

# Indios Ameaçados em Rondonia

CENTRO DE TRABALHO INDIGENISTA  
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## Fazendeiro promove limpeza de indios para garantir terra em Rondonia

O fazendeiro Hercules Gouveia Dalafini, proprietario da fazenda Modelo, localizada no municipio de Chupinguaia, sul de Rondonia, mandou afugentar a bala um grupo de indios isolados cuja aldeia se localizava em suas terras. Em seguida, ordenou que fossem mascarados todos os vestigios existentes de ocupacao indigena no local. A agressao com armas de fogo consta do relatorio encaminhado pelo chefe da Frente de Contato Guapore da Funai, indigenista Marcelo dos Santos, ao procurador da Republica em Porto Velho, Francisco Marinho.

No documento dirigido ao Ministerio Publico Federal, o indigenista relata que Gouveia Dalafini inicialmente "nao permitiu o ingresso da Funai na fazenda, e depois quis condiciona-lo ao acompanhamento de funcionarios". Marcelo afirma tambem ter constatado que o fazendeiro "determinou que fosse derrubada a mata onde sabia da existencia de uma maloca indigena ocupada". Tal derrubada, explicou o sertanista, foi "efetuada fora de epoca", o que levantou suspeitas quanto a sua intencao de afastar os indios.

Varios depoimentos confirmam que o fazendeiro contratou um empreiteiro para realizar o desmatamento em janeiro, epoca de chuvas na regioao. Segundo relatos, o empreiteiro entrou na aldeia atirando, desmanchou e queimou a maloca, destruiu e consumiu a roca de milho e de abobora. Na ocasioao, tres indios, nus e cabeludos, foram afugentados e perseguidos por toda a extensao das matas da propriedade.

"Como V. Excia. pode verificar, estamos novamente diante de uma situacao-limite, onde os indios isolados vem sendo alvo de todos os tipos de violencia por parte daqueles que, na sua ganancia infinita por terra, se esquecem dos mais elementares direitos constitucionais", disse Marcelo. Ele tambem denunciou que Golveia Dalafini tentou recorrer a Policia Militar para "apreender o material de trabalho da Funai".

A Funai desmascarou as intencoes do proprietario da Fazenda Modelo no dia 13 de setembro, depois que a passagem de um trator de esteira para apagar os vestigios da ocupacao indigena acabou

poupando os restos de uma roca de milho e mamao, bem como sinais de uma maloca mais antiga.

### **Uma tradicao de violencia**

Agressoes de pecuaristas e madeireiros contra grupos indigenas isolados dos municipios de Corumbiara e Chupinguaia vem se repetindo ha mais de dez anos. Em 1984, madeireiros na serraria Chupinguaia, localizada na fazenda Ivipita, comunicaram a Funai que haviam topado com indios que dispararam flechas contra os tratores. Em 1985, na mesma fazenda foram identificadas pequenas rocas e malocas de um grupo isolado e composto de cerca de 25 indios. Naquele ano, Marcelo dos Santos descobriu e denunciou evidencias de um possivel massacre de indios na fazenda pertencente a Junqueira Vilela. Segundo o indigenista, capsulas de balas e um trator de esteira para "concluir o servico" marcavam o cenario da destruicao. O caso nao mereceu, porem, sequer a abertura de um inquerito oficial para apurar os fatos.

Em abril de 1986, a Funai interditou uma area de 60 mil hectares por nove meses, periodo em que os pecuaristas continuaram derrubando matas livremente, dificultando as buscas da Funai. Ao constatar, porem, que os indios nao se encontravam mais naquele momento na fazenda Ivipita, a Funai suspendeu as buscas e a interdicao da area. Marcelo dos Santos prosseguiu com suas investigacoes. Visitou varias vezes a regio, colecionando numerosas referencias aos indios por parte de trabalhadores locais. A partir de 1994, na condicao de chefe da equipe do Departamento de Indios Isolados em Rondonia, passou a sistematizar as buscas.

Resultado: em 3 de setembro do ano passado, a Funai finalmente localizou os primeiros dois indios Kanoé no igarapé Omere, não distante das fazendas São Sebastião de Antenor Duarte e Olga de Alceu Feldman, nas vizinhanças da fazenda Modelo.

Acionada pelo Ministério Público, a Justiça Federal em Porto Velho já havia garantido um mandado de busca nas fazendas para as equipes da Funai. Expediu, então, liminar interditando uma área de 50 mil hectares, com o objetivo de proteger esses indios. O mês de outubro consolidou o contato com os Kanoé e outros sete indios da família Tupari. A interdicão judicial foi ratificada posteriormente pelo Executivo através da Funai.

