



















Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 28th Session

Report on human rights in Brazil

Violations perpetrated against the Kayapo, Yanomami and Munduruku peoples

A joint submission by:

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- Associação Floresta Protegida. An organization of the Mēbêngôkre Kayapó, representing approximately 3,000 People from 31 villages, situated in 3 indigenous lands: Terra Indígena Kayapó, Terra Indígena Mekragnoti and Terra Indígena Las Casas, in southern Pará. Rua Lateral, N° 38. Bairro JK, CEP 68.385-000. Tucumã Pará. E-mail: floresta@florestaprotegida.org.br.





















- Instituto Kabu. An indigenous organization which brings together 12 villages located in 2 indigenous lands (Terra Indígena Baú and Terra Indígena Mekragnoti, south Pará), representing approximately 1,500 indigenous individuals. Av: Isaias Antunes Pinheiro, 294 Santa Luzia, Novo Progresso PA. (93) 98131-0022. E-mail: contato@kabu.com.br.
- Instituto Raoni. Is non-profit, associative and nonpartisan Civil Society Organization of Public Interest, created in 2001 by Kayapó communities to defend their interests and ensure access to public policies and funding to foster cultural activities, food production, income generation and territorial protection. Av. pastor Gerônimo, 306, Peixoto de Azevedo MT, 78530-000. Email: contato@institutoraoni.org.br
- Associação Indígena Pariri. Is an indigenous organization that represents the Munduruku People from the mid course of the Tapajós river, Pará in 2 indigenous reserves (Reserva Indígena Praia do Índio and Reserva Indígena Praia do Mangue), and 2 indigenous lands (Terra Indígena Sawre Bapim and Terra Indígena Sawre Muybu). Its mission is to fight for indigenous rights and improvement of quality of life for all the indigenous communities, by strengthening cultural and traditional values and sustainable projects. Praia do Mangue, s/n. Jardim Araras, Itaituba (PA). 68.181-140. aiparirip@gmail.com.
- Associação Da'uk. Is an indigenous organization created in 2013, in the great Munduruku assemblies, to support the Munduruku resistance and fight to defend the rights of the Munduruku People. It is based on the indigenous land Terra Indígena Munduruku, high course of the Tapajós River, Jacareacanga, Pará. kababymwnbu@bol.com.br.
- Instituto Socioambiental/ISA. Private non-profit organization with the mission of proposing integrated solutions for social and environmental issues and assets, for social collective, and to diffuse rights related to the environment, cultural heritage, human rights, and the rights of indigenous and traditional peoples. Av. Higienópolis, 901, SL 30, São Paulo SP, Brasil, CEP 01238-001. Email: isa@socioambiental.org. Telephone: +55 11 3515-8900





















- Rede de Cooperação Amazônica/RCA. Constituted in 2000, it is a cooperation network with the mission of promoting cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experiences between indigenous and indigenist organizations, which operate in the Brazilian Amazon, to strengthen the autonomy and increase the sustainability of Indigenous Peoples in Brazil. It is composed of 14 member organizations: ATIX, AMAAIC, AMIN, APINA, FOIRN, Hutukara, CIR, OPIAC, Wyty-Catë, OGM, CPI-AC, CTI, Iepé e ISA. Endereço: Rua Professor Monjardino, 19 05625-160 São Paulo SP Tel +55.11. 3746-7912 E-mail: rede.rca@gmail.com www.rca.org.br
- **Survival International**. The global movement for tribal peoples' rights, helps tribal peoples defend their lives, protect their lands and determine their own futures. It was founded in 1969 and has consultative status at the UN's ECOSOC.
- The Right Livelihood Foundation. awards each year brave changemakers working in a multitude of fields such as Human Rights, Peace, Justice and Sustainability. The Award comes with long-term support for these activists, which are currently 185 from 73 different countries. Having received ECOSOC status in 2018, we actively work with UN Human Rights Mechanisms to advance the causes of the Laureates and improve their working conditions.





















