

Survival International

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Survival International is a worldwide movement to support tribal peoples. It stands for their right to decide their own future and helps them protect their lands, environment and way of life.

1993 is United Nations Year of the World's Indigenous People

19 August 1993

..... **Press Release**

UP TO 19 YANOMAMI MASSACRED

Reports have just been received that up to 19 Yanomami Indians were decapitated with machetes by gold-miners in the Roraima province of Brazil. Most of those killed were women and children. The gold prospectors also set fire to their village, Haximu. The gold-miners were operating illegally within the Yanomami Reserve.

Survivors of the massacre fled to a nearby Catholic mission. These killings follow an incident at the end of July in which 5 or 6 Yanomami were murdered in the same region.

The Yanomami Reserve was created in 1991 after a 22-year campaign by Survival International. This massacre, however, shows that the Brazilian government is not fulfilling its promises to rid the Reserve of illegal gold prospectors. Between 1987 and 1989, 1,500 Yanomami (out of a total of 10,000 in Brazil) died because of diseases brought in by the gold-miners.

Jonathan Mazower, Campaigns Officer for Survival International, said today: *"It is local politicians, in conjunction with the army, who have prevented the removal of the garimpeiros. Many of these people get revenues from the illegal gold-mines, and the businessmen who control the network of mines wield considerable political clout. The army has also raised the spectre of 'internationalisation of the Amazon' to block the miners' removal. This massacre may have been in retaliation to a recent operation in which Federal Police agents blew up some garimpeiros' equipment. If immediate action is not taken to rid the area of garimpeiros there will more massacres and more villages set alight. The government must act now to prevent further atrocities."*

Survival International and CIIR will be demonstrating outside the Brazilian Embassy at 1.00 pm on Friday 20 August.

Address: 32 Green Street

Nearest tube: Marble Arch (central line)

For further information ring Franca Tranza or Jonathan Mazower on 723 5535

Founded 1969
Right Livelihood Award 1989

Robin Hanbury-Tenison *President*
Richard Bourne *Chair*
Stephen Cory *Director General*

Recycled Paper



Catholic Institute for International Relations
Unit 3, Canonbury Yard,
190a New North Road, Islington, London N1 7BJ

General Secretary: Ian Linden

His Excellency
Senhor Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima
Brazilian Embassy
32 Green Street
London W1Y 4AT

20 August 1993

Dear Ambassador,

As representatives of agencies working for human rights and social welfare in Brazil, we wish to register our horror at the reported massacre of over 17 Yanomami Indians in Roraima on 17 August, including the beheading of ten children.

We are aware that the Brazilian government has demarcated the Yanomami territory as an indigenous area, but this incident shows that effective measures have not been taken to protect the indigenous population. Coming so soon after the massacre at Candelária, this atrocity lays the Brazilian government open to the charge of being unable to protect the weakest of its citizens.

We ask you to transmit our feelings to your government, and urge the authorities to carry out the fullest possible investigation, to ensure the punishment of those responsible, and to take effective measures to guarantee the security of the Yanomami people.

yours faithfully

Ian Linden
General Secretary, CIIR

also signing on behalf of

Julian Filochowski, director, CAFOD
Jenny Borden, deputy director, Christian Aid
Martin Honeywell, acting director, Oxfam
Stephen Corry, director general Survival International
Thaís Silva, Brazil Network
Helena Paull, Gaia Foundation

Survival

para os povos
indígenas



Survival International
Secretaria Internacional

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Inglaterra

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Survival International é um movimento mundial de apoio aos povos indígenas. Ele representa seus direitos de decidir seu próprio futuro e ajuda-os a defender suas terras, seu ambiente e seu modo de vida.

Exmo Sr Presidente Itamar Franco
Presidente da República
Palacio do Planalto
70150-900
Brasília DF
Brasil

Londres, 25 agosto de 1993

Excelentíssimo Senhor Presidente

A Survival International gostaria de expressar a sua profunda indignação diante do massacre dos setenta e três Yanomami de Haximu. Tal atrocidade expõe a necessidade gritante de um financiamento governamental e de político interesse na proteção da reserve Yanomami.