Em maio último, o cinegrafista Vincent Carelli, que acompanha o caso há dez anos, colheu, junto aos Tupari, depoimento que confirmava a ocorrência de um ataque a bala, durante o qual foram mortos dez indios. Integrantes da comunidade apresentavam sinais visíveis de perturbação psicológica. Levantamentos realizados pela Funai dão conta de que os Kanoé já foram expulsos pelo menos duas vezes de

terras do fazendeiro Almir Lando, na margem esquerda do Omere. As provas descobertas na semana passada nas fazendas Modelo e Bagatoli levam a crer que se trate de um terceiro grupo indigena com características distintas dos demais: eles cavam buracos fundos no meio de suas malocas que, presume-se, sirvam de refugio e marcam as arvores em volta de suas aldeias.

A descoberta dos dois primeiros grupos, no final do ano passado, e a interdicão de parte de algumas fazendas da regio levaram o fazendeiro Hercules Gouveia Dalafini a tentar mascarar os vestigios da presenca indigena em sua fazenda. Os tres indios que viviam no local encontram-se foragidos nas matas e ainda nao foram localizados pela Funai. Eles foram vistos pela ultima vez no final de julho por uma equipe de madeireiros. Acuados e famintos, esses pequenos grupos indigenas isolados tem sido submetidos, nos ultimos dez anos, a um sistematico exterminio por parte de pecuaristas cujo respaldo consiste em ter suas propriedades tituladas pelo Incra. Tais agressoes merecem a imediata abertura de inquerito criminal para apurar fatos e responsabilidades e providencias das autoridades para proteger os indios que devem ter buscado refugio nas fazendas vizinhas.

Sao Paulo, 27/09/96  
Centro de Trabalho Indigenista - CTI  
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Date: Sun, 20 Oct 1996 02:25:31 +0000 (GMT)  
From: Rich Winkel <rich@pencil.math.missouri.edu>  
Subject: Filmmaker Documents Terrorism Against Brazil's Rondonia Indians

### Amazon Rancher Carries Out "Ethnic Cleansing" of Indians to Get Land in Rondonia: Genocide in the Amazon

10/10/96

Filmmaker Vincent Carelli, of the Indigenist Work Center (CTI) in Sao Paulo and Marcelo dos Santos of the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) documented today that a rancher in Xupinaguaia County in Rondonia state in the Brazilian Amazon bulldozed the remains of a village of uncontacted Indians, to erase evidence of the Indians' presence. Before and after aerial photographs of the village site reveal the destruction. The cattle rancher had already clear-cut the forest in the area. This is the most recent piece of evidence in a pattern of killings, terrorism, forced removal and destruction of the

traces of uncontacted Indians over the last decade in Rondonia that the NGO and Santos, a government Indian agent, have brought to light. Indians in Brazil in theory are guaranteed rights to the land they traditionally occupy by the Constitution, and the government is obligated to protect them. This pattern of genocide of uncontacted Indians in Rondonia has yet to be investigated by the police and has gone entirely unpunished by the courts.

In mid-September, FUNAI agents in Rondonia delivered a report to Federal Prosecutor Francisco Marinho, in Porto Velho, Rondonia documenting the expulsion by gunfire of uncontacted Indians from their village. Witnesses attest that the rancher Hercules Golviea Dalafini, of the Modelo ranch in Xupinaguaia county ordered his men to open fire on the surviving members of an uncontacted Indian group to drive them off of land that he claims.

On September 13, a National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) team discovered a clear-cut in the forest on the site of an indigenous garden, where a bulldozer had attempted to extinguish the traces of a wrecked Indian house, and holes dug by the Indians around it. The remains of a garden of corn and papaya were still clear at the site, as were 14 holes and signs of an older house.

Various reports confirm that in January of 1996 the rancher hired a contractor to clear-cut the area in month of January. The contractor entered the village shooting, pulled down and burned the longhouse, and destroyed the garden of corn and squash. On this occasion, three Indians, with long hair and without clothing, fled and were pursued through the forests on the ranch. Later, a bulldozer opened an access road for the deforestation and attempted to cover up the vestiges of the village. That the deforestation was done in January, the height of the rainy season, indicates that the rancher's intent was to destroy evidence of the Indians' presence, since deforestation for cattle pasture or agriculture is done in the dry season.

