



**COALITION
FOR
AMAZONIAN
PEOPLES
AND THEIR
ENVIRONMENT**

October 21, 1997

Dear Steering Council and Brazil Working Group Members:

At the request of David Rothschild, enclosed please find documents concerning the Waiapi situation in Brazil. Included are a press release sent out last Friday, October 17, and a letter written in support of the Waiapi's demand that Centro de Trabalho Indigenista (CTI) be allowed back into their territory to continue work on important projects as well as a copy of the cover letter sent to the Waiapi.

DIRECTOR
MELINA SELVERSTON
**PROGRAM
ASSOCIATE**
DAVID ROTHSCHILD

Sincerely,
Megan Wiseley
Megan Wiseley
Intern

STEERING COUNCIL

- RODRIGO ALFARO**
MOVIMIENTO CIVICO DEL
PUTUMAYO
- CLAUDIONOR BARBOSA
DA SILVA**
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- CHRIS PETERS**
SEVENTH GENERATION FUND
- ATOSSA SOLTANI**
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MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

ACCION ECOLOGICA-AMANAKA'S AMAZON NETWORK-AMAZON WATCH-ARCTIC TO AMAZONIA-APRODEH-BANK INFORMATION CENTER-CAAAP-CEDIA-CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS-CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW-CENTER FOR NATURAL AND TRADITIONAL MEDICINES-CIDDEBENI-COMISSÃO PRÓ YAMOMAMI-CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL-CULTURAL SURVIVAL-CULTURAL SURVIVAL CANADA-ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND-FOREST PEOPLES' PROGRAM-HEALING FOREST CONSERVANCY-FRIENDS OF THE AMAZON FOREST-FRIENDS OF THE EARTH-GRUPO DE TRABALHO AMAZONICO-INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK-INSTITUTO SOCIOAMBIENTAL-INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL-IUCN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES INITIATIVE-LAND IS LIFE-MOIWANA 'SG-MOVIMIENTO CIVICO DEL PUTUMAYO-NGO FORUM-NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION-OXFAM AMERICA-PROJECT UNDERGROUND-RACIMOS DE UNGURAHUI-RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK-RAINFOREST ALLIANCE-RAINFOREST FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL-RETHINKING TOURISM-SEVENTH GENERATION FUND-SHARE OUR STRENGTH-SIERRA CLUB-SIERRA CLUB LEGAL DEFENSE FUND-SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION-SOUTH AND MISO AMERICAN INDIAN RIGHTS CENTER-TONANTZIN LAND INSTITUTE-UC RESEARCH EXPEDITION PROGRAM-WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE-WORLDVIEW-WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

**Amanaka'a Amazon Network
Coalition for Amazonian Peoples and their Environment**

16 de outubro de 1997

Kasiripinã Waiãpi
Conselho das Aldeias Waiãpi-APINA
Via Fax

Prezado Kasiripinã,

Vimos através desta expressar a nossa solidariedade com o povo Waiãpi e para os projetos importantes que estão sendo desenvolvidos junto ao Centro de Trabalho Indigenista-CTI.

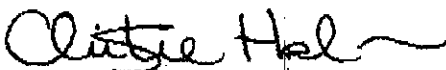
Estamos muito preocupados com a paralisação dos projetos de saúde, educação, e alternativas econômicas, que nos parecem tão importantes para a manutenção da área Waiãpi. Respeitamos profundamente o trabalho que os Waiãpi vem desenvolvendo através do APINA para garantir a terra e o futuro. Por isso, estamos escrevendo para expressar a nossa solidariedade e apoio aos Waiãpi, ao APINA, e ao CTI - assim como a nossa preocupação com a presente situação.

Segue em anexo uma carta que estamos mandando para as autoridades. A carta representa a preocupação de mais de 80 organizações não-governamentais internacionais, e é assinada pelos diretores da Coalizão Amazônica, que reúne organizações e indivíduos preocupados com o futuro da Amazônia.

Esperamos que a carta chegue a tempo para o encontro de Aramirã, e que possa ilustrar a preocupação e apoio da comunidade internacional.

Colocamo-nos a sua disposição para ajudar no que for possível, e aguardamos ansiosamente os resultados da reunião.

Cordialmente,



Christine Halvorson
Diretora Executiva Interina
Amanaka'a Amazon Network



Melina Selverston
Diretora
Coalizão Amazônica



16 de Outubro de 1997

Dra. Marcia Dometila Lima de Carvalho
Sub-Procuradora Geral da República
Coordenadora da Sexta Câmara da PGR
55.61.313.5518

Prezada Dra. Lima de Carvalho,

Nós estamos escrevendo para expressar nossa solidariedade com o povo Waiãpi, APINA e o Centro de Trabalho Indigenista-CTI. Nós estamos preocupados com o fato da ação legal contra o CTI ter paralizado os projetos por ele desenvolvidos na área Waiãpi.

A Coalizão para os Povos da Amazônia e seu Meio-Ambiente é uma iniciativa que nasceu da aliança entre povos tradicionais e indígenas da Amazônia e grupos e indivíduos que tem a mesma preocupação com o futuro da floresta e seus habitantes. As oitenta organizações não-governamentais, do sul e norte do hemisfério, ativas na Coalizão, acreditam que o futuro da Amazonia depende dos povos tradicionais e indígenas que nela vivem e da saúde ambiental que eles mantêm.

Os Waiãpi tem sido capazes de evitar a violência e destruição existentes no restante da Amazonia, devido enormemente a sua estratégia de controle de território, que combina monitoramento da terra, preocupação ambiental e resgate de sua cultura. A ação legal está agora impedindo que este trabalho siga adiante. Nós tememos que o sucesso da estratégia Waiãpi seja totalmente perdido, caso os projetos com o CTI não possam continuar.

