

Ednei: This Is Maró Indigenous Land

Francesc Badia i Dalmasas and Pablo Albarenga in *Open Democracy, Demcoracia Abierta*

Excerpt from “Ednei: This Is Maró Indigenous Land” by Francesc Badia i Dalmasas and Pablo Albarenga

In Brazil, the devastating advance of [illegal deforestation](#) seems unstoppable. But communities like the Maró are resisting, and their very presence has come to be a guarantee of conservation – not without having to overcome many difficulties, and mobilizing against aggression. But with Bolsonaro coming to power in January of this year things are changing very rapidly.

This new reality means that an even greater threat is now looming: the threat posed by those who feel protected by the [president’s aggressive discourse against the indigenous peoples](#) and the Amazon as a whole. Many of Bolsonaro’s followers believe that they can finally do exactly what they please, taking at face value Bolsonaro’s assertion that the natives are an "obstacle to agro-industry".

Bolsonaro got elected on the strength of his racist discourse, his attacks on minorities, blacks and indigenous peoples, all of whom, he said, should be "integrated" into the dystopian, uniform, "productive" Brazil that he envisions.

The idea that indigenous territories must be preserved, their lands demarcated and their rights respected is now over – even though it is enshrined in the Brazilian constitution.



Arapiun and Borari indigenous people during an inspection of their territory. Image by Pablo Albarenga. Brazil, 2019.

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A transportation truck of the loggers in indigenous Maró territory. Image by Pablo Albarenga. Brazil, 2019.



Members of the vigilante group that protects indigenous Maró territory. Image by Pablo Albarenga. Brazil, 2019.