombo Abacatal territory, July 2025.

CONCLUSIONS

The Dhesca Brazil Platform report serves as a critical warning that the preparation for COP30 is paradoxically deepening the same injustices that the global climate debate aims to combat. The systematic violations of rights in the territories of Quilombo Abacatal, Vila da Barca and Igarapé São Joaquim demonstrate a pattern of environmental racism that urgently needs to be stopped and repaired.

The resistance of the communities, however, shows that there is an alternative path. The struggle of Quilombo Abacatal, Vila da Barca and the communities of Igarapé São Joaquim is a fight for another kind of city and a different definition of development. Climate justice starts with ensuring the basic rights of individuals who live and protect these territories.

The recommendations presented are a roadmap for action, calling on all levels of government, the justice system, and society to ensure that the legacy of COP30 is, in fact, respect for dignity and human rights in the Amazon, not the perpetuation of neglect. The central thesis remains: **there is no climate justice without racial, territorial and socio-environmental justice!**



2º Semester- 2025



ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM IN URBAN AND PERI-URBAN AMAZONIA:

Historical Human Rights
Violations Exacerbated by the
COP30 Preparation
Process in Belém, Brazil

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