Considerando que os garimpeiros responsáveis por este crime operavam com total impunidade a apenas quarenta e cinco quilômetros da base militar de Sururucus, é espantoso e preocupante saber que a permanência dos mesmos na área ainda seja permitida - sobretudo depois do massacre de seis Yanomami nas adjacências no final de julho.

Embora saibamos que o senhor já iniciou uma investigação da chacina, estamos seriamente apreensivos com o futuro a longo prazo da reserva Yanomami e o compromisso de seu governo em honrar a integridade da mesma. Só uma demonstração clara, de que seu governo esta absolutamente decidido a garantir a proteção da reserva conforme a lei, evitará que novas atrocidades venham a ocorrer.

A Survival International urge que seu governo leve os responsáveis por este ato de genocídio a julgamento e que se faça um levantamento daqueles interessados política e economicamente nos garimpos, uma vez que eles respondem pelo apoio a esta atividade destrutiva e ilegal.

É também alarmante o fato de que o acesso de enviados estrangeiros e jornalistas na área onde ocorreu a chacina tenha sido negado, pois acreditamos ser essencial o ingresso de expertos brasileiros e estrangeiros para a condução de uma avaliação independente e objetiva do caso.

Fundado em 1969
Premio Nobel Alternativo 1989

Robin Hanbury-Tenison
Presidente de Honor
Richard Bourne Presidente
do Conselho Administrativo
Stephen Corry
Diretor Geral

Papel reciclado

Como uma prioridade imediata, no entanto, ressaltamos a importância de que seu governo remova urgentemente os garimpeiros remanescentes na reserva Yanomami e, que estratégias para a proteção da mesma seja implementada.

Aguardando com vivo interesse o pronunciamento de Vossa Excelência, subscrevemo-nos atenciosamente,



Stephen Corry
Diretor Geral

cc: Exmo Sr Ministro Maurício Corrêa
Exmo Sr Presidente da Funai Claudio dos Santos Romero
Exmo Sr Embaixador Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima

Survival

for tribal peoples



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Exmo Presidente Itamar Franco
Palacio do Planalto
701050-900
Brasilia DF
Brazil

25 August 1993

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a worldwide movement
to support tribal peoples.
It stands for their right to
decide their own future
and helps them protect
their lands, environment
and way of life.**

1993 is United Nations Year of
the World's Indigenous People

Your Excellency

Survival International is absolutely dismayed by the massacre of 73 Yanomami of Haximu. This atrocity demonstrates the critical need for Government funds and political will to be applied in protecting the Yanomami reserve. Considering the goldminers who committed this crime were operating with total impunity only thirty miles from the military base of Surucucus, we are astonished and concerned that they should have been allowed to remain in the area - especially after the massacre of six Yanomami in the vicinity earlier this month.

Whilst we note you have initiated an investigation into the massacre, we are gravely concerned over the long term future and commitment of your Government to uphold Yanomami land rights and the reserve in its entirety. Unless your Government demonstrates that it is genuinely committed to upholding the law to protect the reserve we fear that further avoidable atrocities may occur.

Survival International urges your Government to bring the assassins to trial for this act of genocide, and to conduct an investigation into those people who have political and economic interests in the garimpos since they are also responsible for fuelling this illegal and devastating activity.

We are alarmed to note that foreign envoys and journalists have been denied access to the immediate area where the massacre took place. Survival feels it is essential that both Brazilian and foreign independent experts should not be denied access to the Yanomami reserve, but given an opportunity to conduct an independent review.

