

INDIGENOUS ACTIVIST HELD IN GUATEMALA

On Oct. 27, Marco Choco Damas, Qeuchki man and active member of the Consejo Nacional de Desplazados de Guatemala (National Council for the Displaced of Guatemala - CONDEG), was detained by soldiers in la "Cumbre" in Salama, Baja Versapaz, while on a bus to Guatemala City. He is reportedly being held in the army barracks in Salama.

CONDEG was founded to defend the rights of Guatemalans displaced by the army's counter-insurgency campaign. The army considers the members of CONDEG to be "subversives." In recent years, members and leaders have suffered human rights violations, including their disappearance, extrajudicial execution, and intimidation.

Human Rights organizations are concerned for the safety of Marco Choco and ask that you immediately send letters or faxes expressing your concern for the safety and well-being of Marco Choco Damas.



ON-GOING VIOLENCE AGAINST MACUXÍ

Conflict between the Macuxi and local land owners regarding the demarcation of Indigenous territory in the state of Roraima, Brazil, has led to continuing violence against the Macuxi.

On November 6 1993, Democlides Albuquerque Carneiro, a 23 year old Macuxi Indian, died in police custody. According to reports, he had been arrested on suspicion of having stolen some cattle. A plot to cover up the real cause of his death was discovered when a police officer confessed to the shooting.

Letters should urge that his legal situation be clarified and that he either be released or brought before a competent court.

Please send letters to :

Gral. Mario Enriquez Morales
Ministro de Defensa
Ministerio de Defensa
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala City
Guatemala
Fax: 011 502 2 537472
Telefax: 301 5361 CONGUA GU

Send copies of letters to SAHC and to:

CONDEG
7a Avenida 8-56, zonal
Edificio El Centro
7 Nivel, Oficina 7-12
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Source: Amnesty International

Since late September, a military road block has been operating in the Raposa/Serra do Sol Indigenous area. The Macuxi have campaigned for the demarcation of the area as an Indigenous reserve but local politicians, influential land owners, and the state government of Roraima are vehemently opposed to the demarcation. As a result, the Raposa/Serra do Sol area was not demarcated within the constitutional deadline of October 5, 1993. Consequently, reports of increased official harassment against Indigenous communities have been transmitted.

Please send letters expressing your concern about the death in custody of Democlides Albuquerque Carneiro on November 6, 1993, in the police station of Alto Alegre, Roraima. Call for an inquiry into this death and ask that the responsible be promptly brought to justice; urge a full inquiry into reports of ill-treatment and harassment by official security forces of members of Indigenous communities at the military police barracks in the Raposa/Serra do Sol area.

State Head of Police Exmo. Sr. Secretario de. Segurança Publica do Estado de Roraima Sr. Rubens Braga Quintela Av Capitao Ene Garcez no 324 62.300 Boa Vista, RR Brasil	State Governor Exmo. Sr. Governador do Estado de Roraima Sr. Ottomar Pinto Palacio 31 de Marco Praca do Centro Civico-Centreo 69.3000 Boa Vista, RR Brazil
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Please send copies to SAHC and:
Roraima Indian Council
Conselho Indigenista de Roraima
Caixa Postal 163
70.300 Boa Vista, RR Brasil

Source: Amnesty International