The Permanent Invasion of the Yanomami Territory in the Brazilian Amazon and Genocide

Submitted by Hutukara Yanomami Association (HAY), an all indigenous organization created in 2004 to defend the rights of the Yanomami and Ye’kwana peoples living in Brazil, with focus on their territory protection, proper public education and health services, according to their language and culture. Its president is Davi Kopenawa, a UN 1989 Global 500 awarded. In 1992, Davi represented the indigenous peoples of the Amazon at the United Nations in New York for the official opening of the UN Year for the World’s Indigenous Peoples. Next year, at the UN in Geneva, he expressed concern at the possible negative effects of government development policies on the Yanomami’s land. In April 1999, Davi was awarded the Ordem do Rio Branco by President Fernando Henrique Cardoso in recognition of his work on behalf of the Yanomami people. The jury of Spain’s Bartolomé de las Casas prize awarded Davi an Honourable Mention in 2008 for his ‘outstanding leadership in defence of the Yanomami people and other indigenous peoples in Brazil’. In 2012, Davi was in Geneva to participated in the 10th International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH) and the launch of the film Indiens en Sursis about the Yanomami and Kayapo’s efforts to stop the destruction of their rainforests. In 2012, the Municipal Chamber of Boa Vista awarded Davi the Honra ao Mérito Rio Branco in recognition of services to the Yanomami community of Roraima state as a spokesman for his people. In 2009 and in 2015, the Brazilian Ministry of Culture awarded him for his work in defense of indigenous peoples in Brazil.

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And, Instituto Socioambiental (ISA) established in 1994, by a group of people with a significant professional background and experiences in the struggle for social and environmental rights. ISA has incorporated the material and non-material heritage amassed during the 15 years’ experience of several knowledgeable organizations in the indigenous rights issues in Brazil, such as the Ecumenical Documentation and Information Center’s Brazilian Indigenous Peoples Program, and the Indigenous Rights Nucleus (NDI) of Brasilia. ISA’s mission is to propose integrated solutions to social and environmental issues. ISA’s main objective is to defend the social good and rights, both collective and diffuse, relating to the environment, cultural heritage, human rights and the peoples. ISA has been working with Hutukara since 2008, and has increase its partnership through the support of a Bilateral Forum of several Yanomami and Ye’kwana organizations from Brazil and Venezuela.

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