This type of action by cattle ranchers against isolated Indians in Corumbiara and Xupinaguaia counties has been repeated over the last ten years. In 1984, loggers' trucks were shot with arrows by Indians in vicinity of the Igarape Umere (Umere Creek). In 1985, Marcelo dos Santos reported evidence of a possible massacre of Indians on Mr. Junqueira Vilela's Yvupita ranch. He found the same scenario as last September: houses and gardens destroyed, a bulldozer to finish the job, and bullet shells.

No judicial inquiry was ever opened to establish what had happened. In April 1986, FUNAI interdicted a 60 thousand hectare area for nine months, during which time the cattle ranchers continued clear cutting freely, interfering with FUNAI's attempts to contact the Indians. On

confirming that the Indians were not at the moment on the Yvupita ranch, FUNAI suspended the interdiction of the area, turning it over to the ranches.

Indigenist Marcelo dos Santos, meanwhile, continued his investigations, visiting the region repeatedly, and collecting references to the Indians from local workers. Starting in 1994, as head of the FUNAI department for Isolated Indians in Rondonia, Santos put the search on a more systematic basis.

On September 3, 1995, FUNAI finally located the first two Canoe Indians on the Umere Creek, on the boundaries of Antenor Duarte's Sao Sebastiao ranch, and Alceu Feldman's Olga ranch.

The Federal Court in Porto Velho, at the request of the attorney general's office, had already guaranteed a safe conduct on the ranches for the FUNAI team, to allow the search to go forward, and then issued several court orders interdicting a 50 thousand hectare area in order to protect these Indians. By the end of October, contact was consolidated with the Canoe, and another 7 Indians of the Tupari language family. The judicial interdiction was subsequently ratified by FUNAI.

In May 1996, filmmaker Vincent Carelli, who has documented case since 1986, collected from the Tupari a statement that confirms the occurrence of an armed attack against these Indians ten years ago, in which about ten were killed. The members of both groups show visible signs of psychological disturbance from the violence they have suffered. Anthropological reports attest that the Canoe have been driven away at least twice from the left bank of the Umere Creek (on Mr. Almir Lando's ranch).

The vestiges discovered last week on the Modelo and Bagatolli ranches suggest that the group in question is a third group, with different characteristics from the others: they dig deep holes in the middle of their longhouses and mark the trees around their villages.

The discovery of the first two groups in 1995, and the interdiction of parts of some the ranches in the area appear to have moved rancher Dalfini to a desperate attempt to wipe out the vestiges of indigenous presence on his ranch. The three Indians who lived in the area have fled into forest. The FUNAI team sighted one man last month, while he was collecting wild honey.

The World Bank has financed development projects in the region over the last decade that include indigenous protection components. The most recent of these, Planaflo, finances the FUNAI contact teams. World Bank involvement, and the government's contractual

obligations to carry out Indian protection, has been insufficient to prevent the extermination of the Indians of the Umere Creek. In September of 1995, days before Santos made the first contact with the survivors, a UNDP consultant to the Bank project vigorously attempted to convince the new President of FUNAI to cancel the isolated Indians subcomponent of the project, arguing that there were no more uncontacted Indians in the state.

Frightened and famished, these small isolated indigenous groups have been submitted over the last decade to a process of ethnic cleansing by the cattle ranchers. The pattern of terroristic expulsions, evidence of killings, and destruction of the Indians' homes and means of subsistence, coupled with complete judicial impunity for the perpetrators indicate that the genocide of these Indians is commonplace and accepted in the region.

**PLEASE WRITE, FAX OR EMAIL**

Imo. Sr. Nelson Jobim Ministro da Justica Esplanada dos Ministerios  
Bl. T Brasilia DF 70064-900 Brasil fax 55-61-2242448 email:  
njobim@ax.apc.org

Request that the Minister ensure a thorough police investigation of the events and that the responsible parties be held judicially accountable for their actions. Also request that the Minister instruct FUNAI to fully protect the land of the Indians of Igarape Umere immediately.

*Please Write:*

Ilmo. Dr. Julier Sebastiao da Silva Av. Presidente Dutra 2203 Justica  
Federal Centro 78.900-970 Porto Velho, Rondonia Brasil

Request that in light of the urgent situation, the judge approve the judicial interdiction of the territory of the Indians of Igarape Umere, and that he open an investigation and ensure its conclusion.

*For further information contact:*

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This material came from PeaceNet, a non-profit progressive networking service. For more information, send a message to [peacenet-info@igc.apc.org](mailto:peacenet-info@igc.apc.org)