

Survival

para os povos
indígenas



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A Survival International é
uma organização mundial
de apoio aos povos
indígenas. Defende o
direito desses povos de
decidir seu próprio futuro
e os ajuda a proteger suas
vidas, terras e direitos
humanos.

Para: ISA

De: Fiona Watson, Survival International

Londres, 3 de dezembro de 1997

Prezados amigos

Mando ci-junto o material que a Survival International emitiu para os meios de comunicação para a visita do Presidente Cardoso a Grã Bretanha esta semana.

Hoje montamos uma manifestação enfrente da LSE (parte da Universidade de Londres) quando FHC chegou lá para receber um titulo honorário da Universidade. Houve a TV e imprensa brasileira lá então tal vez vai sair algo no midia brasileiro. Amanhã as ONGs vamos ter reunião com Dr José Gregori para falar sobre direitos humanos no Brasil

Já saiu alguns artigos na imprensa britânica que vou mandar por correio para vocês.

Agradecemos cópias de qualquer artigo publicado no Brasil sobre a visita de FHC.

Sem mais pelo momento

Cordialmente

Fiona Watson

Fundada em 1969
Premio Nobel Alternativo 1989

Robin Hanbury-Tenison
Presidente de Honor
Richard Bourne *Presidente*
do Conselho Administrativo
Stephen Corry
Diretor Geral



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Um índio Makuxi de Raposa-Serra do Sol, pode confiar no Presidente Fernando Henrique Cardoso? 'Sempre tem um ministro diferente falando sobre a demarcação de nossa terra' - palavras de um líder indígena a Survival International.

Media Briefing dezembro de 1997

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PRESIDENTE CARDOSO FAZ PROMESSAS PARA INGLÊS VER

A eleição do presidente Fernando Henrique Cardoso em 1995 reascendeu as esperanças dos povos indígenas. Afinal, ele prometeu a demarcação integral das suas terras, a expulsão de invasores e o mesmo direito a educação e saúde desfrutado pelo resto da população brasileira. Depois de três anos de promessas quebradas, a conclusão da população indígena brasileira é bastante clara: O presidente Cardoso promete mas não cumpre.

As promessas eleitorais não foram as únicas feitas pelo presidente Cardoso aos povos indígenas do Brasil. O *Programa Nacional de Direitos Humanos* do seu governo, de 1996, contém várias promessas para 'planejar e implementar políticas de proteção aos direitos das populações indígenas'. A Survival apoia os objetivos do programa de direitos humanos no que se refere a esses direitos. No entanto, há sérias dúvidas sobre a intenção do governo do presidente Cardoso para levá-los adiante.

'Demarcar e regularizar as terras tradicionalmente ocupadas por sociedades indígenas que ainda não foram demarcadas e regularizadas'

Este compromisso do *Programa Nacional de Direitos Humanos* torna-se nulo quando comparado com os resultados das demarcações feitas pelo seu governo. Sucessivos governos têm violado a Constituição Brasileira ao fracassar na demarcação de todas as terras indígenas até 1993, como preve a constituição. O governo do presidente Fernando Henrique Cardoso não é uma exceção. Além de não promover a demarcação das terras dos índios, o seu governo, na verdade, reduziu algumas dessas áreas (por exemplo, Apyterewa, Baú e Raposa-Serra do Sol). Das 556 áreas indígenas, mais de 100 permanecem sem identificação e um grande número de áreas ainda precisam ser demarcadas.

'Assegurar o direito das sociedades indígenas às terras que eles tradicionalmente ocupam'

Duas decisões recentes fizeram com que este compromisso do *Programa Nacional de Direitos Humanos* se esvaziasse.

O decreto 1775, introduzido pelo governo do presidente Cardoso, dá aos fazendeiros, madeireiros, e mineradores ocupando terras indígenas, o direito de contestar a demarcação dessas terras. Este decreto fere a Constituição Brasileira, que garante o direito original dos índios brasileiros às terras e ele tem sido usado para violar esse direito. Imediatamente após a assinatura desse decreto, 531 processos foram apresentados contestando a propriedade de 83 reservas indígenas.

