

The Mapuches were removed on the evening of April 8 by Angol police led by the governor of Malleco province. The removal was not as violent as the previous year, when some of the same people occupied the farm and four Mapuches received gunshot wounds.

Other events involving AD-Mapu include the convening of its Fifth Assembly April 13-16 in the headquarters of the Catholic bishop of Temuco. In Santiago, the capital, AD-Mapu recently held a press conference at the office of

the Chilean Commission for Human Rights to denounce a summons issued by the Ministry of the Interior as "unjust and immoral political persecution."

"While there is one Mapuche left in Chile, he will defend his people so as to fulfill the ideals of justice and liberty."

—Antupillan, in 1641

## BRAZIL

# Struggle For Indian Rights In New Constitution



The Union of Indian Nations (UNI) is facing a critical period as Brazil's new constitution is being written without the participation of official Indian representatives. UNI and many national and international groups are watching the process closely and pressuring the constitutional assembly to guarantee Indian rights and protect Indian land.

Ailton Krenak, national coordinator of UNI, writes to SAIIC: "It is criminal what they are doing to contain the Indian population now at the end of the 20th century, especially regarding our territorial rights and the use of our resources.

"The project Calha Norte, a project of the National Security Council, provides for the military occupation of the Amazon, especially in the areas of the Solimões, Negro, and Bravo rivers. This implies the establishment of military bases and the presence of civilian workers throughout 6,000,000 square kilometers of our land. It's 40 per cent of all Indian territory and

"It is very important for us to know that your organization exists there in the United States and that you make information available and encourage exchanges among Indian people of South and North America. It's very important to expand the knowledge and understanding of our peoples. Please keep us informed of the ways we can help with these goals."

—Domingos Veríssimo (Terena), UNI leader, in a letter to SAIIC.

home to 60 per cent of Indian people in Brazil."

The plan, based on a North American model, allows 100 square kilometers for each Indian family, "as if we were like a white family—father, mother, and child—instead of Indian communities. This can only force Indians to integrate into non-Indian society, establishing such a degree of dependence that we will no longer be able to live without whites."

Such forced integration is consistent with long-standing policies of the Brazilian government. Indians are forced to participate in political life, such as the writing of the new constitution, on the same terms as the non-Indian majority, whose vastness overpowers Indian voices. FUNAI, Brazil's bureau of Indian affairs, attempts to exercise authority over every aspect of Indian lives. FUNAI is attached to the Ministry of the Interior, which is also responsible for economic development, which often works contrary to Indian interests. FUNAI has issued illegal permits for mineral exploration in Indian territory as well as neglected its responsibility to define the boundaries of Indian land so it can be protected from outside encroachment.

UNI, which includes 120 of the 170 Indian nations in Brazil, has heightened its activities on behalf of Indian rights as the new constitution is written. On March 31, UNI met with CIMI (the Indian Missionary Council of the Catholic Church), the Pro-Indian Commission, the Ecumenical Documentation and Information Center, the Brazilian Association of Anthropologists and the National Institute for Social and Cultural Studies in Brasília to elaborate a unified proposal regarding Indian rights in Brazil. The proposal demands the demarcation of all Indian land to secure the

survival of Indian traditions and languages. It has been presented to the Subcommittee for Blacks, Indians, Disabled People and Minorities of the constitutional convention.

During an international telephone conference call on June 11, Ailton Krenak also said, "In Brazil today there is a generalized concern regarding land distribution, and the Indian situation must be put in this context. The rubber tappers of the Amazon region as well as hundreds of thousands of landless peasants throughout the country are also discriminated against."

Ailton also said that, "Indians have advanced in this struggle due to increased public awareness and support from national and international non-governmental organizations." In addition to Ailton, the telephone conference call included José Carlos Saboia, member of the Brazilian national legislature; Dr. Julio Gaiger, a lawyer from CIMI; David Maybury-Lewis, president of Cultural Survival; Richard Smith of Oxfam America; Steve Schwartzman of the Environmental Defense Fund; and Maria Sousa and Nilo Cayuqueo of SAIIC.

"It is important," said Saboia, "that national and international organizations work together to mobilize the media and make the Indian struggle in Brazil known. Public support is fundamental to success in defending the rights of Indian people at the national constitutional assembly."

Letters of support for the UNI position should be sent to Deputado Ivo Lech; Presidente da Subcomissão dos Negros, Populações Indígenas, Pessoas Deficientes e Minorias; Camara dos Deputados; 70.160 Brasília, DF Brasil.

## Yanomami Land Claims Not Yet Recognized

An article in the Winter, 1987, issue of the *SAIIC Newsletter* mistakenly stated that the president of Brazil had granted official recognition to Yanomami land claims in the Amazon

near Brazil's border with Venezuela. In fact, the president only announced his intention to grant such recognition, which may conflict with military plans for the area.