

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 62/06 (AMR 19/011/2006, 16 March 2006) Fear for safety/forced eviction

BRAZIL About 500 members of the Pataxó Hãhãhãe indigenous community

Members of the Pataxó Hãhãhãe indigenous community are no longer in danger of forced eviction as they voluntarily left the seven farms they were occupying in the Alegrias region, Itaju do Colônia municipality, in Bahia state in mid-April. They had been occupying the farms since January 2006 in protest against the inaction of the Supreme Federal Court, which has been deliberating on the status of the lands since 1982.

Facing a series of eviction orders lodged by local farmers, and running short of food and water, the Pataxó Hãhãhãe held out while a delegation of 16 of their leaders travelled to Brasília on 20 March to try and negotiate with the authorities. However, Dr Mércio Gomes, the President of FUNAI, the National Indian Foundation (*Fundação Nacional do Índio*), and Dr Márcio Thomaz Bastos, the Minister for Justice, refused to meet with them despite the fact that their support is essential for the long-term security of the Pataxó Hãhãhãe indigenous community.

According to representatives of a local non governmental organisation (NGO), the Indigenous Missionary Council (*Conselho Indigenista Missionário - CIMI*), although the Pataxó Hãhãhãe are "sad and demoralised", they are planning a meeting on 4 May to discuss future tactics in their efforts to pressure the Supreme Federal Court to produce a ruling. The failure of the judiciary to deliver rulings on land claims, and the long delays of claims through the courts, has led to a pattern of human rights abuses against Brazil's indigenous peoples and continued social deprivation.

Many thanks to all those who sent appeals. No further action is required from the UA network at present.