As an immediate priority, we urge your Government to remove all remaining goldminers from the entire Yanomami reserve and implement strategies to safeguard the area.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Corry
Director General

**Founded 1969
Right Livelihood Award 1989**

Robin Hanbury-Tenison *President*
Richard Bourne *Chair*
Stephen Corry *Director General*

Recycled Paper

Reply to SI letter from Brazilian Embassy

On the 15th November, 1991, the Brazilian Government passed legislation setting aside 9.4 million hectares of land for the Yanomami people.

This was a unilateral decision of the Brazilian Government and a gesture that reflects the care and determination of Brazil to put an end to the notion that Brazil is insensitive to questions related to the environment, as well as human rights.

The area of 9.4 million hectares set aside for the Yanomami indians is equivalent to three times the size of Belgium. The Yanomami population is estimated to be 10,000.

In order to implement this historic decision, as is well known, most of the 40,000 gold-miners operating in the area had to be removed, and hundreds of jungle airstrips used by them have been blown up.

The Brazilian Government is taking all relevant steps to investigate thoroughly the accusations being made about events that have just occurred in the protected area of the Yanomami Indians.

The Minister of Justice, Mauricio Correa, the Attorney-General of the Republic, Aristides Junqueira, and the President of FUNAI (National Foundation for the Indian), Claudio Romero, left yesterday, the 19th August, on their way to Roraima, where they are personally investigating the situation and deciding on what action to take. The presence



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Nº

Madrid, 24 de agosto de 1993

COMUNICADO DE PRENSA

El Presidente de la República Federativa del Brasil, Itamar Franco, convocó, ayer, día 23 de agosto, una Reunión del Consejo de Defensa Nacional con objeto de estudiar el informe de la visita efectuada por el Ministro de Justicia, Maurício Corrêa, - y por el Procurador General de la República, Arístides Junqueira, a la aldea Hoximu, en la reserva de los indios yanomani, en el estado de Roraima, fronterizo con Venezuela.

2. El Presidente de la República, después de escuchar el relato, decidió que fuese instalada en la región, por parte del Ministerio de Justicia, una estructura especial de Policía Federal, - con el apoyo de las Fuerzas Armadas y otras agencias del Gobierno, a fin de llevar a cabo una investigación detallada de los hechos - ocurridos, así como de identificar a los autores de los crímenes - cometidos, para que sean entregados a la Justicia. Al mismo tiempo, siguiendo las recomendaciones del Consejo, el Presidente de la República decidió la implantación, con carácter de urgencia, del Sistema de Protección de la Amazonia (SIPAM). Asimismo, el Consejo respaldó la decisión del Presidente Itamar Franco de designar un Ministro Extraordinario para llevar a cabo diversas acciones en la Amazonia Legal, todo lo cual contará con el debido apoyo de los diferentes órganos de la Administración Federal.

Madrid, 24 de Agosto de 1993



CONIVE

Consejo Nacional Indio de Venezuela

Caracas, 20 de agosto de 1.993

Akawaio

Dr.

Amona

ITAMAR FRANCO

Añú

Presidente de la República
Federativa de Brasil.

Bari

Gabinete del Presidente.

Cura

Palacio de Planalto
Brasilia 70150 DF

Cumpaco

Brasil.-
FAX: 00-55-61- 226 7566

Guahibo

Sr. Presidente.

Kañña

Mapeyo

Panaro

Pemón

Pisepoco

El Consejo Nacional Indio de Venezuela (CONIVE), que agrupa y representa a 30 organizaciones de los 27 pueblos indígenas del país, incluyendo a la organización de los yanomamis de Venezuela, SUYAO (Shabonos Unidos Yanomamis del Alto Orinoco), nos estamos dirigiendo a Ud. con profunda indignación ante la horrenda masacre de mas de 70 yanomamis reseñada por los medios de comunicación el pasado 10 de agosto de este año, ocurrida en la localidad de Homoxi-Itú, Estado de Roraima.

