

Survival

for tribal peoples



Survival International

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Exmo Sr Henrique Brandão Cavalcanti
Minister of the Environment and the Amazon
c/o Embassy of Brazil
32 Green Street
London W1Y 4AT

Survival International is
a worldwide movement
to support tribal peoples.
It stands for their right to
decide their own future
and helps them protect
their lands, environment
and way of life.

1969-1994. 25 years of standing
by tribal peoples.

June 9, 1994

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Dear Minister

It was a pleasure to meet you on Monday and thank you for your time during your busy schedule here.

As a follow-up to our brief discussion on Carajás, I enclose the recent statement to the hearing on 'Natural Environment and Indigenous Peoples in Brazil' before the United States House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs, prepared by Dr William Balée. I also enclose Survival International's submission to the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations regarding human rights violations in the area of Carajas, and the subsequent reply by the Brazilian Government.

As you will see, the Brazilian Government and CVRD finally released the outstanding funds (US\$900,000) for the demarcation of the Awa and Krikati Indigenous Areas in Maranhão. Both these areas have been defined and delimited by FUNAI and the demarcation approved by the Ministry of Justice. We have since learned however that this money has been returned to CVRD as local politicians and landowners in Maranhão state are contesting the demarcations. Survival International is extremely alarmed at this latest development and further delay in the demarcations, despite the Government's assurances that they would be carried out. In particular we are most concerned for the future of the Awa Guajá who are among the last nomadic hunter gatherers in Brazil and are therefore extremely vulnerable to any form of invasion of their lands. Unless their lands rights are fully recognised and upheld, we fear they will have little chance of survival.

More than a decade since the original World Bank and European Steel and Coal Community loans to CVRD for the development of the Greater Carajás Project, the violence to indigenous peoples and destruction of their environment, including the unique pre-Amazon forest of Maranhão, are increasing mainly due to colonisation, logging and ranching, fueled by the project itself and encouraged by local politicians and landowners. Violence and intimidation

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Robin Hanbury-Tenison *President*
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of indigenous peoples are mounting. In 1992 and 1993 the highest levels of violence against indigenous peoples occurred in Maranhão state. Hired gunmen regularly threaten and in some case have assassinated those Indians who attempt to defend their land. The Indians are vastly outnumbered by those invading and plundering their land and are virtually powerless to prevent such a systematic and armed onslaught.

Survival International is most concerned at the current negotiations between the World Bank and CVRD for a loan for 'Environmental Conservation and Rehabilitation (No. 6BRAPA299) for the Carajás area'. We believe that prior to any further loan, the Bank, its donor countries and the Brazilian government have a duty to ensure that all the conditions of the first loan are met, and in particular the demarcation and protection of all indigenous areas. We call upon your Government to investigate the alarming rates of environmental destruction and human rights violations within the sphere of the Greater Carajás Project and to institute an action plan to safeguard the integrity of all federally protected areas within the Carajás region.

We welcome the personal concern and interest that you expressed during our meeting this week, and hope that you will address the violations of indigenous rights and the environmental destruction of their territories through your Ministry as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely



Fiona Watson
Campaigns Coordinator

cc: Exmo Sr Alexandre Dupeyrat Martins, Ministro da Justiça
Exmo Sr Dinarte Nobre Madeiro, Presidente da FUNAI

25 years

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Rt Hon Baroness Chalker of Wallasey
Minister for Overseas Development
ODA
94 Victoria Street
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May 25, 1994

Dear Lady Chalker

As you may be aware the World Bank is negotiating a second loan of up to US\$60 million to the Brazilian state mining company Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD) for 'Environmental Conservation and Rehabilitation' in the area of the Carajás Project, Maranhão, Brazil (Project number 6BRAPA299). As part of this loan the Bank has specified a series of 'expectations' rather than conditions for the CVRD to carry out demarcation and protection of indigenous territories.

More than a decade since the original World Bank loan of US\$304.5 million to the CVRD, neither the CVRD or the Brazilian government have fulfilled the basic conditions of this loan namely the demarcation and protection of all indigenous areas within the Greater Carajás Area (CVRD/FUNAI Agreement No. 059/82). We believe that prior to any negotiation of a further loan, both the Bank and its lenders (including the British Government as one of the largest contributors to the World Bank) have a duty to ensure all the conditions of the first loan have been met.