Introduction

- 1. The present document is the result of a joint effort by indigenous, indigenist and human rights organizations to produce an analysis of the violations suffered by the Yanomami, Ye'kwana, Kayapó, and Munduruku Indigenous Peoples of the Brazilian Amazon. Such violations take place in the midst of the rampant rush of illegal predatory mining in the territories of these peoples, and the failures of the Brazilian State to implement the recommendations of the last UPR cycle regarding human rights violations.
- 2. The Amazon region currently accounts for 93.7% of mining activity in Brazil, according to a survey by the MapBiomas project¹. In the Indigenous Lands (TIs) alone, the area occupied by mining increased 495% between 2010 and 2020. The information contained in this document refers to the Indigenous Peoples whose lands are at the top of the ranking of Indigenous Lands most affected by the expansion of mining activity in the country: three of them are in the state of Pará (Terra Indígena Kayapó, Terra Indígena Munduruku and Terra Indígena Sawre Muybu), and one is in Roraima (Terra Indígena Yanomami).
- 3. Beyond the destruction of the environment in which these communities dwell, the expansion of predatory mining in these areas is directly linked to several impacts on their health as well as on their food and nutritional security. Several socio-cultural impacts also result from the onslaught of mining on indigenous lands resulting, in some contexts, in armed attacks, deaths, persecutions, and various threats.
- 4. The report presents concrete situations that reveal how the Indigenous Peoples concerned are more vulnerable to violations of the rights to permanent possession of their ancestral land, to an ecologically balanced environment, to health, to culturally adequate food, to life, and to personal integrity, despite the recommendations made to the contrary. Specifically, it will analyze the recommendations regarding the rights

¹ Projeto MapBiomas – Collection 6 of the Annual Series of Land Cover and Land Use Maps of Brazil, accessed on 02/10/2021 through the link: https://plataforma.brasil.mapbiomas.org/





















of Indigenous Peoples 136.51, 136.121, 136.217, 136.223, 136.226, 136.230, 136.234, 136.236, 136.238.

5. The information described in this document was collected from public reports from indigenous leaders, official data, analysis of satellite images of environmental degradation, national and international press reports, and also reports from non-governmental organizations

Demarcated and protected indigenous lands

- **6.** Since 2017, the governments of Michel Temer and Jair Bolsonaro adopted measures that are contrary to the recommendations to continue the processes of demarcation of Indigenous Lands (TIs) in Brazil (No. 136.236, 136.237, 136.238, 136.239). We highlight: (i) the edition of Opinion 001 of the Advocacia-Geral da União (AGU), of 2017, which until its suspension by the STF, in 2020, imposed several impediments to demarcations and adopted the so-called "temporal milestone thesis" for the recognition of indigenous occupation; (ii) the attempt to transfer to the Ministry of Agriculture, by means of a provisional measure, the responsibility for demarcating indigenous lands also suspended by the STF²; (iii) the publication of Fundação Nacional do Índio (FUNAI) Normative Instruction no. 9, which facilitates the legalization of invaded areas in indigenous lands³; (iv) the historic reduction in the budget execution of Funai, regarding the demarcation and protection of lands.⁴
- 7. The interruption of at least 27 demarcation processes, as a result of AGU's Opinion⁵ 001, resulted from those measures, which directly affected the Terra Indígena Sawre Muybu (Pimental) belonging to the Munduruku People in the mid Tapajós region (PA).

²https://www.socioambiental.org/pt-br/noticias-socioambientais/stf-decide-manter-por-unanimidade-d emarcacao-na-funai

³https://apiboficial.org/2020/04/28/nota-tecnica-a-instrucao-normativa-da-funai-no-092020-e-a-gestao-de-interesses-em-torno-da-posse-de-terras-publicas/

⁴https://cimi.org.br/2020/06/orcamento-funai-problema-nao-e-tecnico-nem-financeiro-e-eminentement e-politico/

⁵https://cimi.org.br/2020/05/mpf-recomenda-funai-devolva-mj-procedimentos-regularizacao-terras-indi genas/





















Since 2019, the Munduruku Indigenous People have presented several complaints to different public offices, and to the general public, with information about the increasing attacks of loggers, land grabbers, and miners against their territories.⁶ The TI Sawre Muybu appears in 4th place in the ranking of indigenous territories most affected by mining in the Amazon in 2020, according to MapBiomas.