Os índios Makuxi, da reserva Raposa-Serra do Sol, correm o risco de perder cerca de duzentos mil hectares, um quinto das suas terras ancestrais. Vinte das suas vilas também vão ser excluídas. Violência e intimidação são uma constante. O decreto 1775, inevitavelmente, vai facilitar a contestação de outras terras indígenas ainda a serem identificadas.

Os índios Guarani, do Mato Grosso do Sul, vivem agora em menos de um por cento das suas terras ancestrais e em condições terríveis de miséria. As famílias estão se desintegrando e o desespero já levou mais de 250 índios Guarani a cometerem o suicídio. Quando esteve visitando os Guarani em 1995, o então Ministro da Justiça Nelson Jobim concordou que a situação era desesperadora e prometeu agir mas nada foi feito.

Até agosto de 1995, mais de 30 mil pedidos para a exploração de minérios em terras indígenas foram registrados. O projeto de lei regulamentando a mineração em terras indígenas, esperando aprovação do Congresso Nacional, é a segunda decisão de grande desrespeito aos direitos dos índios sobre as suas terras. Esse projeto de lei permitiria a mineração das terras indígenas por terceiros. Aqueles que ainda não têm suas terras reconhecidas vão ficar

numa posição ainda mais vulnerável, já que as investidas das mineradoras, provavelmente vão prejudicar o processo de demarcação de terras. Esta lei também vai ser efeito retroativo: reivindicações feitas antes da Constituição de 1988 - que torna obrigatória a consulta aos povos indígenas - vão ser consideradas. Alguns juristas acreditam que isto é inconstitucional. A Survival teme que esta lei seja mais um mecanismo para que o governo burle a Constituição.

'Dotar a FUNAI de recursos suficientes para a realização de sua missão de defesa dos direitos das sociedades indígenas, particularmente no processo de demarcação das terras indígenas'

Com sua alta rotatividade de presidentes, (sete presidentes nos últimos sete anos), a FUNAI é um exemplo de ineficiência. O orçamento de 1998 foi cortado em 30 por cento. O orçamento para a demarcação e proteção das terras indígenas foi cortado em 78 por cento. Enquanto isso, muitas terras indígenas ainda não foram demarcadas. Mesmo quando os recursos financeiros estão à disposição, como o Plano Piloto para a Amazônia, financiado pelo G7, a burocracia e a inércia retardam os processos de demarcação e proteção. A maior concentração de índios na América do Sul que ainda não foram contatados, e portanto vulneráveis, habitam o Vale do Javari. O governo brasileiro concordou em priorizar a demarcação e a proteção do Javari utilizando os recursos doados pelo G7. Até agora nada foi feito e a área vem sendo saqueada por terceiros.

'Garantir às sociedades indígenas assistência na área de saúde, com a implementação de programas de saúde diferenciados, considerando as especificidades dessas sociedades'

Em janeiro deste ano, a Fundação Nacional de Saúde informou que os Yanomami de Roraima estavam 'caminhando para sua extinção' se os garimpeiros não fossem removidos para sempre do seu território. Doenças mortais como a malária, introduzidas por cerca de 4 mil garimpeiros, ameaçam exterminar esses índios. Pelo menos 15 por cento dos Yanomami sofrem de malária. Entre 1989 e 1995, mais de 20 por cento dos Yanomami do Brasil morreram em consequência da invasão das suas terras por 40 mil garimpeiros.

Em março de 1996 o governo do presidente Fernando Henrique Cardoso prometeu às ONGs remover os garimpeiros imediatamente. Somente agora a expulsão de garimpeiros teve início, depois de um ano e meio e de muitas outras mortes de Yanomami. Mesmo assim, pelo menos 3 mil garimpeiros ainda permanecem na área. Se o

presidente Cardoso está de fato comprometido em melhorar a saúde dos povos indígenas do Brasil, porque o seu governo levou 18 meses para começar a expulsar os garimpeiros da área dos Yanomami?

'Assegurar a participação das sociedades indígenas e de suas organizações na formulação e implementação de políticas de proteção e promoção de seus direitos'

Os Waiãpi conseguiram autonomia ao expulsar os garimpeiros de suas terras em 1994 e ao iniciarem projetos para proteger a sua terra, que foi ratificada, pelo governo brasileiro em junho de 1996. Eles também desenvolveram projetos de educação, saúde e de geração de renda próprios, além de terem restaurados as terras devastadas pelos garimpeiros.

