

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 19/03/97

22 January 1997

Further information on UA 284/96 (AMR 19/34/96, 4 December 1996) - Fear for safety

BRAZIL Katithauru Indians

Ariovaldo José dos Santos, FUNAI field worker

Sebastião Moreira, CIMI Coordinator, Mato Grosso

Amnesty International is concerned that, without specific measures to protect their safety, Nambikwara Indians in the Sararé area, including the Katithauru (a sub-group of the Nambikwara), could remain at risk of attacks by invaders of their territory.

An operation is underway to attempt to dislodge around 8,000 illegal miners and loggers who have invaded the Sararé indigenous reserve. A contingent of some 400 personnel, including members of the Federal Police, the government indigenous agency, FUNAI, and the government environmental agency, IBAMA, were dispatched to the area on 11 January. The invaders were given four days to leave the area, and were notified that as of 15 January, Federal Police would be making arrests and confiscating equipment over a period of 15 days. According to reports received by Amnesty International, about 6,000 loggers and miners are believed to have already left the area.

Brazilian indigenous agencies are concerned that once the operation is completed, and Federal Police have left the area, the loggers and miners will simply return. A similar operation was carried out in May 1993, during which 3-4,000 invaders left the area. However, following the withdrawal of the Federal Police, miners and loggers returned in increasing numbers.

Amnesty International has received no further reports of death threats against Ariovaldo José dos Santos or Sebastião Moreira.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Portuguese or your own language:

- welcoming efforts by the federal authorities in Brazil to secure the safety of Nambikwara Indians living in the Sararé reserve;
- expressing concern that Nambikwara Indians may be at renewed risk once Federal Police have withdrawn from the Sararé area;
- urging the federal authorities to take steps to guarantee the future safety of Nambikwara Indians from attacks by invaders of their land;
- requesting information about the progress of investigations into the attack by loggers on a group of Katithauru Indians on 16 November 1996;
- calling for those responsible for the attack to be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Justice

Exmo. Sr. Ministro da Justiça
do Brasil

Dr. Nelson Azevedo Jobim

Ministério da Justiça

Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco 23

Brasília, DF

CEP 70064-900 Brazil

Telegrams: Ministro Justiça, Brasília, Brazil

Fax: +55 61 321 5172/ 322 6817 / 226 7980
Salutation: Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency

President of FUNAI (Government Indigenous Agency)

Exmo. Presidente da FUNAI

Sr. Júlio Gaiger

SETS

Quadra 702/902

Edifício LEX, 3º andar, Bloco A

CEP 70340-904 Brasília DF

Telegrams: Presidente FUNAI, Brasília, Brazil

Fax: +55 61 226 8782

Salutation: Exmo. Senhor/ Dear Sir

COPIES TO:

State Governor, Mato Grosso

Exmo. Sr. Governador do Estado de Mato Grosso

Sr. Dante de Oliveira

Palácio Paiaguás

Centro Político Administrativo

Cuiabá MT

CEP 78050-970 Brazil

Fax: +55 65 644 2205

Conselho Missionário Indígenista - CIMI (Non-governmental organization)

Secretariado Nacional

SDS - Edifício Venâncio III -Salas 309/314

70393-900 Brasília DF

Brazil

and to diplomatic representatives of Brazil accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 16 March 1997.