



HUTUKARA ASSOCIAÇÃO YANOMAMI - HAY

HUTUKARA YANOMAMI ASSOCIATION PRESS RELEASE

THE MURDER OF TWO YANOMAMI: A NEW HAXIMU?

On June 23, 2020, Hutukara Yanomami Association received reports of the murder of two Yanomami from the community of Xaruna in the Parima region by a group of armed miners.

The denouncement was made by D. Yanomami, who is accompanying his wife who is receiving health treatment at CASAI [health center for indigenous peoples], in Boa Vista.

Hutukara recorded a statement by D. Yanomami describing what happened in greater detail. The transcript of the testimony translated into English from Portuguese follows:

D. Yanomami says that, in the first half of June, in the vicinity of Xaruna community, a group of Yanomami went to where the miners had illegally settled and asked for food. As they did not receive as much as they wanted, according to the report they clashed with the miners, who armed with more firearms, pursued them and killed two Yanomami.

In addition to the murder of two Yanomami, which must be rigorously investigated and those responsible punished according to the law, we fear that the families of the murdered Yanomami will decide to retaliate against the miners following the system of justice in accordance with Yanomami culture, which could lead to a cycle of violence that will result in a tragedy.

It was a situation like this that resulted in the Haximu massacre in 1993, the first case of genocide recognized by Brazilian justice¹. 27 years after the massacre, we have news that gold miners have returned again to Haximu².

D. Yanomami's account describes a form of relationship between the Yanomami and miners which we already know and which has been recurring since the beginning of the invasion of Yanomami territory in the 1980s by more than 40,000 prospectors. At first, miners arrive in small numbers in a community's territory and seek friendly relations with the Yanomami, offering food and goods from the city. As the number of prospectors increases and their settlement becomes permanent, the prospectors feel at ease in the territory and come to regard the Yanomami as a nuisance. The Yanomami's requests for merchandise from the city are ignored and relations become conflicted.

The report demonstrates how the number of miners in the region is increasing, and communities fear for their safety. This is not an isolated problem, and is repeated in other areas which are affected by mining in the Yanomami Indigenous Territory.

1 https://pib.socioambiental.org/files/file/PIB_verbetes/yanomami/massacre_haximu.pdf

2 <https://www.derechos.org.ve/actualidad/27-anos-despues-de-la-masacre-de-haximu-indigenas-yanomami-denuncian-presencia-de-mineros-y-complicidad-autoridades>



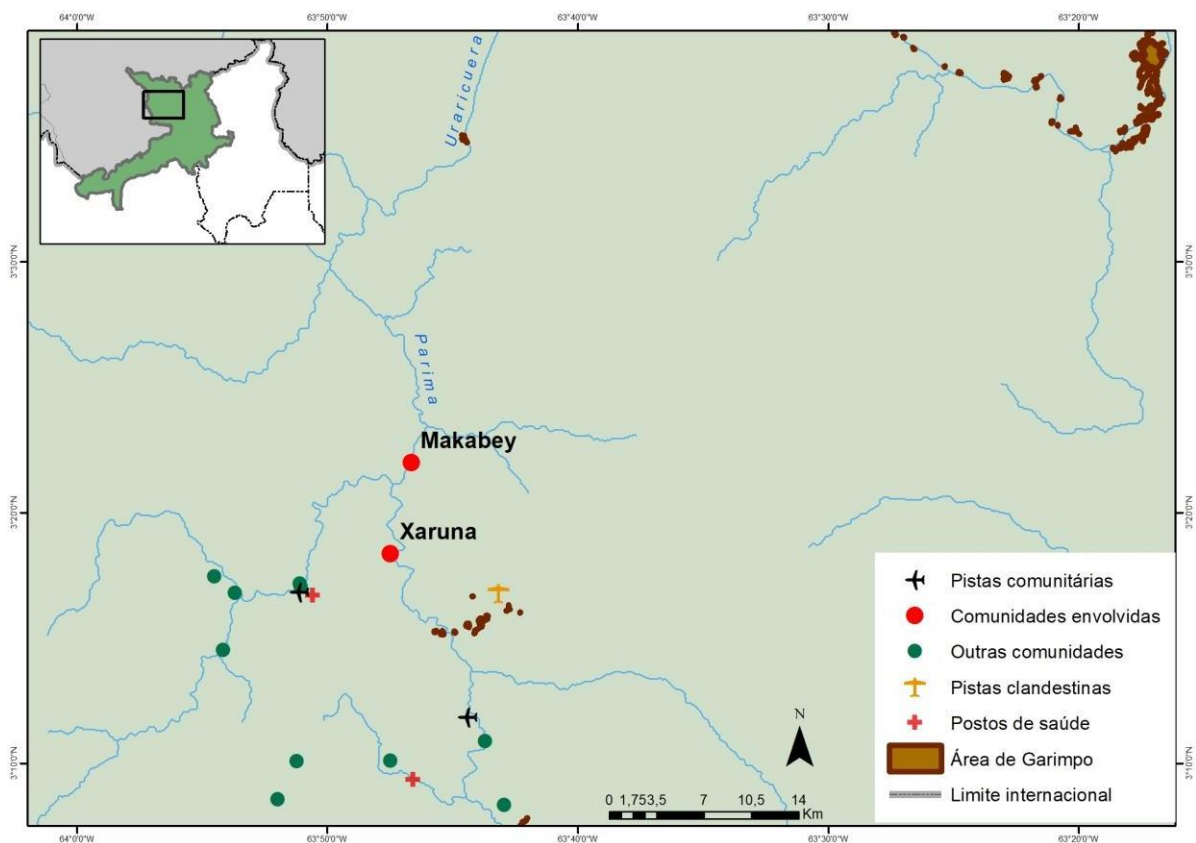
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The murder of two more Yanomami by miners must be rigorously investigated, and reinforces the need for the Brazilian State to act urgently and immediately remove all the miners who are illegally exploiting the Yanomami Territory and harassing and assaulting the indigenous communities who live there.