Agora, políticos locais, mineradoras e missionários que cobiçam as terras dos Waiãpi, convenceram um juiz federal a interditar os projetos indígenas. Apesar dos pedidos dos Waiãpi para que eles possam prosseguir com esses projetos, o governo tem ignorado os seus apelos.

'Promover a divulgação de informação sobre os indígenas e os seus direitos, principalmente nos meios e comunicação e nas escolas, como forma de eliminar a desinformação (uma das causas da discriminação e da violência contra os indígenas e suas culturas)'

Esta é uma boa iniciativa, mas é necessário que o público veja o judiciário agir imparcialmente para que este processo seja consistente.

Em abril deste ano, Galdino Jesus dos Santos, um índio Pataxo Hã-Hã-Hãe foi queimado vivo em Brasília por um grupo de cinco jovens que jogaram gasolina e atearam fogo nele. Em agosto, uma juíza decidiu que os rapazes não seriam acusados de assassinato.

Embora este seja um incidente isolado, a violência contra os índios brasileiros é as vezes sistemática e fica sem punição. Nos últimos nove anos dez índios na área Raposa-Serra do Sol foram assassinados. Ninguém nunca foi condenado por esses crimes. Em 1995, durante um protesto contra a construção de uma represa que inundaria suas terras, os índios da região Raposa-Serra do Sol foram espancados pela polícia e tiveram suas casas incendiadas. Em 1993, dezesseis índios Yanomami foram assassinados por garimpeiros na região de Haximú. Cinco pessoas foram condenadas por genocídio - uma decisão histórica - mas apenas um está cumprindo a sentença. Quase uma década depois que catorze índios Tikuna foram

massacrados por madeireiros, ninguém foi reponsabilizado criminalmente apesar da identidade dos assassinos ser amplamente conhecida. Uma década e meia depois, o assassinato do líder Guarani Marçal de Souza por um fazendeiro, continua sem punição.

Os cinco pontos do Plano de Ação da Survival International para o Presidente Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

A Survival está urgindo o presidente Cardoso a cumprir a Constituição Brasileira e a implementar o seu próprio *Programa Nacional de Direitos Humanos* e:

1. Seguir o exemplo de outros países da América Latina e reconhecer o direito de propriedade dos povos indígenas brasileiros sobre as suas terras.
2. Assinar a Convenção 169 da Organização Internacional do Trabalho, que reconhece o 'direito das populações indígenas de propriedade e posse... de terras ocupadas tradicionalmente por elas'.
3. Demarcar e proteger as terras dos povos indígenas.
4. Processar judicialmente todos aqueles que invadem as terras indígenas.
5. Respeitar o direito dos índios de decidir sobre o próprio futuro.

**Para mais informações contate:
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Survival
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indigenas





28 de novembro de 1997

Press Release

Índios brasileiros pedem ajuda à Rainha da Grã Bretanha

Enquanto o presidente Fernando Henrique se prepara para a primeira visita de estado de um presidente brasileiro a Grã Bretanha em vinte anos, representantes indígenas do estado de Roraima mandaram carta urgente para a Rainha, pedindo à soberana que interceda a favor dos povos Makuxi, Wapixana, Ingarikó e Taurepang da área indígena Raposa-Serra do Sol.

A carta, enviada pelo Conselho Indígena de Roraima, diz que “os invasores de nossas terras estão massacrando nossos parentes”. O governo estadual de Roraima é particularmente criticado: “o governo de Roraima vem fazendo campanha contra a demarcação da Terra Indígena Raposa Serra do Sol, incentiva a entrada de invasores em nossas terras e é responsável por muitas violações dos nossos direitos”. A carta destaca ainda mais a responsabilidade do presidente Fernando Henrique: “gostaríamos de solicitar a Sua Majestade que interceda junto ao Presidente Fernando Henrique, para que seja demarcada a Terra Indígena Raposa Serra do Sol”. A ajuda que os índios têm recebido de seus muitos amigos na Grã Bretanha também é mencionada: “Felizmente o povo britânico vem colaborando com a nossa luta...Em 1995, uma delegação de indígenas Makuxi foi muito bem recebida pelos parlamentares do parlamento britânico e pelo público britânico”.

