

12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## For the attention of Brazilian Minister of Justice, Sergio Moro

Honourable Minister of Justice,

We, the Right Livelihood Foundation and Survival International, in conjunction with the undersigned Right Livelihood Award Laureates, express our deep concerns about the security of indigenous peoples in Brazil. Many events have come to our attention with regard to persecution and violence faced by human rights and environmental defenders in the country.

In November 2019, volunteers in Pará State were persecuted politically, and flagrantly, by the local Police and Judiciary for their work in protecting the forest against criminal fires in the Alter do Chão region.

Still in Pará, a Munduruku leader had her house invaded and robbed after denouncing illegal mining and the impacts of hydro-electric dams in the Munduruku territory. In Maranhão at the end of 2019, most worryingly, three Guajajara indigenous leaders were cruelly murdered for no reason other than protecting their lands from invasions, illegal logging, and deforestation. Statistics show that 2019 was the most lethal year for indigenous leaders in a decade.

We have also noted with alarm the appointment of Ricardo Lopes Dias as head of the department for isolated and recently contacted tribes at FUNAI. His evangelical past raises grave concerns about the security of isolated tribes from external interference and that he may overturn Brazil's landmark policy of not forcing contact with uncontacted tribes.

In 2019, the Right Livelihood Award was bestowed to Davi Kopenawa Yanomami and the Hutukara Yanomami Association "for their courageous determination to protect the forests and biodiversity of the Amazon, and the lands and culture of its indigenous peoples." Davi has been denouncing illegal mining activities in the Yanomami territory for decades, and yet the situation facing his people is as dire as ever.

In his acceptance speech, Davi spoke of how he and his colleagues are gravely threatened locally in retaliation for his admirable commitment to the rights of indigenous peoples. It has become clear that tension is escalating in his home-State, Roraima, fuelled by the anti-

indigenous speeches of politicians and the organised criminal mining gangs who operate there under an environment of impunity.

We urge the Brazilian authorities, in particular the Ministry of Justice, the National Programme for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, and the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) to urgently fulfil their responsibilities to ensure due protection to human rights and environmental defenders, in respect to the good enforcement of the Law, before any more innocent lives are lost.

In particular, we request that you use your good offices to ensure that:

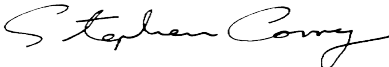
1. The Brazilian government undertakes all institutional measures required to ensure the full security for Davi Kopenawa Yanomami, as an indigenous leader and human rights defender under serious threat, as well as other Hutukara directors and staff;
2. The Brazilian authorities act to remove and prosecute all illegal goldminers and to effectively protect the demarcated Yanomami territory from invasions, especially those connected to illegal mining and deforestation, with due respect to Brazilian law and the Constitution;
3. Urgent measures are taken to protect the uncontacted Yanomami in the Serra da Estrutura region from goldminers operating illegally near their community, including rebuilding and equipping the FUNAI protection post that was closed down in 2017;
4. The rights of indigenous peoples, especially those uncontacted peoples, are respected through the demarcation of their territories as enshrined in the constitution, and the upholding of the "no contact" principle.

Yours respectfully,



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Right Livelihood Award Laureate Signatories:

1. **Angie Zelter/Trident Ploughshares**, United Kingdom, *RLA Laureate 2001*
2. **Juan Pablo Orrego**, Chile, *RLA Laureate 1998*
3. **Paul F. Walker**, USA, *RLA Laureate 2013*
4. **Anwar Fazal**, Malaysia, *RLA Laureate 1982*
5. **Maude Barlow**, Canada, *RLA Laureate 2005*
6. **Sima Samar**, Afghanistan, *RLA Laureate 2012*
7. **András Biró**, Hungary, *RLA Laureate 1995*
8. **Theo van Boven**, Netherlands, *RLA Laureate 1985*
9. **Comissão Pastoral da Terra CPT**, Brazil, *RLA Laureate 1994*
10. **Dipal Barua/Grameen Shakti**, Bangladesh, *RLA Laureate 2007*
11. **Erwin Kraütler**, Brazil, *RLA Laureate 2010*
12. **Tony Rinaudo**, Australia, *RLA Laureate 2018*
13. **David Suzuki**, Canada, *RLA Laureate 2009*
14. **Helen Mack Chang**, Guatemala, *RLA Laureate 1992*
15. **Swami Agnivesh**, India, *RLA Laureate 2004*
16. **GRAIN**, International, *RLA Laureate 2011*
17. **Jacqueline Moudeina**, Chad, *RLA Laureate 2011*
18. **Dr. Sudarshan Hanumappa**, India, *RLA Laureate 1994*
19. **Dr. Ruchama Marton/Physicians for Human Rights-Israel**, Israel, *RLA Laureate 2010*
20. **Aminatou Haidar**, Western Sahara, *RLA Laureate 2019*
21. **Raúl Montenegro**, Argentina, *RLA Laureate 2004*
22. **Festival Internacional de Poesía de Medellín**, Colombia, *RLA Laureate 2006*
23. **Bianca Jagger**, Nicaragua, *RLA Laureate 2004*
24. **Walden Bello**, Philippines, *RLA Laureate 2003*
25. **International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN)**, International, *RLA Laureate 1998*
26. **Yetnebersh Nigussie**, Ethiopia, *RLA Laureate 2017*
27. **Nnimmo Bassey**, Nigeria, *RLA Laureate 2010*
28. **Vandana Shiva**, India, *RLA Laureate 1993*
29. **Seikatsu Club Consumers' Cooperative**, Japan, *RLA Laureate 1989*
30. **Colin Gonsalves**, India, *RLA Laureate 2017*
31. **Suciwati** (Legacy holder of **Munir**), Indonesia, *RLA Laureate 2000*
32. **Neshan Gunasekera** (Legacy holder of **Christopher Weeramantry**), Sri Lanka, *RLA Laureate 2007*
33. **Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais sem Terra (MST)**, Brazil, *RLA Laureate 1991*
34. **Citizens' Nuclear Information Center**, Japan, *RLA Laureate 1997*
35. **Mona Lenzen Abouleish & Andreas Lenzen**, **SEKEM**, Egypt, *RLA Laureate 2003*
36. **Greta Thunberg**, Sweden, *RLA Laureate 2019*