



**RAINFORREST**  
FOUNDATION



*Conselho Indígena de Roraima*  
*Rainforest Foundation US*

*Forest Peoples Programme*  
*Indigenous Peoples Law & Policy Program,*  
*the University of Arizona*

---

18 January 2008

Ms. Nathalie Prouvez, Secretary  
United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination  
Treaties and Commission Branch  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
UNOG-OHCHR  
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

**RE: Update and Request for the Adoption of a Decision under the  
Committee's Follow-Up and Early-Warning and Urgent Procedures  
Concerning the Situation of Indigenous Peoples in Roraima State, Brazil  
(72nd Session)**

Dear Ms. Prouvez:

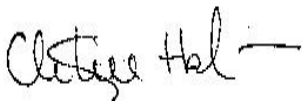
On behalf of the Conselho Indígena de Roraima (Indigenous Council of Roraima - CIR), representing the Macuxi, Wapichana, Taurepang, Ingaricó and Patamona peoples of Raposa Serra do Sol (RSS) indigenous land in the state of Roraima, Brazil; the Indigenous Law and Policy Program of the University of Arizona; the Rainforest Foundation US, and the Forest Peoples Programme ("the Submitting Organizations"), we wish to transmit to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination ("the Committee") an update on the situation in RSS for consideration during the upcoming session on 18 February – 7 March 2008.

The attached update provides information on events that have transpired since the Committee's last review of the situation in July, and concludes with a brief description of a troubling incident that just took place on 12 January, the consequences of which are still unfolding. Without a doubt, this latest occurrence serves as a perfect illustration of the problems arising from the permanence of non-indigenous occupants in the area; persistent racism;

discriminatory law enforcement, and threats of violence against indigenous inhabitants of RSS. Overall the lack of commitment and diligence of the State with regard to RSS is further entrenching racial discrimination in the area and making the situation unbearable for the indigenous peoples. For these reasons, this update also contains a request that the Committee not only considers this new information in light of its past observations, recommendations and the responses of Brazil, but also adopts a decision affirming that Brazil has violated the rights of the indigenous peoples of RSS as affirmed in the Convention on the Elimination on All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The update further requests that, consistent with its communication of August 2007, the Committee issue strong recommendations within this decision as to the immediate actions which the State can take to remedy past violations and prevent serious imminent violations.

If the Secretary or Committee members require any additional information that is not contained in the attached communication, please do not hesitate to notify the undersigned.

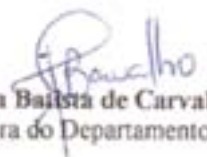
With great respect and appreciation for your work,



Christine Halvorson  
Program Director  
Rainforest Foundation US  
Tel: 001 212 431 9098  
[christineh@rffny.org](mailto:christineh@rffny.org)



Vanessa Jiménez, Attorney  
Legal & Human Rights Programme  
Forest Peoples Programme  
Tel: 001 703 875 0360  
[vjimenez342@hotmail.com](mailto:vjimenez342@hotmail.com)



Joenia Baísta de Carvalho  
Coordenadora do Departamento Jurídico

Conselho Indígena de Roraima  
Tel: + 55 95 3224-5761  
[cirjuri@terra.com.br](mailto:cirjuri@terra.com.br)



Erika M. Yamada  
Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy  
Program, University of Arizona  
Tel: 001 520 626 0300  
[erimagamiyamada@gmail.com](mailto:erimagamiyamada@gmail.com)

## **Update and request for the adoption of a decision regarding the Situation of Indigenous Peoples in Raposa Serra do Sol, Roraima State, Brazil**

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (“Committee” or “CERD”) has been actively engaged with the situation of the Macuxi, Wapichana, Taurepang, Ingaricó and Patamona peoples of Raposa Serra do Sol (RSS) indigenous land in the state of Roraima, Brazil, since the Submitting Organizations first requested the Committee’s consideration in June of 2006 making it aware of the threats to the physical, cultural and territorial integrity of the indigenous peoples of RSS. These threats arise from the State’s failure to remove non-indigenous occupants from their land, to provide security to its indigenous residents, and to impede the promotion of laws, projects and activities prejudicing their rights and causing irreparable harm to their lives, lands, and resources.