Piaroa

Puinave

Pumó

Warao

Warekena

Wayuu

Yanomami

Yekwana

Yukpa

A nombre de los Yanomamis y demás pueblos indígenas de Venezuela y en el Marco del Año Internacional de las Poblaciones Indígenas del mundo le instamos encarecidamente a tomar medidas urgentes que permitan:

1) Detener el GENOCIDIO Y ETNOCIDIO que estan sufriendo en forma salvaje y cruel nuestros hermanos yanomamis de Brasil por parte de los garimpeiros, colonos y medederos ilegales.

2) Garantizar los derechos humanos fundamentales de los yanomamis, sobre todo lo que tiene que ver con el derecho a vivir en forma pacifica en su territorio ancestral.

3) Total CELERIDAD EN LAS INVESTIGACIONES Y CASTIGO SEVERO A LOS CULPABLES de esta horrible masacre.

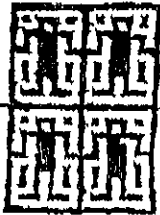
-2-

4) Que se expulsen en forma rapida, efectiva y duradera a todos los Carimpeiros ilegales asentados en el territorio yanomami, - así como en otros territorios indígenas, y

5) Que se respete y se ratifique la extensión actual de la reserva yanomami la cual se encuentra en este momento amenazada de reducción, según se desprende de las palabras del Ministro del Ejército, General EMILIO LUCENA, quien afirmó "es demasiada tierra para pocos indios", cuando hacía referencia a la reserva yanomami demarcada.

Al agradecerle su atención a la presente, quedamos de Ud. muy atentamente.

9
Jesús Sánchez
SECRETARÍA EJECUTIVA



CONIVE

Consejo Nacional Indio de Venezuela

Caracas, 22 de agosto de 1.993

Akawaio

COMUNICADO DE PRENSA

Amona

Añu

CONIVE DENUNCIA MASAQUE DE SUS HERMANOS YANOMAMIS Y EXIGE CASTIGO A LOS CULPABLES.

Bari

Guva

Guinçaco

Guahibo

El Consejo Nacional Indio de Venezuela (CONIVE) que agrupa y representa a 30 organizaciones de los 27 pueblos indígenas del país incluyendo a la organización de los yanomamis de Venezuela, SUVAO (Shabonos Unidos Yanomamis del Alto Crinoco), ante la opinión pública nacional e internacional?

Kanaka

Mapayo

Panare

- MANIFESTAMOS nuestra más profunda indignación y rechazo frente a la masacre de nuestros hermanos yanomamis, perpetrada por "garimpeiros", estos últimos días en el Estado de Roraima-Brasil, en la cual murieron según las últimas informaciones, más de 75 personas, entre ellos numerosos niños y mujeres quienes perecieron decapitados, mutilados y descuartizados, así como por otras atrocidades.

Puinave

Pumá

- NOS SOLIDARIZAMOS con el dolor de nuestros hermanos Yanomamis, quienes lloran sus muertos y shabonos arrasados e incendiados por las manos criminales de los "garimpeiros".

Warao

Wamkema

Wayuu

- DENUNCIAMOS la indiferencia y negligencia del Gobierno Brasileño, quien no tomó las medidas necesarias para impedir esta masacre, aún conociendo desde hace más de un mes la nueva invasión "garimpeira" que está afectando ilegalmente el territorio Yanomami. Recordamos que los responsables más directos de la situación de exterminio físico que está sufriendo actualmente el pueblo Yanomami, son los "garimpeiros". Pero detrás de ellos están involucrados

Yanomami

Yekwana

Yukpa

grupos de poder económicos, políticos y militares quienes precisamente están pidiendo actualmente la reducción de los territorios indígenas demarcados, tal como se desprende de las palabras del Ministro del Ejército, General Venildo Lucena, el cual afirmó refiriéndose a la reserva yanomami: "es demasiada tierra para pocos indios", con el objetivo de saquear impunemente las inmensas riquezas.

- EXPERTOS POR ELLO nuestra profunda preocupación frente a la intención manifestada recientemente por el Presidente Itamar Franco de militarizar en nombre de la lucha contra el narcotráfico y de la soberanía nacional, el área fronteriza donde precisamente ocurrió la horrenda masacre de nuestros hermanos yanomamis.