Fiona Watson, da Survival, diz “ Os índios da Raposa Serra do Sol estão sendo cercados por todos os lados. O governo estadual incentiva a invasão de suas terras enquanto o governo federal, ao que parece, tenciona privá-los de suas terras”.

Notas para editores

1. A Survival dispõe de recentes imagens televisivas Betacam dos índios Makuxi, assim como várias fotografias. Cópias da carta do CIR também estão disponíveis.
2. O Conselho Indígena de Roraima defende o patrimônio territorial, cultural e ambiental dos povos indígenas do estado de Roraima.

**Para maiores informações contate:
Fiona Watson +44 171 242 1441**

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Robin Hanbury-Tenison
Presidente de Honor
Richard Bourne Presidente
do Conselho Administrativo
Stephen Corry
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3 December 1997

Ann Clwyd MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA



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Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

From The Minister of State

Dear Ann

Thank you for your letter of 21 October. Please accept my apologies for the considerable delay in replying to you.

I met the Brazilian Minister of Justice during my visit to Brazil in September, but did not cover indigenous rights issues with him. However, indigenous issues were an important theme of this visit. I discussed them with Sr Oliveira, the Head of FUNAI (National Association for Assistance to Indians - a Government Agency affiliated to the Ministry of Justice), as well as indigenous representatives and local NGOs.

It was particularly useful for me to hear from indigenous leaders direct their concerns and the problems they are encountering. These were mainly: (i) healthcare: the system was very weak, including lack of facilities for medical evacuation by air; (ii) border controls: problems of farmers and loggers illegally entering and encroaching upon their lands; and (iii) pollution of rivers, particularly by use of agro-chemicals by farmers in nearby territory.

I am not sure which survey of a disputed territory you are referring to in your letter, but if you could let me have more specific details I would be happy to ask our Embassy in Brasilia to look into the particular case. The demarcation process is a very long one. Many demarcations are taking place at the same time, some of which are disputed, others of which are more straight-forward. I raised the Raposa Serra do Sol case, one of the high-profile demarcations currently being disputed, with Sr Oliveira. A decision had been taken by the Ministry of Justice to allow five mining enclaves to remain within the demarcated area. This has been challenged by the Indians and is now with the Supreme Court. Sr Oliveira assured me that a solution would be reached shortly. He also said that a further 21 indigenous areas would be demarcated in 1998. The aim was for almost all of the remaining indigenous areas to be demarcated within the next five years. Attention thereafter would focus on patrolling the demarcated areas and improving healthcare for the indigenous people.

We regularly discuss the demarcation of Indian lands with the Brazilian authorities, both in my meetings with Brazilian interlocutors and through our Embassy in Brasilia. I can assure you that we will continue to monitor developments closely.

Regards,

Tony
Tony Lloyd MP

(Unfortunately, the reply was delayed due to my absence from London)

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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ms Fiona Watson
Survival
11 - 15 Emerald Street
London WC1N 3QL

Ref: AC/VC 97-0621

December 15 1997

Dear Ms Watson,

Thank you for your recent brief, concerning the visit of President Cardoso of Brazil.

I did not attend the meeting referred to, but I enclose a copy of a letter I have recently had from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, concerning disputed territories in Brazil.

Ann Clwyd MP

Enclosure



The Guardian 3.12.97

ENVIRONMENT

Hush money

Jan Rocha on what Brazil's president won't be telling the bigwigs in Britain this week

During his state visit to Britain this week, Brazil's President Fernando Henrique Cardoso will talk to the Confederation of British Industry, lunch with Tony Blair, open a Brazilian studies centre at Oxford, receive honorary degrees,

and take tea with the Queen Mother. But he knows that, for very many ordinary people, Brazil still means Amazon (as in burning) and Indians (as in massacres).

To pre-empt criticisms of his indigenous and environmental

policy, a giant police operation to capture several thousand goldminers who have illegally invaded the Yanomami Indian reserve in the Amazon has been launched. For more than a year, the Yanomami had appealed for help, as the gold-miners distributed weapons, spread disease and silted up rivers.

The money for the operation was allocated, but it was delayed until a few days before Cardoso's visit to the UK. For the Brazilian press, it is literally *para inglês ver* — a proverb meaning "not for real". There is little doubt that, once the pressure is off, the goldminers will be back, encour-

aged by a law now in congress to permit mining in indigenous areas.

