

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 285/93 (AMR 19/26/93, 20 August 1993) - Massacre of an estimated 40 Yanomami Indians

BRAZIL/VENEZUELA: Confirmation of killing of 18 Yanomami Indians from the village of Haxumi

Information has now become available which has partially clarified reports of the massacre of Yanomami Indians from the village of Hamuxi on the Brazilian/Venezuelan frontier. Sixty-nine survivors from the village of Haxumi reached the village of Makos, on 25 August 1993. Among the survivors were four Yanomami with bullet wounds, including two girls aged six and seven.

The survivors were interviewed by an anthropologist, with many years experience working with Yanomami, who speaks the Yanomami language.

According to the survivors, the Hamuxi community has been the target of attacks by Brazilian gold prospectors (*garimpeiros*) since early July 1993. In the first attack five Yanomami men were killed and one injured, by the *garimpeiros*. Apparently in revenge, the Yanomami killed two *garimpeiros* in two separate incidents. On the 22 or 23 July *garimpeiros* encircled a group of women and children from the Hamuxi village who were picking fruit some way from the village.

They shot two women and an old man dead, kicked one woman to death, and killed six children and three adolescent girls with machete blows to the head, and chest and cut their throats. The remaining villagers fled, taking their dead and cremating them in hurried religious ceremonies. In the Yanomamis' absence the *garimpeiros* apparently returned to the village and burned down the two communal huts (*malocas*) belonging to the Hamuxi community. There are unconfirmed reports that a third *maloca* may also have been attacked and burned down. Survivors interviewed at the Makos village provided 23 nick-names of Brazilian *garimpeiros* they allege to have been their attackers. These *garimpeiros* operate illegally within the Yanomami reserve in a region straddling the Brazilian/ Venezuelan border.

The Haxumi *malocas* are located directly on the border between Brazil and Venezuela. The Brazilian military has identified the grove where 13 Yanomami were killed in the second attack, as being inside Venezuelan territory. Amnesty International has written to both the Brazilian and Venezuelan governments urging them to co-operate in the continued investigation of the killings, so that those responsible are brought to justice.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send courteous telegrams / telexes / faxes and airmail letters either in Portuguese/Spanish, English or your own language: To the Brazilian authorities

- expressing concern at confirmed reports that 18 Yanomami men, women and children from the Hamuxi village on the Brazilian/Venezuelan frontier were killed by Brazilian *garimpeiros* in separate incidents in July 1993;

- urging that the authorities use all available diplomatic and technical means to cooperate with the Venezuelan authorities to complete investigations, to assist in apprehending those responsible, and ensure that they are brought to justice;
- urging that both Brazilian and Venezuelan authorities work together to ensure the effective protection of the right to life of Yanomami Indians in the frontier region between the two countries.

To the Venezuelan authorities

- calling for a full investigation into the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the killing of 18 Yanomami Indians from the Hamuxi village in different incidents on the Venezuelan border with Brazil in July 1993;
- urging that diplomatic efforts be made to ensure that both Brazilian and Venezuelan agencies work together to complete investigations, apprehend those responsible and bring them to justice;
- urging that both Venezuelan and Brazilian authorities work together to ensure the effective protection of the right to life of Yanomami Indians in the frontier region between the two countries.

APPEALS TO : BRAZIL

1) Minister of Justice:

Exmo Sr Ministro da Justiça
 Sr Mauricio Corrêa
 Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco 23
 70.064 Brasília, D.F. Brazil

Telegrams: Ministro Justiça, Brasília, Brazil
Telexes: 611003 MNJU BR, 611088 MNUJ BR or 612313 MNJU BR
Faxes: +55 61 321 4145, + 55 61 224 2448
Salutation : Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency

2) Attorney General:

Exmo Sr Procurador Geral da República
 Dr Aristedes Alvarenga Junqueira
 Avenida L2 Sul, SG AS 603, Lote 23 s.328
 Brasilia D.F. Brazil

Telegrams: Dr Aristedes Junqueira, Brasilia, Brazil
Salutation : Vossa Excelência/ Your Excellency

VENEZUELA

1) Attorney General

Dr Ramón Escovar Salom
 Fiscal General de la República
 Fiscalía General de la República
 Manduca e Ferrenquín
 La Candelaria
 Caracas 1011
 Venezuela

Telegrams: Dr Ramón Salom, Fiscal General de la República , Caracas, Venezuela
Telexes : 24787 FISGE VC
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COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Comissão pela Criação do Parque Yanomami (Brazilian non-governmental
R Capitão Bessa 272 organization)
S. Pedro
69.300 Boa Vista, Roraima, Brazil

Programa Venezolano de Educación-Acción (Venezuelan non-governmental
en Derenchos Humanos organization)
Apartado Postal 5156
Carmelitas 1010-A
Caracas, Venezuela

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 October 1993.