Por todo lo antes dicho, a nombre de los yanomamis y demás pueblos indígenas de Venezuela y en el marco del Año Internacional de las Poblaciones Indígenas del mundo exigimos:

1. Al gobierno brasileño, una total celeridad en las investigaciones y castigo severo a los culpables de esta horrible masacre, así como una firme intención de detener el GENOCIDIO Y ETNOCIDIO que están sufriendo en forma salvaje y cruel nuestros hermanos yanomamis de Brasil por parte de los Garimpeiros, Colonos y Madereros ilegales.

2) Instamos a los gobiernos brasileño y venezolano para que implementen medidas binacionales que garanticen los derechos humanos fundamentales de los yanomamis, muy particularmente con sus derechos a vivir en forma pacífica en su territorio ancestral,

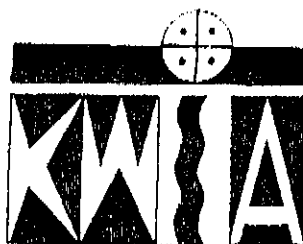
3) Que en ambos países se adopten medidas urgentes PARA LA EXPULSION EN FORMA RAPIDA, EFECTIVA Y DURADERA DE TODOS LOS GARIMPEIROS ASENTADOS EN EL TERRITORIO YANOMAMI TANTO DE BRASIL COMO DE VENEZUELA.

Ante los hechos ocurridos alertamos al gobierno venezolano para que tome medidas preventivas a fin de evitar que se produzcan este tipo de atrocidades y atropellos en la población yanomami de Venezuela.

Por CONIVE,

- GUILBERMO ARANA.- Coordinador Nacional.-
- JESUS GONZALEZ.- Secretario Ejecutivo.-
- JOSE ALVAREZ.- Coordinador de CONIVE en Amazonas.-
- JOSE SERPINO.- Representante Yanomami en CONIVE.-
- LUIS URDANETA.- Presidente de la Organización Yanomami SUYAO.
- JOSE LUIS GONZALEZ.- Coordinador del Area de Medio Ambiente de COICA (Coordinadora de Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazonica)

Jesus Gonzalez
SECRETARIO EJECUTIVO



STEUNGROEP INHEEMSE VOLKEREN
SUPPORTGROUP FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
GRUPO DE APOYO PARA LOS PUEBLOS INDIGENAS

To Ilmo Sr. Ministro da Justicia
Mauricio Correa
Ministerio da Justicia
Esplanalto dos Ministerios Bl. T.
70.064 Brasilia DF
BRAZIL
Fax : 011 55 61 224 0954

Antwerpen, August 18, 1993.

Your Excellency,

We are writing you concerning the situation of the Yanomami people.

Today, August 18, 1993, we received the bad information that very recently between fourteen and nineteen Yanomami were massacred by goldminers between the villages Hemosh and Xidea, in the Yanomami territory in the state of Roraima.

Men, women and children were slaughtered by the garimpeiros who decapitated their victims with machetes, according to a FUNAI telex.

This massacre is clearly a consequence of the impunity guaranteed to the gold mine operators by the local politicians and the omission of the federal government.

At the last session of the United Nations Workinggroup on Indigenous Populations, held in Geneva at the end of July, the Yanomami representative Davi Kopenawa Yanomami, warned that in 1987 nothing was done to prevent the invasion of some 40.000 garimpeiros and that the possibility was existing that the same situation would repeat itself now.

According to FUNAI, some 600 garimpeiros were not expelled from the Yanomami territory although their presence is illegal there. The new initiatives to reduce the seize of the demarcated Yanomami territory, recently taken by Senator Cesar Dias, have been interpreted in a very clear way by the garimpeiros.

