

INDIGENOUS TRIUMPH IN BRAZILIAN COURTS

In a historic decision of the Brazilian Federal Court of Appeals, timber exploitation in the Indigenous areas of the Araweté, Apyterewa and Trincherá Bacaja, in the Southern part of the state of Pará, has been strictly prohibited.

The Court upheld the appeal made by the Indigenous Rights Core (NDI), a Brazilian NGO, against the timber companies Parachi, Maginco and Impar. These companies were illegally extracting mahogany from those regions.

The three indigenous areas are contiguous and are found in one of the richest areas in mahogany wood of the states of Pará and of Amazonas. 61% of the mahogany exported by Brazil comes from 80% of the Indigenous areas. Despite this, the Court has permitted Parachi to temporarily maintain a contingent of employees in a small part of the Apyterewa Reserve, where Parachi claims to have property titles.

The NDI is currently preparing for the next battle against the lumber companies in the Supreme Court of Brazil, which is likely to be less sensitive toward Indigenous and environmental topics.

In other news, an NDI lawsuit against a Mato Grosso logger recently came before the courts yielding positive results for the Hahaintesu peoples of Guapore Valley in the western part of the state. On September 6, 1993, Judge Maria Divina Vitoria found Anilton Antonio Pompermayer guilty of illegal extraction of mahogany in the Hahaintesu Reserve. The logger will pay over US\$ 200,000 for the extraction of 1,800 cubic meters of wood from the reserve. This is the second guilty verdict for illegal logging in the state of Mato Grosso.

International public opinion will play an important role in pressuring the Brazilian state to uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples and the environment. We urge you to send letters in recognition of these decisions to:

Exlma. Sra. Juíza Maria Divina Vitoria
Digníssima Juíza Substituta da sexta
Vara Federal no Distrito Federal
Justica Federal de Primera Instancia
Setor de Autarquias Sul.
Quadra 4, Bloco D, Lote 7
Brasilia D.F. 7007-000, Brasil
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Exlma. Sra. Juíza Eliana Calmon
Digníssima Presidente da Quarta Turma
do Tribunal Regional Federal da 1ª Região
585 Quadra 2, Edifício Aura 4º Andar
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RADIOACTIVE WASTE BURIED IN BRAZILIAN AMAZON

According to reports from Movimento de Apoio à Resistência dos Waimiri/Atroari (MAREWA), the Paranapanema Mining Co. is responsible for the burial of five thousand tons of radioactive waste in the Pitinga River area of Amazonas, directly affecting the residents of Presidente Figueredo and the Waimiri Atroari Reserve. State and local authorities have taken no action on this matter and the local population has yet to be informed about the content and danger of the loads.

Since the mid-eighties, rumors about the presence of radioactive waste have circulated in Pitinga, recounting symptoms such as the loss of teeth, general weakness, unexplained respiratory diseases, loss of hair, and leukemia. Even though Taboca Mining Co., another firm working in the region, has verified the presence of radioactive materials since the early eighties, the company has always been

shielded by federal, state, and local governments.

The residents of Presidente Figueredo request international support in their demands that the Amazonas state government and FUNAI hold Paranapanema and the other mining companies in the region, accountable for seriously threatening the health of the people and the environment.

For more information, please contact:
Movimiento de Apoio à Resistência
dos Waimiri/Atroari (MAREWA)
Presidente Figueredo, Brazil

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