

solidarity with Indian people.

MINES THREATEN YANOMAMI, SANEMA, AND YEKUANA IN VENEZUELA

The government of Venezuela continues to grant mining rights on Indian land. Recently renewable twenty year exclusive rights of mineral exploration and extraction over 2250 square kilometers of Yanomami territory at the headwaters of the Orinoco river have been given by the government to the MAVAC.A. corporation. This governmental action was carried out without consulting the Yanomami, nor with consideration of ancestral territorial rights of the Yanomami. In exchange for these mining rights, MAVAC.A. will contribute \$75.00 a month to the regional hospital and \$750 annually to the Salesian mission school.

The 13,500 Yanomami in southern Venezuela are one of the largest groups in the Amazon. For the past four years, they have been striving to gain title to their ancestral lands; so far unsuccessfully. The consequences of mining in their area will be grave in terms of the survival of the Yanomami because of the introduction of infectious disease, destruction of land, and threatened ethnocide and genocide. Indigenous support groups such as IWIGIA, the Anthropology Resource Center, and Cultural Survival have been important in bringing the situation of the Yanomami to the attention of the international community.

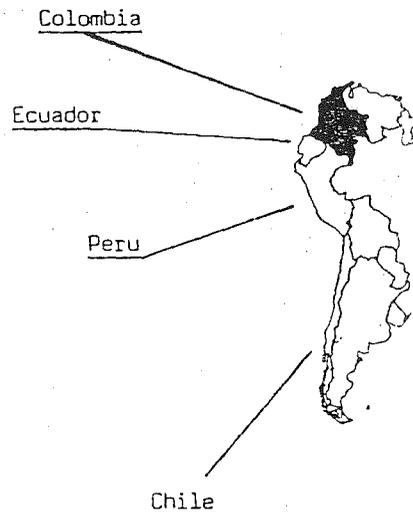
PERU

In Peru where over 50% of the population is Indian, national perspectives are increasingly worse. This is due to the economic crisis, and to strong repression by the government directed toward organizations representing a wide spectrum of Indian interests and groups. Also in Ayacucho, in the southeastern part of the country where the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path guerrilla organization) operates, matters are very critical. Since December, 1982 when the Peruvian military took control of the Ayacucho region, 2,300 people have been killed as a result of armed activity in that area and 1500 people are listed as missing. These are the official figures; other estimates are much higher. During this past month of July, it is estimated that over fifty people, most Indians, have died in this area.

Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Argentinian recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize visited Peru from May 9-11 through the sponsorship of Peace and Justice (SERPAJ) of which he is the Latin American coordinator. On May 9th he led a march for solidarity for peace in Ayacucho during which he called for a stop to the genocide and ethnocide of indigenous people in southern Peru and all parts of the world.

The Tupac Amaru Indian Movement (MITA) which includes a dozen Indian Organizations, has announced it will run candidates and present issues in the forthcoming elections of

In This Issue



... the... organization proper... the... of the... exploitation... by the Criollo colonists, and support of a multiethnic... state based on strong agrarian reform. (from CISA bulletin, summer 1984.)

CHILE

The Mapuche people are one of the groups most affected by the extreme oppression with which the Military government deals with most of the Chilean population. With their pro-oligarchy mentality, this government is trying all tactics to destroy the Indian organizations that focus on social or political issues. The Mapuche People, through their organization, Ad-Mapu, are putting up resistance to the threats of destruction and intimidation. They have participated actively along with thousands of Chileans in the Days of National Protest.

In January of 1984, a paramilitary comando force calling itself the Chilean Anti-Communist Alliance (ACHA), kidnapped and killed a Mapuche student. At the same time, they also threatened the lives of all Ad-Mapu leaders.

During the week of April 23rd (the Day of National Protest) to the 28th, eleven Ad-Mapu leaders were arrested by the military police. Since then, nine have been released due to pressure from the Mapuche People and international solidarity organizations. The other two, Jose S. Millao (President) and Domingo Jineo (Treasurer) were confined to Northern Chile. On July 25th, both were released, but their lives were threatened if they continued to participate actively in the Ad-Mapu organization.

During June and July, the repression and intimidation of the Mapuche has increased greatly. Among other things, government authorities have announced that the Ad-Mapu headquarters will be searched and the organization will be prohibited due to alleged "misuse of funds and Communist leadership."

FOURTH ASSEMBLY OF WORLD COUNCIL OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

This conference is planned for September 20-30, 1984 in Panama. The WCIP which is recognized as an NGO within the United Nations is composed of the following regional organizations: 1.) CISA, The South American Indian Council, 2.) CORPI, The organization of Indian nations of Central America, Mexico, and Panama, 3.) Indian nations of the United States and Canada, 4.) Sami Nordic Council, and 5.) National Aboriginal Conference of Australia and the Maori Council of New Zealand. For a tentative agenda and further information for those wishing to attend, contact:

WCIP Secretary
University of OTAWA
555 King Edward Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1N 6N5
telephone: (613) 230-9030

Venezuela