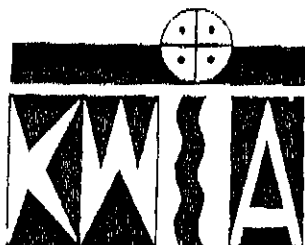
Will this massacre be the prelude, in the International Year of the Indigenous Peoples,, to a new massive attack upon the Yanomami, including legal initiatives, invasions, massacres,...?

We hope not and therefore we urge you to order a full investigation of the massacre and to guarantee that the ones responsible for the massacre, direct as well as indirect, are brought to Justice.

Sincerely yours,

For KWIA, Johan Bosman

c.c.: Mr. Willy Claes, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium
Mr. Ken Coates, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament
Mr. Alban de Villepin, Head of DG 1 of the European Commission



STEUNGROEP INHEEMSE VOLKEREN
SUPPORTGROUP FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
GRUPO DE APOYO PARA LOS PUEBLOS INDIGENAS

To Exmo. Sr. Itamar Franco
Presidente da Republica
Palacio do Planalto
70150 Brasilia DF
Brazil
Fax : 55 61 226 7566

Antwerpen, August 25, 1993.

Your Excellency,

Once more we are writing you concerning the massacres in the Yanomami villages of Haximu and Simao.

We believe it is unacceptable that non-Brazilian human rights observers are refused or prevented to visit the Yanomami territory by Brazilian authorities.

This happened last monday to Ms. Diane Page, send by the U.S. embassy and Mr. Alan Lattulippe, a representative of the Canadian government. Also reporters were refused to visit the region where the massacre took place.

We want to stress that it is not in contradiction with the sovereignty of the Brazilian state and its institutions to allow non-Brazilian observers and reporters to visit the Yanomami territory.

Secondly, we urge you to take special security measures to protect the survivors of the massacres and the 3 catholic sisters who warned first the FUNAI. We know that 90% of the population of Roraima, including the governor himself, are against the Yanomami and on the side of the garimpeiros. There may be attempts to intimidate or kill the people who have a key position in the inquiry, such as the eye-witnesses.

It is a shame for the entire political world of Brazil that governor Ortamar de Souza Pinto of Roraima first said that the massacre was a conspiracy of FUNAI and Bishop Dom Aldo Mongiano and last weekend repeated his previous statements that the Yanomami reserve is too large. This should be considered as an encouragement for the garimpeiros to invade the Yanomami reserve and to continue their attacks upon the Yanomami. It should be considered as an indirect call for genocide. Mr. President, we urge you to dismiss Governor de Souza Pinto for this public call for genocide.

Finally, we want to express our support for the rapid installation of a radar control system to protect the Yanomami territory against garimpeiro invasions, to secure the border and to fight narco-trafficans.

Sincerely yours,

For KWIA, Johan Bosman

c.c.: Mr. Willy Claes, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium
Mr. Van den Broek, EC Commissioner for Foreign Affairs

AMERINDIAN PEOPLES ASSOCIATION (APA)

c/o 71 Quamina Street, Georgetown, Guyana, South America

tel. no.: 61789

Fax no.: (592) 61789



P R E S S R E L E A S E

APA Protests Massacre of Yanomami People of Brazil

The Amerindian Peoples Association (APA) condemns the brutal massacre of the Yanomami People of Brazil by unscrupulous Brazilian miners. This massacre apart from greed is viewed as senseless and uncivilised.

The APA has written the Brazilian President and Minister of Justice demanding that they bring the murderers to justice and to use the security forces to protect the indigenous peoples of Brazil from further massacres.

This senseless act by which men, women and children were decapitated by cutlasses in the villages of Hemosh and Xidea in Yanomami territory in the state of Roraima has aroused deep concern and sympathy from all indigenous peoples of the Americas on behalf of their brothers and sisters.

The APA, an affiliate, has received confirmation of the massacre from COICA - the co-ordinating body for the indigenous peoples of the Amazon Basin.

The APA has sent copies of this protest to the United Nations and Organisation of American States.

20 August 1993