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MEMORY AND REPAIR: THE STRUGGLE FOR LAND OF THE ZÉ BENTÃO SETTLEMENT

PÔRTO VELHO - RONDÔNIA - BRASIL

"When we were working as employees, work never ended. The owner of the land was never satisfied and our profits were not enough to feed us. Today we have our land, our cows and freedom. Today we are free."

(Luciana Queiroz Barbosa, Zé Bentão Settlement)

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- 2012**  Delivery of the land
- 2010**  Third reoccupation and popular cut
- 2008**  Second reoccupation and eviction
- 2008**  First reoccupation and eviction
- 2007**  Camp in Brasilia
- 2001**  Creation of the CODEVISE
- 2000**  Creation of the LCP
- 1996**  Creation of the MCC
- 1995**  Corumbiara Slaughter
- 1980**  Begins occupations

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Location

Ze Bentão Settlement is located in the western Amazon region of Brazil, Rondônia department, at 730 km from the capital Porto Velho, between the towns of Chupinguaia and Corumbiara. Corumbiara was created in 1992 as part of the Settlement Project Paulo de Assis Ribeiro, sponsored by the National Institute of Colonization and Agrarian Reform (INCRA). Settlement Zé Bentão was a single project, but in the process of legalization of land, on 2012 it was divided into six areas.

A case of peasant struggle for land

The experience of families from Ze Bentão Settlement corresponds to the historical model of land occupation in Brazil. Initially, the land was owned by the crown, but in distant places, the land was occupied by the one who managed to maintain control over the territory through force and genocide of indigenous populations.

The struggle for possession of the lands of ranch Santa Elina is inserted in this context. The peasant families occupied the ranch for several times and demanded the reversion of those lands for 15 years, suffering repression and massacres, until reaching the final possession of their lands. Currently, they have a title called "Concession of Use Contract", where they are beneficiaries, but the landowner is the INCRA. After five years, farmers will receive the "Domain Title" from which effectively they will be owners of the plots of land. Although today they have the land, the struggle for repairing memory and for better living conditions, continues.

Credits

Ze Bentão Settlement

Systematization by Ana Lucia Nunes and Pamela Gomez Jimenez

Currently the systematizers are shooting the film "Corumbiara: this terra é Nossa". You can learn and collaborate by visiting:

<https://corumbiaraofilme.wordpress.com/>

Visit <http://porlatierra.org/casos/ver/30/intro>