

## **REPORTER BRASIL** (October 19, 2010)

- In Brazil, enormous progress has been made to reduce children's work in charcoal production. In the '90s the situation was very grave, and today it has changed a great deal.
- Today, it is difficult to find any children working in formal charcoal camps. Government enforcement and pressure from buyers in pig iron consuming countries have greatly improved the situation.
- Child labor does still exist in charcoal production, in family-based production. These families typically sell their charcoal to middlemen, often illegal networks. There are no statistics or hard numbers available on children working in family-based charcoal production, so you do not know the exact extent of the problem.
- Some of the families collect coconut palm (babaçu) to sell or burn for charcoal to pig iron industries.
- The work of charcoal production is inherently hazardous. Children working in family-based charcoal production are in child labor. However, it is not necessarily forced child labor.
- Family-based child labor in charcoal production occurs in three regions of the country (Amazon, Cerrado and Pantanal) and at least two states: Pará, Mato Grosso do Sul, and possibly others.
- Repórter Brasil has done a study on the labor situation in charcoal production in several Brazilian states, including quantitative data, which will be released soon.