The bill is being pushed through by one of Cardoso's vice-leaders in congress, Elton Rohneit, a man who does not exactly enhance the government's credibility among Indians. Rohneit, elected to represent Roraima, the Amazon state where most of the Yanomami live, is a former goldminer and adventurer who made good. He says the government is keen to get the bill approved and claims to have the word of Cardoso himself that no vetos will be applied.

More than 30,000 mining claims are already registered, waiting for

the go-ahead. Safeguards included in the bill to protect the interests of the Indian communities have been watered down. Yet funding for FUNAI, the national agency which is supposed to protect Brazil's 300,000 Indians, has been cut by a third.

Cardoso's solution to the dilemma of being elected with a programme of social priorities, but having to appease the rightwing PFL — the largest party in congress — to get anything done, is to talk like a progressive but act like a conservative.

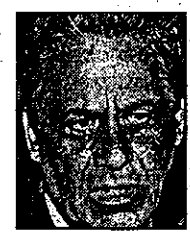
So 40 per cent of the budget of the environment ministry, run by a PFL politician, goes on irrigation and

combating drought in the north-east, because that is where the PFL has its power base. This leaves little to fight the forest fires — many of them deliberately started — which have ravaged ecological reserves and national parks this year.

Aspasia Camargo, the ministry's respected executive secretary, resigned in protest at these priorities, saying that, with Brazil containing the planet's greatest stock of biodiversity, it would be totally irresponsible not to make preservation an absolute priority. Yet the budget of IBAMA, the environmental protection agency, has been reduced and it

has only a handful of men to police thousands of miles.

Satellite surveys show that 15,000 square kilometres of forest are destroyed annually in Brazil. Two months ago, even Manaus, the Amazon capital, was shrouded in smog from forest fires.



Force of nature: President Cardoso has opted for the law of the free market

President Cardoso's answer is not more protection for the Amazon, but market economics. Brazil's lion-sized share of the world's largest tropical rain forest is no longer to be considered an enormous natural reserve. Instead, it is to become a centre of sustainable development projects, including eco-tourism and industrial waterways.

The President promised that the destructive mega-projects of past governments will not be repeated. "The challenge is to make the extractive production of the Amazon competitive in accordance with the laws of the market," he said.

The Guardian 2.12.97

Brazil field Pele for British visit

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

BUCKINGHAM Palace is braced for some fancy diplomatic footwork this week when the Brazilian president, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, brings the legendary soccer star Pele with him to Britain on a state visit designed to boost trade and respect for human rights.

For President Cardoso, the four-day trip is an opportunity to strengthen his country's ties with Europe, diversify foreign relations — and drop in at Chelsea football club with his country's most famous living son. Britain wants to boost commercial links with Latin America's largest economic power.

Mr Cardoso, meeting the Queen today, and Tony Blair on Thursday, said he was impressed by the Prime Minister's ideas in a preface to the Portuguese translation of Mr Blair's book, *New Britain: My Vision of a Young Country*.

The president is three years into an ambitious reform programme which he hopes will transform Brazil into one of the world's up-and-coming countries in the next century.

Brazil has undergone a far-reaching transformation in recent years. With a big privatisation programme under way, it is looking keenly for foreign investment, the main item at a conference held in London today under the auspices of the Confederation of British Industry.

Britain is already the third-

largest foreign investor in Brazil, and is pushing hard to increase its share of exports — expected to be worth £1 billion this year — from 2.5 per cent, against 24 per cent for the United States and 9 per cent for Germany.

But President Cardoso will also be talking about anti-drug trafficking efforts and human rights, with Britain expressing concern about street children, indigenous peoples and the rural poor.

Mr Cardoso has come under fire from campaigning groups for failing to tackle effectively the use of slave labour on Brazilian farms.

Environmental problems, especially deforestation, are an issue of common concern. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, is to sign an eight-point "action plan" setting out areas of future co-operation. Next month Brazil becomes one of the 10 rotating members of the United Nations Security Council.

But amid the careful protocol and ceremony nearly two hours have been set aside to tap shared enthusiasm for football.