- **8.** Since 2019, a policy of systematic dismantling of environmental inspection is being implemented, in disregard of the fundamental precepts of the Federal Constitution. Such dismantling is verified in the historic reduction of environmental fines, notices of violation, embargoes, and seizures by the enforcement agency. The most recent reports published by Observatório do Clima (OC) indicate that the fines applied by Instituto Nacional do Meio Ambiente e Recursos Naturais (IBAMA) fell by 20% in 2020 compared to the previous year. In relation to 2018 (Temer administration), the drop was about 35%. Nationwide, only 9,516 infraction notices were applied in 2020. Between 2013 and 2017, the annual average was 16,000 infraction notices, points out an audit by the Office of the Comptroller General the 2020 total represents a 40% reduction from the level of work that had been carried out. Says the OC report, published in January 2022: "This is the result of the Bolsonarist project, announced since the 2018 election campaign, to end up what the then-candidate used to call 'the party' of environmental fines. Without punishment, deforestation in the Amazon in 2021 increased to 103.8% compared to the average in the decade before the current government."
- **9.** These actions, combined with the vulnerability of the Indigenous Lands due to the practices cited in point 2.1, favored the expansion of predatory activities on Indigenous Lands, among which is mining. In Conservation Units (UCs) and Indigenous Lands, where mining is prohibited by constitutional force, we have also observed, besides the aforementioned dismantling, the insufficient return of the (costly) operations Verde

⁶https://www.socioambiental.org/pt-br/blog/blog-do-monitoramento/povo-munduruku-denuncia-invas oes-de-madeireiros-e-garimpeiros-em-carta-aberta

⁷ Climate Observatory, 2022. "The Bill Has Arrived. The third year of environmental destruction under Jair Bolsonaro". p. 12. Available at

 $https://www.oc.eco.br/a-conta-chegou-o-terceiro-ano-de-destruicao-ambiental-sob-jair-bolsonaro/. \\ {}^8 ditto.$





















Brasil and Verde Brasil 2⁹; the allotment of strategic positions in the agency's directorates; the exoneration of heads of mining inspection in indigenous lands in the Amazon¹⁰; and the exchange of IBAMA superintendents in Pará, to avoid the destruction of machinery caught in illegal mining.¹¹

10. As a result of these policies, illegal mining has devastated huge areas of the Amazon, including protected areas. According to data from MapBiomas, between 1985 and 2020 the area occupied by this activity in Brazil increased from 31,000 hectares to 206,000 hectares. In Indigenous Lands, the mining area expanded 495% from 2010 to 2020 - having reached mainly the Kayapó, Yanomami and Munduruku Indigenous Lands. Even higher numbers were identified in mappings of these same territories with high-resolution satellite images. In the TI Munduruku, the manual mapping of mining scars with Sentinel 2 satellite images, carried out in October 2021, showed a total of 5,458 hectares destroyed by the activity, against 1,521 hectares detected by MapBiomas. In the TI Yanomami, the Illegal Mining Monitoring System, from Hutukara Associação Yanomami identified an increase of more than 2,000 hectares in the years of 2019, 2020, and 2021 alone. In the TI Kayapó, in this same period, the increase was 4,596 hectares, according to data from SIRAD-X¹³. Therefore, the examples suggest that it is quite likely that the numbers of the area degraded by mining for the Amazon as a whole are even greater than those reported by MapBiomas.

Violence against indigenous leaders, communities and organizations

11. The expansion of illegal mining in the Kayapó, Yanomami and Munduruku Indigenous Lands has resulted in a serious escalation in the various forms of violence

⁹ see analysis by the Climate Observatory (op. cit.) and others such as,

https://www.opendemocracy.net/pt/como-dois-anos-de-militares-comandando-amazonia-levou-ao-des monte-da-fiscalizacao-ambiental/

¹⁰https://www.correiobraziliense.com.br/app/noticia/brasil/2020/04/30/interna-brasil,850174/chefes-do-ib ama-que-agiram-contra-garimpeiros-sao-exonerados-pelo-gove.shtml