The prevarication and delays by both the CVRD and the Brazilian Government and the negligence of the World Bank in ensuring the fulfilment of the conditions of the first loan have had detrimental consequences both environmentally and socially. The destruction of the unique pre-Amazon forest of Maranhão, home to some eighteen indigenous peoples, continues unabated. Since the early 1980s an estimated 2,355 square miles of forest has been cut down annually for conversion into charcoal to feed the pig iron smelters. Land invasion, occupation and speculation by colonists, ranchers and loggers within the sphere of the Greater Carajas Project are increasing. For example over 15% of the Alto Turiaçu Indigenous Reserve which is supposed to be protected by federal law has been destroyed. In an overflight of this reserve last month the Brazilian government's National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) reported the illegal presence of at least 1,000

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invaders. This figure will certainly rise with the start of the dry season in a few months.

Violence and harassment of indigenous people are mounting. In 1992 and 1993 the highest levels of violence against indigenous peoples in Brazil occurred in Maranhão state. Hired gunmen regularly threaten and in some cases have assassinated those Indians who attempt to defend their land. The Indians are vastly outnumbered by those invading and plundering their land and are virtually powerless to prevent such a systematic and armed onslaught.

In response to Survival International's submission to the United Nations on human rights violations in the Carajás area (enclosed) the Brazilian government announced the release of the \$900,000 of World Bank money held by the CVRD for a decade, for the demarcation of two indigenous areas (the Krikati and Awa). The Awa Indigenous Area is home to the last truly nomadic hunter gatherers in Brazil, the Awa Guajá - half of whom have had no contact with outside society and are therefore extremely vulnerable to any form of invasion of their land. However, Survival has been informed that the \$900,000 has been returned to the CVRD due to the opposition from local politicians and landowners who are contesting the demarcations in court, despite the fact both FUNAI and the Ministry of Justice have ordered the demarcations to be carried out.

Rather than just spend more money on social and environmental projects designed or administered by the CVRD and the World Bank, we believe it imperative that the British government examine the realities of the Greater Carajás Project and the alarming levels of environmental destruction and human rights violations which are a direct and daily result of this project. We urge the Government to require that the Brazilian authorities fulfil all the conditions of the first loan as a precondition to any further loan - namely the demarcation of the outstanding indigenous areas, the removal of all those colonists, ranchers and logging operations in Indian land and the return of expropriated Indian land. No amount of money will solve the root problems in Maranhão - namely widespread corruption at the highest levels, a crippling lack of justice and impunity for those who break the law and a basic lack of political will to address the continued violations of the constitutional rights of the indigenous population.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Corry
Director General

Enc: Submission to the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations, July 1993

Response of Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations in Geneva,, July 1993

Letter to the World Bank, September 1993

Statement to the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs, Committee on Foreign Affairs, United States House of Representatives, May 1994

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Representative Robert G Torricelli
Chair, Sub-Committee on Western Hemisphere Affairs
Committee on Foreign Relations
House of Representatives
Room 105, Old Office Building
Washington DC 20515
USA

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May 25, 1994

Dear Representative Torricelli

As you may know, Survival International has long been concerned over the effects of the Greater Carajás Project in Brazil on the indigenous peoples who live within its sphere. We welcome the hearings on indigenous peoples and environment of Brazil held before the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs last year and this year for which we supplied information for the statements by Dr Terence Turner and Dr William Balée on the situation of indigenous peoples in Maranhão.

Further to the above statements, I enclose Survival's 1993 submission to the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations on human rights violations in the Carajás area. In response (enclosed) the Brazilian government announced the release of US\$ 900,000 of World Bank money held by the CVRD for a decade, for the demarcation of two indigenous areas (the Krikati and Awa). The Awa Indigenous Area is home to the last truly nomadic hunter gatherers in Brazil, the Awa Guajá - half of whom have had no contact with outside society and are therefore extremely vulnerable to any form of invasion of their land. However, Survival has recently been informed that the \$900,000 has been returned to the CVRD due to the opposition from local politicians and landowners who are contesting the demarcations in court, despite the fact that both National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) and the Ministry of Justice have ordered the demarcations to be carried out.

More than a decade since the original World Bank loan of US\$304.5 million to the CVRD, neither the CVRD or the Brazilian government have fulfilled the basic conditions of this loan namely the demarcation and protection of all indigenous areas within the Greater Carajás Area (CVRD/FUNAI Agreement No. 059/82). Meanwhile the World Bank is negotiating a second loan of up to US\$ 60 million for 'Environmental Conservation and Rehabilitation' (No. 6BRAPA299) in the Carajás area. We believe that prior to any negotiation of a further loan, both the Bank and its donor countries (particularly the USA

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and the UK) have a duty to ensure that all the conditions of the first loan are met.