Pele, aka His Excellency Senhor Edson Arantes do Nascimento, accompanies President Cardoso to Stamford Bridge tomorrow to see the Education Secretary, David Blunkett, inaugurate a "homework club", part of a new initiative for Education Action Zones to focus on basic literacy and numeracy. After a computer lesson, local schoolchildren will join him in a soccer skills session.

Man who killed disabled daughter escapes mandatory life term

Andrea Hopkins in Toronto

ACANADIAN father was jailed for one day less than two years yesterday for the mercy killing of his severely disabled daughter after a judge ruled that the mandatory life sentence would be a "cruel and unusual punishment".

Robert Latimer, aged 44, was convicted in Toronto of second-degree murder after he confessed to killing Tracy, aged 12, to spare her the severe pain of her worsening cerebral palsy.

Latimer, a farmer, will serve one year in prison and the rest of his sentence on probation at his farm.

It is the first time a mandatory murder sentence

they think punishments too harsh. The jury had recommended leniency.

The decision by Justice Ted Noble was condemned by disabled rights groups, saying it in effect supported the "barnyard ethics" of killing the weak.

"To exempt people who kill us from the consequences... is to put every disabled person at great risk," Jim Derksen of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities said.

Latimer gassed Tracy with exhaust fumes from his pick-up truck on his farm in Wilkie, Saskatchewan, while his wife and three other children were at church in October 1993.

He was first convicted in 1994 and jailed for life, but

... but only after Bishop Desmond Tutu, the chairman of the commission, had promised protection for his family.

Cyril Mbatha and Thulani Dlamini were sentenced to death for the 1989 murder of Dr Asvat after a supreme court judge had found that they shot the popular doctor dead in his Soweto clinic during a robbery. But his brother, Ibrahim, told the commission yesterday that the family had never accepted robbery as the motive, because nothing was stolen from the clinic.

He said they had discovered after the trial that Dla-

to pursue the char

Mrs Sisulu then sensation when she having filled in an ment card showing Mandela had visit vat at the surger cember 30 1988, si fore he was killed. is crucial, because dicts Mrs Mande that she was av Soweto on that d Stompie was : beaten up — pro tally — at her hous In a BBC interv sulu had said em that she had fill card. But yesterda it was not her han One of the co

Girl dies as school fires on class

Martin Kettle in Washington

ASCHOOLBOY, aged 14, told a teacher he was sorry after he opened fire on classmates in Kentucky during a school prayer meeting, killing one girl and wounding seven other pupils.

The unnamed boy surrendered to the school principal, Bill Bond, immediately after the shooting at Heath High in Paducah yesterday morning. He was later charged with murder, attempted murder and stealing the gun on Thanksgiving Day.

Mr Bond said the only words the pupil said to him were: "I'm sorry." Mr Bond added: "He acted just like he had been caught for some minor offence."

Eight pupils were admitted to hospital, and the death of a 15-year-old girl was reported shortly afterwards. Two pupils were reported to be critical and two others were in fair condition with neck and shoulder wounds.

"I heard gunshots, about 10 in a row, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang," said Ben Heady, aged 17. "People were screaming, running out of the hall." He said the gunman "was just standing there, like he didn't care what happened".

Witnesses said the boy apparently took aim at first then appeared to fire indiscriminately. The leader of the prayer group, a pastor's son, walked up to the boy as he was still firing, imploring him to stop, Mr Bond said. He kept firing, but finally stopped and laid down the gun, with one bullet left in it.

Mr Bond said that the boy used a .22 Luger handgun and fired 11 shots from a clip. He had two more weapons and three more bullet clips in his shoulder bag, and wore earplugs to protect himself from the noise.



A pupil screams: School, Kentuck

week that "some going to happen pal described hi intelligent your had had some lems at school, been suspended. Pupils said known to have ing the prayer etal occasions group meets d tains up to 35 n gatherings are school life in States since st remains strictl spite the inter

Child slavery fuels Brazil's economy

President Cardoso must come clean when he visits Britain next week, reports Kevin Bales in Campo Grande

WHEN President Fernando Cardoso of Brazil arrives in London for a state visit next week he will face tough questions about slave labour in his country. Despite his government's repeated promises to end slavery in Brazil, pressure groups report alarmingly widespread abuses. They have discovered that children and adults are still forced to work as slaves in mining, land clearance, ranching, prostitution and charcoal-making.

