

## **Declaration from Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon regarding the Yanomami Massacre**

On the day of August 27th, 2012, gathered in the City of Puerto Ayacucho, we the Indigenous peoples and communities of the Venezuelan Amazon together as the **Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon (COIAM)**, made up of the **Regional Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon (ORPIA)**, the **Indigenous Organization United Piaroa of Sipapo (OIPUS)**, the **Ye´kuana Organization of the Upper Ventuari (KUYUNU)**, the **Indigenous Organization Jivi Kalievirrinae (OPIJKA)**, the **Yanomami Organization (HORONAMI)**, the **Organization of Indigenous Women of the Amazon (OMIDA)**, the **Organization of Indigenous Huôtтуja Communities of the Parhuaza Sector (OCIUSPA)**, the **Association of Piaroa Teachers (Madoya Huarijja)**, the **Piaroa Organization of Cataniapo “Reyö Aje”**, the **Indigenous Organization of the Negro River (UCIABYRN)**, the **Piaroa Organization of Manapiare**, the **Ye´kuana Organization of the Upper Orinoco (KUYUJANI Originario)**, **Yabarana Organization of Parucito (OIYAPAM)**, the **Political Movement- Multi-Ethnic People United of the Amazon (PUAMA)**, make the following declaration in rejection of the most recent **MASSACRE OF INDIGENOUS YANOMAMI PEOPLE** which took place in the community of **IROTATHERI**, Municipality of Alto Orinoco, committed by illegal miners from Brazil. This information was shared by the survivors and witnesses during the month of August 2012:

1. We stand in solidarity with the Yanomami People in Venezuela and their organization HORONAMI, who was victimized in the month of July 2012, due to the most **RECENT MASSACRE IN THE COMMUNITY OF IROTATHERI**, located in the headwaters of the Ocamo River, Municipality of Alto Orinoco. The area of the massacre is within the area of influence of various Yanomami communities such as; MOMOI, HOKOMAWE, USHISHIWE and TORAPIWEI, of which all have been attacked, assaulted and invaded by illegal miners from Brazil (GARIMPEIROS) during the last 4 years.
2. We mourn this most recent violent attack against the Yanomami people that left an **amount of dead that has not been completely determined but there are 3 survivors accounted for of approximately 80 Yanomami people who lived in the community Shapono in the Upper Ocamo**. According to witness and survivor testimonies, Shapono was **burnt and attacked with firearms and explosives**. Witnesses and survivors were relocated to the community of Parima “B” between August 15<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, where they informed of the tragic events to members of the organization HORONAMI, Venezuelan Authorities of the 52nd Brigade of the National Army and the Center for Investigation and Control of Tropical Diseases (CAICET).
3. We express our **preoccupation that as of the year 2009 various entities of**

**the Venezuelan State have been informed about the presence of GARIMPEIROS in the Upper Ocamo** and about the different aggressions that have perpetuated against the communities of **MOMOI and HOKOMAWE**. These communities have been victims of physical violence, threats, gender violence and contamination of their water from the use of mercury that has left a number of Yanomami dead. None the less **NO MEASURES WERE TAKEN TO REMOVE THE GARIMPEIROS FROM THE AREA** or to create and implement a control plan regarding their access and mobility in the region when there has been an known increase in illegal mining in all of the Brazilian Amazon.

4. This situation does not only affect the rights to LIFE, PHYSICAL INTEGRITY AND HEALTH OF THE YANOMAMI PEOPLE, but also constitutes a **new genocide and threat to the physical and cultural survival of the** Yanomami. In this very moment when next year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Massacre of HAXIMÚ in which 16 Yanomami women, children and elders were killed.

5. We solicit the National Government and other entities of the Venezuelan State to immediately **OPEN A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION, TO COME TO THE PLACE OF THE MASSACRE AND TO ADOPT BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH BRAZIL** to control and watch the movement of garimpeiros in the Upper Ocamo, the place of the massacre and presence of Yanomami threatened by the uncontrolled actions of the garimpeiros. We remind that the **failure to investigate and take the necessary measures as a result of the case of HAXIMÚ, could compromise the international responsibility of the Venezuelan State**, for allowing foreign agents to attack Venezuelan nationals in their own territory.

**Regional Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon (ORPIA)**

**Indigenous Organization United Piaroa of Sipapo (OIPUS)**

**Ye'kuana Organization of the Upper Ventuari (KUYUNU)**

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**Yanomami Organization (HORONAMI)**

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**Ye´kuana Organization of the Upper Orinoco (KUYUJANI Originario)**

**Yabarana Organization of Parucito (OIYAPAM)**

**Political Movement- Multi-Ethnic People United of the Amazon (PUAMA)**

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**Vice-Cordinator CONIVE**

**Guillermo Guevara**

**(Indigenous Consituyent 1999)**