



ASSOCIAÇÃO METAREILÁ DO POVO INDÍGENA PAITER SURUI

TRANSLATION FROM PORTUGUESE ORIGINAL

Cacoal, RO, Brasil, 13 october 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am Almir Narayamoga Surui, Chief of the Paiter Surui indigenous people. Our population lives on the "Sete de Setembro Indigenous Territory" in the state of Rondônia, Brazil.

This is my cry of alarm, please listen to me!

Since the beginning of this year 2016, we are suffering a total invasion of illegal loggers and miners of diamonds and gold. Every day, over 300 trucks leave our territory filled with wood, which represents 600 hectares of deforested forests. And it continues to increase, whilst according to the Constitution of Brazil, it is illegal to deforest an indigenous reservation. On the ground, the illegal loggers have heavy means, with Caterpillar machines. We have found mercury and cyanide in 3 rivers of Surui territory because of the miners!

The implications are disastrous. In addition to environmental damage and the challenge to our way of life, this invasion directly endangers our families and our children. Indeed, we are under the threat of weapons of loggers and miners! Either one collaborates, or they put a gun to our heads! In addition, they try to bribe some of my people with money. For fear and lack of alternatives, some of my people accept, against their first resolve to protect the forest. The situation is terrible!

We, the Surui indigenous people are the first to have set up a REDD+ project to save the Amazon forest, lung of our planet. But this invasion undermine the REDD agreement and goes against the spirit of the COP21 agreements!

Despite our appeals for help against this mafia, the new government did not react. By its silence, it is silent accomplice of this destruction of the forest and thje endangering of our people!

We do not know what to do, Help!

As citizens, NGOs or institutions, you can help us in 4 ways .:

1. We ask you to write to the Brazilian embassies in your own countries to express your outrage and ask the new Brazilian government to intervene quickly.
2. We also ask you to boycott all Brazilian products as the Brazilian government does not react.
3. We ask the different political bodies to establish an international observer mission on deforestation.
4. Finally, on behalf of the Surui people and of all indigenous people who are trying to protect the Amazon rainforest, in the name of our struggle to preserve a future for all children of this planet at the price of our lives, in the name hope for the future, we ask you to distribute this letter to all your contacts in the world and on social networks, because today we are all connected in a common destiny.

Thanking you,

Almir Narayamoga Surui
Leader of the Paiter Surui Indigenous People