O CTI tem trabalhado com os Waiãpi desde 1991, em resposta ao pedido deles de assessoria técnica para regularizar a situação fundiária e desenvolver projetos de saúde, educação e alternativas econômicas. O CTI é uma organização não-governamental reconhecida no Brasil e internacionalmente por seu trabalho em parceria com povos indígenas. Com a ajuda do CTI, os Waiãpi tem sido citados por agências nacionais e internacionais, pela formulação de alternativas econômicas socio e ambientalmente sustentáveis.

A luta dos povos indígenas no Brasil tem visto muitas tragédias como a invasão de garimpeiros no território Yanomami, os suicídios e expulsão dos Guarani Kaiowá, o problemático e pendente processo de demarcação da area Raposa/Serra do Sol e várias outras frente a essas tragédias. A história de sucesso dos Waiãpi nos da uma luz de esperança.

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Por estas razões, nós estamos escrevendo para expressar a nossa solidariedade e total apoio para os Waiãpi e o CTI. Nós gostaríamos de enfatizar que os projetos suspensos pela Funai são de fundamental importância para o povo Waiãpi, que está reivindicando que os projetos sejam recomeçados dentro do mais breve possível.

Muito obrigada pela sua atenção e apoio. Nós esperamos uma resposta sua e vamos continuar seguindo o caso de perto.

Sinceramente,

Melina Selverston, *Director*, **Coalition for Amazonian Peoples and Their Environment**

Conselho Diretor

Christine Halvorson, *Acting Executive Director*, **Amanaka'a Amazon Network**

Fergus MacKay, *Guyanas Coordinator*, **Forest Peoples Program**

Gary Burniske, *Director*, **Rainforest Foundation International**

Atossa Soltani, *Director*, **Amazon Watch**

Claudionor Barbosa da Silva, *President*, **Grupo de Trabalho Amazônico**

Chris Jochnick, *Co-Director*, **Center for Economic and Social Rights**

Cc:

Dr. Silvestre Sullivan, Presidente da Funai, 55.61.226.8782

Iris Rezende, Ministro da Justiça, 55.61.224.2448

Secretary for Human Rights, José Gregori, 55.61.321.1565

Governor de Amapá, João Alberto Capiberibe, 55.96.212.4104

Conselho das Aldeias Waiapi (APINA), 55.96.212.6145

Centro de Trabalho Indigenista, 55.11.813.0747



To:
 Fax:
 From: Coalition for Amazonian Peoples and Their Environment

No. of pages: 3
 Date: October 17, 1997

Press Release

Contact: Dominique Gallois, CTI, São Paulo, 55.11.813.3450,
 Christine Halvorson, Amanaka'a Amazon Network, 1.212.253.9502,
 or fax Kasiripinã Waiãpi, APINA, 55.96.212.6145

International Organizations Throw Their Weight Behind the Waiãpi

**COALITION
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- **Who:** The Coalition for Amazonian Peoples and Their Environment
- **What:** Letter of support for the Waiãpi to be presented at meeting between the Waiãpi tribal leaders (APINA), Amapá State Governor and other government officials
- **When:** Sunday, October 19, 1997
- **Where:** Aramirã Village, Waiãpi Area, Amapá, Brazil

Background

A campaign is currently being waged against the Waiãpi people in the form of a lawsuit against the Centro de Trabalho Indigenista - their partners in the fight for land demarcation. The lawsuit halted all of CTI's projects in the Waiãpi area. Now the Waiãpi call upon government agencies and national and international organizations for their support. The Coalition for Amazonian Peoples and Their Environment has thrown its weight behind the Waiãpi, sending a strongly worded letter in support of the Waiãpi and CTI to the Prosecutor of Amapá, the President of FUNAI, and the Minister of Justice. These institutions are responsible for the interruption of CTI's projects with the Waiãpi.

On Sunday, October 19, the Waiãpi tribal leaders (APINA) are meeting with the Amapá State Governor, the Health Ministry and other government officials, the National Human Rights Network, the Brazilian Anthropological Association, and representatives of indigenous organizations to protest the lawsuit. The letter will be presented at the meeting. Prosecutor João Bosco Araujo has prohibited the CTI staff from entering the Waiãpi area, so they will not be present.

The Waiãpi largely have avoided the violence and destruction common to the Amazon through their strategy of territorial control, which combines border defense, environmental concerns, and cultural revitalization. The lawsuit is preventing this work from advancing. The success of the Waiãpi strategy could be undermined if their projects with CTI are not allowed to continue.

CTI has worked with the Waiãpi since 1991 to provide technical assistance for demarcation, economic, health and education projects. CTI is an NGO recognized in Brazil and internationally for its work in partnership with indigenous peoples. With the help of CTI, the Waiãpi have been cited by national and international agencies for their formulation of socially and environmentally sustainable economic alternatives.

The Waiãpi people demand that the CTI projects be restarted as soon as possible. Because the Waiãpi example is so successful, the international community is responding vigorously to their request for support. "I believe this case demonstrates a dangerous trend which would undermine successful NGO efforts in the Amazon - contrary to the Cardoso administration's expressed desire to work closely with civil society for a better Brazil," said Christine Halvorson, Director of the New York based Amanaka'a Amazon Network.

The Coalition for Amazonian Peoples and their Environment is an initiative born out of the alliance between indigenous peoples of the Amazon and groups and individuals who share their concerns for the future of the Amazon and its peoples. The eighty non-governmental organizations from the North and the South active in the Coalition believe that the future of the Amazon depends on its indigenous and traditional peoples and the state of their environment.

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