



Artist Letter to U.S. President Joseph Biden to Protect the Amazon

April 20, 2021

Dear President Biden,

Thank you for your commitment to take action on climate change, forest conservation and to respect the rights and sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples. We write to you today as artists and musicians from the United States, Brazil and abroad to express our support and solidarity with Indigenous peoples and civil society organizations across the Amazon Basin - and around the world - who have expressed deep concern regarding potential environmental agreements with Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro. We urge your Administration to hear their call and not commit to any agreements with Brazil at this time.

Protecting the Amazon rainforest is essential for global solutions to address climate change. Yet the integrity of this critical ecosystem is nearing a tipping point due to increasing threats to the rainforest and its Indigenous guardians by the Bolsonaro Administration, including deforestation, fires and attacks on human rights. Since Bolsonaro took office in January 2019, environmental regulations have been systematically rolled back and the rates of deforestation have tripled. Indigenous lands, which are the best protected across the Amazon, have been invaded, logged, and burned with impunity. The rights of Indigenous peoples, who are the guardians of the forest, have been violated by Bolsonaro and his administration.

We are concerned that your Administration may have been negotiating an agreement to protect the Amazon with Bolsonaro. While we are relieved that White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki stated recently that there would not be any bilateral agreement announced at the Leader's Summit on Earth Day, we are still concerned that your Administration would negotiate any deal with Bolsonaro at this time.

We join a growing coalition of over 300 civil society organizations, Indigenous peoples, members of the United States Congress, and Brazilian lawmakers in urging your administration to reject any deal with Brazil until deforestation is reduced, human rights are respected, and meaningful participation by civil society is met.

We share your concerns that urgent action must be taken to address threats to the Amazon, our climate, and human rights, but a deal with Bolsonaro is not the solution. We urge you to continue dialogue with civil society, subnational governments, Indigenous and forest peoples of the Amazon basin who have solutions and have developed proposals for your consideration, including the Amazon Climate Platform, before announcing any commitments or releasing any funds.

We appreciate your leadership in taking necessary and urgent action to address the climate emergency we are facing collectively.

Respectfully,

Fernanda Abreu, Brazil
Uzo Aduba, US
Alec Baldwin, US
Andrea Beltrão, Brazil
Ed Begley Jr., US
Débora Bloch, Brazil
Orlando Bloom, UK
Alice Braga, Brazil
Sonia Braga, Brazil
Misha Collins, US
Rosario Dawson, US
Leonardo DiCaprio, US
Frances Fisher, US
Jane Fonda, US
Maria Gadú, Brazil
Bela Gil, Brazil
Gilberto Gil, Brazil
Philip Glass, US
Wendie Malick, US
Fernando Meirelles, Brazil
Alyssa Milano, US
Marisa Monte, Brazil
Wagner Moura, Brazil
Marcos Palmeira, Brazil
Katy Perry, US
Joaquin Phoenix, US
Patrícia Pillar, Brazil
Mark Ruffalo, US

Walter Salles, Brazil
Marisa Tomei, US
Caetano Veloso, Brazil
Roger Waters, UK
Katherine Waterston, US
Sigourney Weaver, US
Barbara Williams, US