

BRAZIL

Stopping The Clearing Of Timber From Indigenous Lands



For more information contact:

Rainforest Action Network
450 Sansome St.
Suite 700
San Francisco, CA
94111, USA

Rainforest Foundation
270 Lafayette St.
Suite 1205
New York NY
10012, USA.

For decades, loggers have invaded Indigenous lands in Brazil with impunity, creating violent confrontations with Indian people, and devastating the environment. Now, a Brazilian judge has ordered a halt to timber extraction from Indian lands in the eastern Amazon state of Pará.

According to estimates, between 1985 and 1990, over 640,000 cubic meters of valuable mahogany were extracted from Indian lands in Pará, which required the construction of over 3000 km of illegal logging roads.

To halt the logging, a suit was filed by the Nucleus for Indigenous Rights, based in Brasília. The decision, on January 15, 1993 by Federal Judge Selene Maria de Almeida, calls for an immediate closing of the logging roads and removal of all equipment and workers from the Indigenous reserves of Arawete,

Apyterewa, and Trancheira Bacajá, it also requires the Brazilian government to set up permanent checkpoints to ensure that the loggers do not reenter the zone.

One recent conflict between loggers and an Indian community resulted in the shooting death of Domingos Paulino, a Gavião Pukobyé who had tried to stop a truck carrying an illegal shipment of wood from passing through his people's land in Maranhão. The wood had been cut from the nearby Guajajara reserve, where Indians had agreed to sell timber for very low prices. Most of this wood is used to produce charcoal, which fuels the pig iron processing plants which are Part of the Greater Carajás mineral zone.

Sources: Rainforest Action Network and Rainforest Foundation

Violence Against Indian Peoples in Brazil in 1992

These are the 1992 results of an annual survey carried out by the Indianist Missionary Council (CIMI) of violence against Indian peoples in Brazil.

In most categories Indians suffered as much or more aggression as in previous years. In the case of the murders none of the aggressors was punished.

CIMI notes: "Diseases have been killing more Indians in Brazil than any other type of aggression. It seems that they are the subtlest and most disguised way to exterminate Indians."

Murders 24
Victims of attempts on the lives
Death threats
Illegal detentions
Victims of physical aggression
Rapes
Suicides 24
Deaths due to malaria
Deaths due to measles
Deaths due to Cholera
Deaths in car accidents
Areas invaded by woodcutters
Invasions by miners