 $^{^{11}}https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/ambiente/2019/09/novo-chefe-diz-que-ibama-vai-parar-de-queimar-maquinas-de-garimpo-ilegal.shtml$

¹² MapBiomas Project – Collection 6 of the Annual Series of Land Cover and Land Use Maps of Brazil, accessed on 10/01/2021 through the link: https://plataforma.brasil.mapbiomas.org/

¹³ https://xingumais.org.br/siradx





















suffered by the respective Indigenous Peoples. Attacks by miners on villages and groups in voluntary isolation have been documented; murders and physical aggression against Indigenous Peoples; persecution, threats, and attacks on leaders and organizations that oppose the activity; as well as a higher incidence of internal conflicts. This escalation is inserted in a broader context of intensified violence against Indigenous Peoples in Brazil - as we can see in the data systematized by the Conselho Indigenista Missionário (Cimi), in the years 2021 and 2020 - and an increase in the countryside since 2019, as indicated in reports by the Comissão Pastoral da Terra (CPT)¹⁴.

- 12. In Terra Indígena Kayapó, gold mining expanded rapidly and alarmingly from 2015 on, gaining greater scale in the management of the current government. Between 2015 and 2021, mining activity resulted in more than 10,000 hectares of deforested forest in the land, an area four times greater than the entire area deforested in the almost 30 previous years (2,518ha), from the promulgation of the Federal Constitution until 2015. In the last three years alone, 5,500 hectares were deforested by mining.
- 13. Along with the expansion of mining, conflicts among the Kayapó communities have also increased. In 2016, two indigenous persons were arrested during Operation Muiraquitã, coordinated by the Federal Police to suppress the practice of illegal mining in Terra Indígena Kayapó. In the same year, disagreements between leaders of the Kikretum and Turedjam villages over the sharing of the commission for gold exploration by outsiders in an area of Terra Indígena Kayapó near the Branco River resulted in a violent fight that ended up with three individuals seriously injured and hospitalized. A few days later, this conflict was followed by a major fight between groups from these two villages in the urban center of Ourilândia do Norte, where two other indigenous persons were injured. In May 2021, a dispute over an area of illegal gold mining between leaders of the Gorotire village resulted in an armed conflict that

¹⁴ See, for example, the Pastoral Land Commission's "Conflicts in the Countryside" series of reports, with data for 2019 and 2020, available at https://tinyurl.com/CPTRelatorios. See, also, the series of reports "Violence against Indigenous Peoples in Brazil" by the Indigenous Missionary Council. For data from 2020, access https://tinyurl.com/RelatorioCimi2020. For 2019 data, see https://tinyurl.com/CimiDados2019.





















resulted in one leader's death and the hospitalization of another leader who was seriously wounded by bullet wounds.

- 14. In Terra Indígena Yanomami the episodes of violence have also increased in frequency and degree. By 2019, the Yanomami of the Palimiu region were already noticing an increasing hostility of the illegal miners. Tension escalated to such an extent in the following years that, from May to July 2021, armed miners invested several times against the communities producing months of great terror in the region¹⁵. The attacks, systematically denounced by the Hutukara Yanomami Association, resulted in the death of two indigenous children. In Parima, another region of the same land, two Yanomami were assassinated in June 2020 during a conflict near a clandestine airstrip that serves the mines. In October 2021, two children drowned while playing on the beach in front of their houses, after being knocked down and swallowed by the current generated by a mining dredge operating a few meters from the community¹⁶. Also observed in the TIY is the grooming of young indigenous persons, including the supply of weapons, and the intimidation of miners' opponents as a strategy to ensure their activity's expansion.
- **15.** Illegal activity has also come closer and closer and has put at risk the groups of Indigenous People in voluntary isolation of Terra Indígena Yanomami. In 2020, the Hutukara Associação Yanomami (HAY) sent a letter to the Brazilian authorities denouncing the murder of three Moxihatëtëma warriors who approached a mine with the aim of expelling the invaders which were expanding towards their territory. In 2019, HAY had already notified another attack carried out by miners against this group.¹⁷
- **16.** In the Tapajós region, the conflicts resulting from the installation of illegal mines in Terra Indígena Munduruku Indigenous (and a massive recruitment of indigenous persons for the activity) had critical moments in the last four years. In the first half of 2018, the intensification of threats to two of the Munduruku leaders leading the resistance to illegal mining was such that they had to join a federal protection program