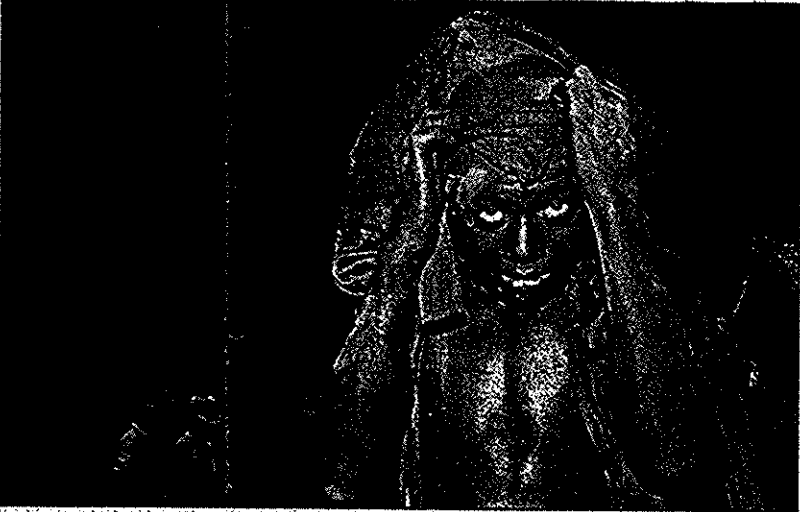
Children, some as young as eight, work alongside adults in appalling conditions. They are forced to do dangerous work, often under armed guard, for little or no pay.

Brazilian government efforts have concentrated on a public relations campaign aimed at concealing both the extent of the problem and official inaction.

Guided by the country's Human Rights Minister, José Gregori, British politicians and Foreign Office officials have been presented with a glowing picture of new legislation to protect workers. The truth is that legislation is rarely enforced, and the window-dressing exercise is, as a Brazilian catchphrase has it, "just for the English to see".

There is a long tradition of misleading the British government in Brazil. About 10 million slaves had been transported there from Africa by the 1830s. By then Brazil was locked in a struggle with the British government over slavery.

From 1832 the Royal Navy patrolled off Brazil, intercepting and freeing slaves. Inside the country, slaveholders in government enacted *para ingles ver* (for the English to see), a phrase which is still widely used to mean a subterfuge.



Dirty work: children as young as eight are forced to work in mining, land clearance, ranching, prostitution and charcoal-making. Their tasks can be dangerous and pay nothing. Photographs: Collart-Ordinietal/L Dulcoo

"Go into the cafe and eat as much as you like. I'll pay for it. We had been hungry for a long time, so you can imagine how we ate.

When we got to Mato Grosso we kept driving further and further into the country. When we reached the charcoal camp we could see it was terrible: the conditions were not good enough for animals.

"Standing around the camp were men with guns. And the boss said: 'You each owe me a lot of money. There is the cost of the trip, and all that food you ate, and the money I gave you for your families — so don't even think about leaving.'"

Renaldo was trapped. He could not leave the camp or have any say in the work he was given. No worker was allowed to see accounts or to know how their work was credited against their 'debt'. Those who resisted were beaten up, and in some camps workers have been killed. The camps I visited were hungry, thirsty and dangerous places for the workers.

Working up to 24-hour shifts with sharp tools and burning charcoal, serious burns and injuries are common. No medical supplies

trucked into the town of Ribas do Rio Pardo and dumped. Destitute and with nowhere to go, they now live in a shanty town built on waste ground. Without help from the church they would starve.

The Brazilian government's public relations campaign did not end with the

education grants. A special demonstration camp was set up for charcoal workers (and foreign investors). I visited this project and for the workers it is close to paradise: neat brick houses with electricity, plumbed water, flush lavatories, a school and vegetable gardens. But the project is window-dressing.

Using money from foreign charities, the government has set up an island of good treatment in an ocean of exploitation. It was not easy to separate the charcoal workers living in the model village from the ever-watchful government official, but when I did I learnt that they continue to

work for poverty wages, in the same dangerous conditions, and without any say in the work they do.

The landowner laughs all the way to the bank; his workers make charcoal at the usual high profit, the government pays him rent and foreign charities provide food and medical care for his

workers. There are no plans to extend this demonstration project. It is just another case of *para ingles ver*.