The prevarication and delays by both the CVRD and the Brazilian Government and the negligence of the World Bank in ensuring the fulfilment of the conditions of the first loan have had detrimental consequences both environmentally and socially. The destruction of the unique pre-Amazon forest of Maranhão, home to some eighteen indigenous peoples, continues unabated. Since the early 1980s an estimated 2,355 square miles of forest has been cut down annually for conversion into charcoal to feed the pig iron smelters. Land invasion, occupation and speculation by colonists, ranchers and loggers within the sphere of the Greater Carajás Project are increasing. For example over 15% of the Alto Turiaçu Indigenous Reserve which is supposed to be protected by federal law has been destroyed. In a recent overflight of this reserve the Brazilian government's National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) reported the illegal presence of at least 1,000 invaders. This figure will certainly rise with the start of the dry season in a few months.

Violence and harassment of indigenous people are mounting. In 1992 and 1993 the highest levels of violence against indigenous peoples in Brazil occurred in Maranhão state. Hired gunmen regularly threaten and in some cases have assassinated those Indians who attempt to defend their land. The Indians are vastly outnumbered by those invading and plundering their land and are virtually powerless to prevent such a systematic and armed onslaught.

Rather than just spend more money on social and environmental projects designed or administered by the CVRD and the World Bank, we believe it imperative that the United States and other donor governments examine the realities of the Greater Carajás Project and the alarming levels of environmental destruction and human rights violations which are a direct and daily result of this project. We urge your Government to require that the Brazilian authorities fulfil all the conditions of the first loan as a precondition to any further loan - namely the demarcation of the outstanding indigenous areas, the removal of all those colonists, ranchers and logging operations in Indian land and the return of expropriated Indian land. No amount of money will solve the root problems in Maranhão - namely widespread corruption at the highest levels, a crippling lack of justice and impunity for those who break the law and a basic lack of political will to address the continued violations of the constitutional rights of the indigenous population.

Survival welcomes your interest and concern about the situation of indigenous peoples and the environment in Brazil, and we hope that your Subcommittee will take all possible action to bring pressure to bear on the World Bank and the governments of Brazil and the United States to investigate the killings of indigenous peoples, the invasion and destruction of their lands and to examine past and present World Bank financing for Carajás.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Corry
Director General

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1993 is United Nations Year of the World's Indigenous People

Ken Coates
Chair, European Parliament Sub-Committee
on Human Rights SC1B
European Parliament
Belliardstraat 97-113
B-1047
Brussels
Belgium

3 March 1993

Dear Mr Coates

Survival International wishes to draw to your attention the extremely grave situation of the Awa Guajá and Krikati tribes of Brazil. The Awa Guajá are perhaps the last nomadic hunter gatherer tribe in Brazil and are on the verge of extinction due to the constant invasions of their hunting grounds on which they rely entirely for survival. The Krikati land is dissected by electrical transmission pylons and a road, and substantial areas of their hunting grounds excluded from demarcation proposals.

Much of their present tragic situation is due to the influence of the Carajás Project (part-financed by the then European Coal and Steel Community, The World Bank and others) which has acted as a catalyst to massive influxes of cattle ranchers, loggers, miners and settlers. As a result of these pressures most of the 12,500 indigenous people, the original inhabitants of the area, are suffering the consequences as their lands are increasingly invaded and exploited by outsiders. In many cases this had led to violent conflicts with tragic results.

The Awa and the Krikati, the two most vulnerable people are precisely those who a decade later have still had their land rights denied them, despite the condition of the World Bank loan to Brazil that all indigenous areas falling within the sphere of the Carajás Project should be demarcated and thus legally recognised (CVRD/FUNAI Accord No. 059/82)

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As you are probably aware the Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD) still holds World Bank funds set aside for the demarcation of the Awa and Krikati Indigenous Areas. They have consistently blocked their release while simultaneously the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) has consistently attempted to reduce the size of the Awa Indigenous Area. Although FUNAI and the Ministry of Justice recommended the demarcation of 118,000 hectares of the Awa Indigenous Area in July 1992 this is still a substantial reduction in size from the 276,000 hectares originally recommended in 1985 and the 147,500 recommendation in 1988 supported by the World Bank. Unless the Awa Guajá's full land rights, as guaranteed by the Brazilian Constitution and as a condition of the World Bank's loan, are not acknowledged and upheld as a matter of urgency, they will not survive as a tribe.

Much of the responsibility for the current tragedy facing the Awa Guajá and Krikati peoples must lie with the World Bank's negligence and failure to ensure that all stipulations were adhered to and carried out by CVRD and FUNAI as set out in the Indigenous Action Plan agreement. While a letter (attached) from the World Bank dated 2 November 1988 to the then Minister of the Interior, João Alves Filho acknowledges the urgency of both demarcation and the vital need to step up vigilance of the area, it does not appear to have genuinely committed itself to ensuring the conditions of the loan were met.