We call on the authorities to take all necessary measures to stop the mining which continues taking Yanomami lives.

Boa Vista, June 25, 2020.

Map of the region of Parima in the Yanomami Indigenous Territory. Communities and illegal mining areas.





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Transcript of D. Yanomami's account, dated 23 June 2020

Audio 1 -

Dário, I arrived, with my wife, I arrived. I live in Parima. That's how it happened. The miners ...
Dário, I'll explain, I'll make you understand.

I am sad, I was sad. I was sad because there were deaths. They [the Yanomami] ate, everything was fine, but when it was time to return, when they went home, the miners killed them with shotguns. They got scared and killed the two [Yanomami] with pistols. They fell in the forest, they killed them, after that, we residents of Parima wept. Don't think this is a lie. Understood?

Audio 2 –

Two have already died, it is really true that two have already died, I am not lying, they killed us, they made us run and they killed us. There were two who died, it was really two. I'm not lying, I'm telling the truth. Two bodies are hanging from a jirau³, in the forest.

Audio 3 –

Yes brother-in-law, I am D., D. Yanomami, resident of Parima and I've arrived here. I arrived yesterday and I want to send you my words about the dead Yanomami.

The miners are there. In my forest there are a lot of miners, they are gathering in groups and that is why the miners are aggressive towards us. They searched endlessly upstream, and after the gold ran out, they went down the river to our forest. After they arrived in our forest, they grew in number and are spreading to various places. When they got there they killed two Yanomami from my community, Xaruna.

The [Yanomami] went to the prospectors' place, including the two who died. After they arrived there, they ate rice and became friends with the miners. The miners said: Yes! How good it is that our Yanomami friends came from Parima! They cooked rice, fed them and then sent them back: Now that you are satisfied, return to your community!

Despite the miners having done this, when the Yanomami were returning home, one person decided to go back and shoot in the direction of the miners to scare them, thinking that after

³ A suspended wooden structure which the Yanomami build in the forest to allow the body of a dead person to rest until it is ready for cremation.



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they'd run off, we Yanomami will take more rice and bring it back home.

So when the two returned, they fired arrows in the direction of the miners, but after they'd fired the arrows they were afraid. They were afraid. The miners got scared, grabbed their pistols, and killed the Yanomami! Do not doubt it, they really killed a Yanomami. After they killed him, the other Yanomami ran away. He fled on the right trail, but the miners ran after him, and kept on running after him, and when they crossed the trail the miners fired at him again. That's how it really happened. Do you hear me?

I am D. and I am very sad so I am explaining this to you as a leader of the Association. We think, if this keeps happening they will kill us all. They really want to do away with us, that's what we think! They want to kill us all, that's what I think.

So help us! To help us, you from the Association must send in the army, you must send many of them everywhere, so that the miners don't kill us all. They've increased a lot here in the region, they increased a lot! So when you send the document to the authorities, when you help me, I will be satisfied and happy. We are almost crying. What will become of us? How will we live in the forest? They want to burn us, the miners want to kill us all. We are weeping and that's why I'm talking to you, who is a real leader of the Association. Respond to me, answer me. When you listen to me and help me, it will be good. I'm already an adult, I am responsible, that's why I'm talking to you. Do you hear me?