The real demonstration is that a subsidy to a token group can significantly protect the government's reputation and the profits of the landowners and large corporations. When the state sec-

retary of agriculture was asked about job creation in the region, he replied with stark honesty, saying that there was no point. "There's nothing left there, just the charcoal and the slaves." Kevin Bales is the author of *Slaves — The Rise of New Slavery*, to be published next year.

Child slavery fuels Brazil's ec

President Cardoso must come clean when he visits Britain next week, reports **Kevin Rales** in Campo Grande

WHEN President Fernando Cardoso of Brazil arrives in London for a state visit next week he will face tough questions about slave labour in his country.

Despite his government's repeated promises to end slavery in Brazil, pressure groups report alarmingly widespread abuses. They have discovered that children and adults are still forced to work as slaves in mining, land clearance, ranching, prostitution and charcoal-making.

Children, some as young as eight, work alongside adults in appalling conditions. They are forced to do dangerous work, often under armed guard, for little or no pay.

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Guided by the country's Human Rights Minister, Jose Gregori, British politicians and Foreign Office officials have been presented with a glowing picture of new legislation to protect workers. The truth is that legislation is rarely enforced, and the window-dressing exercise is, as a Brazilian catchphrase has it, "just for the English to see".

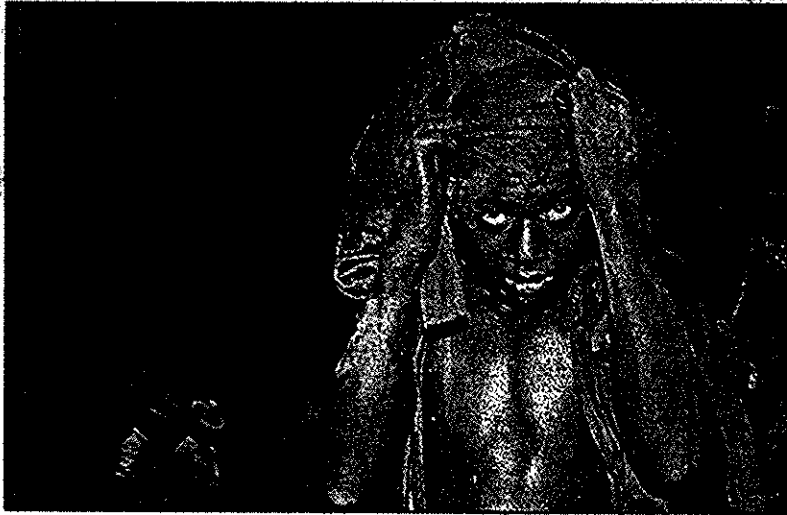
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From 1832 the Royal Navy patrolled off Brazil, intercepting and freeing slaves. Inside the country, slaveholders in government enacted laws, *leaves ver* (for the English to see), a phrase which is still widely used to mean a subterfuge. When full emancipation arrived in May 1888, Brazil was the last country in the Americas to abolish slavery.

Today, slavery is widespread in Brazil's "Wild West". The destruction of the Amazonian rainforests, open-cast mining, and the burning of scrub forests to make charcoal all depend on slave labour.

Travelling to Mato Grosso do Sul in southwest Brazil, earlier this year, I learnt how recruiters appear in city slums to trick whole families into slavery with promises of good food, and a regular salary. A man named Renaldo told me how he was recruited.

"The man was able to fill up his truck with workers very easily and we started west. Along the way, when we would stop, he would say,



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Working up to 24-hour shifts with sharp tools and burning charcoal, serious burns and injuries are common. No medical supplies are kept except rum.

Last year about 10,000 people, including women and children, were held in about 200 charcoal camps in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul. But in August of that year, while the state governor was on a trip to the United States to raise foreign investment, the BBC and the *New York Times* ran stories exposing child labour in the camps.

The state government was embarrassed and quickly ordered that women and children be expelled from the camps. The federal government introduced education grants, paying a small sum each month to children of charcoal workers.

In the shake-up some families were able to use the situation to flee enslavement altogether. But about 3,000 women and children were

trucked into the town of Ribas do Rio Pardo and dumped. Destitute and with nowhere to go, they now live in a shanty town built on waste ground. Without help from the church they would starve.

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