However, the European Community through the involvement of the European Coal and Steel Community and its loan to date of US\$ 249 million to Brazil for the Carajás Project, must also bear responsibility for the grave effects of the Carajás Project on the indigenous peoples of the area. Despite the fact it was a major lender, the EC has consistently relied on reports from The World Bank and CVRD concerning indigenous issues both of which have displayed an extreme negligence in guaranteeing and upholding the land rights of the Awa Guajá and Krikati.

The EC's complacency has contributed to the present intolerable situation faced by the Awa Guajá and Krikati peoples in particular. While in Chapter 3 paragraph 3.40 of the 'Report (Annex to the 1990 ECSC report) on the accounting and financial management of the European Coal and Steel Community', adopted by the Court of Auditors on 7 November 1991, the "the Court observes that the Community has no obligations beyond those laid down in the ECSC loan contract as regards the protection of the environment of the Carajás iron mine and the safeguarding of the American Indians within the area", it is surely the responsibility of the Community, as a major lender, to ensure that the agreement between The World Bank and CVRD regarding the indigenous peoples of the area was properly upheld.

We therefore strongly urge both the European Community, as well as The World Bank, to comply with the agreement of their loans and ensure that the full recognition and demarcation of the Awa and Krikati Indigenous Areas is carried out with the funds it set aside for that purpose. Moreover we stress

that in keeping with the agreement, more funds be made available for the adequate protection of these areas against further invasions. Only a long term project which upholds the land rights of the Awa Guajá and Krikati will ensure a secure and viable future for them.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Corry
Director General

Encs

cc:

Ken Collins, Chair, Environment Committee
José Vasconcelos, DG1
Kenneth Bell, DG11
Gabriel Cipriani, European Court of Auditors
Medina Ortega, Delegation for Relations with South America
Paul Staes MEP
Hemmo Muntingh MEP
Anita Pollack MEP
Winifred Ewing MEP

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Mr Lewis Preston
President
The World Bank
1818 H Street NW
Washington
DC 20433
USA

22 February 1993

Dear Mr Preston

Survival International wishes to draw to your attention the extremely grave situation of the Awa Guajá and Krikati tribes of Brazil. The Awa Guajá are perhaps the last nomadic hunter gatherer tribe in Brazil and are on the verge of extinction due to the constant invasions of their hunting grounds on which they rely entirely for survival. The Krikati land is dissected by electrical transmission pylons and a road, and substantial areas of their hunting grounds excluded from demarcation proposals.

Much of their present tragic situation is due to the influence of the Great Carajás Project (part-financed by The World Bank) which has acted as a catalyst to massive influxes of cattle ranchers, loggers, miners and settlers. As a result of these pressures most of the 12,500 indigenous people, the original inhabitants of the area, are suffering the consequences as their lands are increasingly invaded and exploited by outsiders. In many cases this had led to violent conflicts with tragic results.

The Awa and the Krikati, the two most vulnerable people are precisely those who a decade later have still had their land rights denied them, despite the condition of the World Bank loan to Brazil that all indigenous areas falling within the sphere of the Carajás Project should be demarcated and thus legally recognised (CVRD/FUNAI Accord No. 059/82)

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Much of the responsibility for the current tragedy facing the Awa Guaja and Krikati peoples must lie with the World Bank's negligence and failure to ensure that all stipulations were adhered to and carried out by CVRD and FUNAI as set out in the Indigenous Action Plan agreement. While a letter (attached) from the World Bank dated 2 November 1988 to the then Minister of the Interior, João Alves Filho acknowledges the urgency of both demarcation and the vital need to step up vigilance of the area, it does not appear to have genuinely committed itself to ensuring the conditions of the loan were met.

We therefore strongly urge the Bank to comply with the agreement of its loan and ensure that the demarcation of the Awa and Krikati Indigenous Areas is carried out with the funds it set aside for that purpose. Moreover we stress that in keeping with the agreement, more funds be made available for the adequate protection of these areas.

While the World Bank publically proclaims it intends to work with people 'on the ground' and in particular to take into account the rights and needs of indigenous peoples, we urge you to take practical and decisive action and investigate the above matter. We look forward to hearing how the World Bank proposes to stand by its agreement to ensure a secure and viable future for the Awa Guajá and Krikati peoples.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Corry
Director General

cc: Francisco Jose Schepteno, President, CVRD
Sydney Possuelo, President, FUNAI
European Parliament
European Commission for Human Rights