¹⁵https://g1.globo.com/rr/roraima/noticia/2021/08/10/video-mostra-garimpeiros-armados-e-prontos-pa ra-fazer-guerra-antes-de-ataque-em-comunidade-na-terra-yanomami.ghtml

¹⁶https://oglobo.globo.com/brasil/draga-de-garimpeiros-sugou-criancas-indigenas-que-brincavam-no-rio -diz-lideranca-yanomami-1-25236036

¹⁷ https://amazoniareal.com.br/garimpo-na-terra-yanomami-poe-em-risco-indigenas-isolados/





















for human rights defenders - which, however, was ineffective and inefficient. In August 2020, face to successive statements by representatives of the federal executive power in favor of mining, one of the already threatened leaders had to exile himself from the territory fearing for his safety. This same leader had his village burned down by miners in May 2021, after successive episodes of tension in the region - including the destruction by miners of the headquarters of the Munduruku Wakoborun Women's Association in Jacareacanga. In 2022, about 30 Munduruku leaders have received death threats for opposing the mining activity.

Right to health

17. Elemental mercury is widely used in mines throughout the Amazon to facilitate the identification and separation of gold. Studies promoted by the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), a renowned national public health research institution, have proven the incidence of high mercury concentration in indigenous groups that inhabit the Yanomami and Munduruku Indigenous Lands. Mercury intoxication can cause vision loss, heart disease, and other weaknesses. In pregnant women, the damage is even worse, because the mercury can affect the development of the fetus, causing malformations and other health problems in the baby. ¹⁹ The damage caused by contamination is usually severe and permanent.

18. Among the Yanomami, the study, conducted in 2014, revealed that even after almost 30 years of interruption of mining activities in Papiu, 6% of the local population still had high levels of mercury in their bodies. In Waikás, almost 30% of the population of four Ye'kwana villages and more than 90% of the population of the Sanöma (Yanomami) village of Aracaçá were contaminated by mercury²⁰. In a yet unpublished research, Fiocruz carried out an investigation in the region Maturacá region (an area

¹⁸ Wanderley, Luiz Jardim et al. The siege of gold: illegal mining, destruction and struggle in Munduruku lands. Brazil: National Committee in Defense of Territories in the Face of Mining, April 2021.

¹⁹ https://tinyurl.com/ImpactosMercurio

²⁰ Vega *et al. 2018.*





















also impacted by mining) and revealed that 56% of women of reproductive age and Yanomami children under 5 years old were contaminated.²¹

- **19.** Among the Munduruku of the mid Tapajós, in Terra Indígena Sawre Muybu, the Fiocruz research (in partnership with WWF Brazil) identified levels above the safe limits in 60% of the participants. In the three villages studied, 4 out of 10 children under five were found to have high concentrations of mercury in their bodies, and 15.8% of the children presented problems in neurodevelopment tests. Upstream, an yet unpublished study identified that 99% of the population examined in Terra Indígena Munduruku, upper Tapajós, have blood mercury levels above the limit considered safe by the WHO. "Some are up to 15 times above the recommended," said the research coordinator in an interview.²³
- **20.** Likewise, illegal mining has made malaria cases explode in indigenous lands, and the relationship between mining and malaria is widely documented in the specialized literature. In Terra Indígena Munduruku, the problem is especially notable in the Katő region, where a 364% annual increase in the incidence of the disease was recorded between 2019 and 2020; and in the region of the Sai Cinza village, where the increase was 1051% over the same period.
- 21. In Terra Indígena Yanomami, the relationship between the increase in malaria cases and the expansion of mining is remarkable. In the Uraricuera macro region, where almost half of the area deforested by mining is concentrated, in the three base poles, the number of cases exploded after 2017. In Palimiu, the incidence of malaria in 2020 surpassed the 1,800 cases mark. We point out that the total population of Palimiu in the same year was just over 900 individuals, which means that Sivep data point to an average of almost two cases of malaria per person.
- 22. The Indigenous Peoples's health, which is affected by illegal mining, has also been harmed by the precariousness of specialized health care. The practice of political

²¹ See related matter: https://tinyurl.com/FiocruzYanomami e https://tinyurl.com/GarimpoTIY.

