

Dear Mr. Biden,

As Brazilian civil society organizations, we express concern that President Jair Bolsonaro will be using his upcoming meeting with you to disingenuously claim that your administration endorses his attacks on democracy, free and fair elections, the environment, science, basic human rights, and the Amazon Rainforest.

Mr. Biden, the man you have invited for a special dialogue is anathema of critical values that the majority of Americans hold dear. While you pursue common sense gun control in the US, Mr. Bolsonaro is introducing more guns into Brazilian society and promoting paramilitary groups; while your pandemic policies intended to embrace science, Mr. Bolsonaro treated masking and vaccinations - especially for children - with hostility; while you chose the first black woman Vice President, the first Indigenous Secretary of the Interior, and the first black woman to the Supreme Court of Justice, Mr. Bolsonaro filled his Cabinet with white supremacists and personally compared Afro-Brazilians to cattle. While you defend love and inclusion, Mr. Bolsonaro has encouraged physical violence against the LGBTQIA+ community.

Right now inflation, hunger, violence and deforestation are soaring in Brazil. Instead of steering his country out of the crisis, Mr. Bolsonaro is staging a coup. He is attacking our Supreme Court and laying the groundwork to discredit the forthcoming elections and kill democracy in Latin America's largest country. We are bracing for Bolsonaro's version of a January 6th if he loses reelection. We understand your goals to bring the Americas together through the Summit, especially in the face of the crisis in Europe. However, **we send this letter to urge you, during your meeting, to stand firmly for democracy, free and fair elections, climate action, and the essential protection of the rainforest.**

If Brazilian democracy falls, Mr. President, all your efforts to "*Build a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future*" at the Summit of the Americas will have been in vain. Likewise, the continuation of Mr. Bolsonaro's government would condemn the Amazon rainforest and its people, blowing whichever slim chances the world still has of keeping the 1.5°C target alive.

Any agreement with Brazil about the Amazon must involve civil society. Talks should only move forward when Brazil proves its commitment to protecting the forest by slashing deforestation rates and halting the political efforts to weaken environmental laws through various bill proposals that are supported by Mr. Bolsonaro. We hope that your values and principles will guide you to make the best decisions for the future of democracy, cooperation, peace, friendship and freedom in our continent.