²² BASTA, P.C.; HACON, S.S. Impact of mercury on the health of the Munduruku Indigenous People, in the Tapajós Basin. Rio de Janeiro: Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, 2020. Final technical note.

²³ https://tinyurl.com/MulheresMundurukuMercurio





















appointment of health managers without any experience in indigenous health care has caused the destructuring of Indigenous Special Sanitation Districts (DSEIs), which is reflected in the worsening of health indicators. In Terra Indígena Yanomami, many of the basic health care centers in the communities lack basic medicines and qualified professionals. In many of the regions affected by mining, health care in the communities was abandoned because of the health team safety, leaving the indigenous persons unattended. At the end of 2021, the Federal Public Ministry published the RECOMMENDATION No. 1/2021/MPF/AM and RR indicating serious management failures in the DSEI Yanomami and Ye'kwana and a serious health situation, recommending the restructuring of the agency based on objective technical criteria.

- 23. The weakening of the health care system, the environmental degradation, and the disorganization of traditional production systems have led to a worrying increase in cases of children malnutrition among the Yanomami. In certain regions impacted by mining, the percentage of children with nutritional deficits reaches 70% of the population under five years old, which is the case of the Arathau polo-base, in the region of Parima²⁴.
- 24. The possibility of mercury contamination of the rivers surrounding the Kayapó villages has increased in recent years due to the large expansion of mining activity in the region. While in the Badjonkôre, Capoto/Jarina, Las Casas, and Menkragnoti indigenous lands (ILs) the chance of river contamination by mercury is null to low, in the Baú and Menkragnoti ILs, several villages have medium to high chances of having their waters contaminated by mercury from mining activities. In TI Baú three of the four villages have their rivers certainly contaminated, as well as all the villages of the TI Kayapó that are bathed by the Fresco and Branco rivers.

Recommendations to the Brazilian State

25. Considering the widespread human rights violations of Indigenous Peoples that have resulted from the advance of illegal mining on indigenous lands, it is recommended that

²⁴https://tinyurl.com/GovBolsonaroDesnutricao





















the Brazilian State adopt the following measures to fully comply with its human rights obligations:

- a) Ensure that Indigenous Peoples are consulted for any decision affecting them and that their right to free, prior and informed consent is respected at all times;
- b) Immediately remove all illegal miners from the affected indigenous territories and protect them from future invasions, including by:
 - a. Ensuring that periodic inspection operations are carried out within indigenous territories, making all machinery unusable;
 - b. Blocking access to the internet for mining in the interior of indigenous territories, identifying service providers and setting up permanent inspection bases that will have effective inspection agencies, in addition to greater support and participation by these agencies in monitoring and monitoring bases. territorial protection already existing in the territories.
 - c. Inspecting airfields in cities close to indigenous territories that are used in mining logistics; inspecting of aeronautical fuel distributors; blocking of airspace and the destruction of clandestine landing strips that work to support mining logistics.
 - d. Control the flow of rivers that give access to indigenous territories by patrolling the navigation of ferries that transport fuel and backhoes for mining activities.
- c) Ensure accountability for crimes committed against the Yanomami, Munduruku, Kayapo and all other affected Indigenous Peoples, including by accelerating ongoing investigations related to criminal organizations working with the gold extraction sector;
- d) Improve the inspection of the gold chain at the domestic and transnational level, developing mechanisms to prevent fraud ant to identify and punish anyone investing in the illegal extraction of gold in indigenous territories and the full resumption of public policies aimed at protecting indigenous territories from any





















kind of invasion, in accordance with internationally recognized human rights standards;

e) Adopt effective measures to ensure Indigenous Peoples access to culturally appropriate, quality, health facilities.