2. Since then this Committee has issued three communications to the Brazilian State (18 August 2006, 14 March 2007, 24 August 2007) and requested its presence in Geneva during its 71st session held in July/August of 2007. In August CERD requested that by 30 November 2007 the State provide it with further information on the measures it is taking to redress the situation. The State has so far failed to respond to the Committee’s request for further information. In its last communication, CERD also recommended that the State complete the “final and total removal of all illegal non-indigenous occupants”; implement measures for security; investigate and prosecute perpetrators of violence and those “responsible for the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred”; provide reparations to the indigenous of RSS for “the illegal use of their lands and the environmental damage suffered”, and take measure to increase tolerance and prevent discrimination.

3. As described in greater detail below, the State has failed to take a single effective measure to carry out CERD’s recommendations and as a result the situation in RSS has become even more dangerous for the indigenous peoples living therein – including several indigenous leaders who have since received death threats. The removal of non-indigenous occupants – including large-scale and hostile rice growers – has not occurred. The occasional and biased presence of authorities and particularly of the Federal Police in RSS (the body responsible by law but not in practice for guaranteeing the security of the indigenous land) has not provided security to indigenous communities, who have been subjected to discriminatory treatment. On the contrary, indigenous leaders have been sued and even arrested when trying to protect their families, stand for their rights, or even address their situation to the Federal Police. (This is particularly demonstrated by the incident of 12 January described at the conclusion of this report).

4. This month the State publicly announced there was no set date for the removals.<sup>1</sup> Unfounded rumors of imminent removals and repeated State failures to follow through with removal notices have only raised tensions and an expectation of violence in the area. With great confidence and an understandable sense of impunity, non-indigenous occupants (many who have already received compensation) have refused to leave and many are preparing for the new planting seasons in March and April. Some are selling their lands to large rice growers and have even rented portions of their homesteads to the newest invaders of RSS – the *garimpeiros* (miners).

---

<sup>1</sup> Federal Government official’s statement published in the *Folha de Boa Vista* newspaper, (4 January 2007).

The municipal and proposed national laws that prejudice the rights of the indigenous in RSS have not been dealt with adequately by the State and most recently another Senate committee authorized the construction of a hydro power plant on the Cotingo River in Roraima, in an area including the demarcated and titled RSS lands.

***5. For these reasons, the Submitting Organizations respectfully request that this Committee, consistent with its follow-up and early-warning and urgent procedures, adopt a decision clarifying that Brazil has violated the rights affirmed in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (“Convention”) and calling upon the State to take immediate actions to fully remedy the situation.***

#### **Update on Events and Conditions since the Committee’s last Review of RSS**

6. The following information demonstrates why demarcation and titling is only the first step to guaranteeing the physical, cultural, and territorial integrity of the indigenous peoples of Brazil. As evidenced by the on-going situation in RSS, absent state protection and enforcement of these rights through the removal of illegal occupants, investigation and sanctioning of perpetrators of violence and instigators of racial discrimination and hatred, and reparations for damages done, indigenous peoples will not be able to effectively enjoy the human rights that are affirmed in the Convention, particularly those of Article 5.

#### **I. Violence remains unsanctioned and threats to the lives and livelihoods of indigenous leaders and families continue.**

7. The security situation in RSS has deteriorated since this Committee’s last review in July 2007, and the Submitting Organizations are greatly concerned for the lives and physical integrity of many of the indigenous leaders that are at the forefront of the defense of the rights of their people. In addition to the disturbing recent events of 12 January described in paragraphs 16-19 below, over the past month, indigenous leaders from three of the regions in RSS have received death threats. Such threats are passed by word of mouth and are taken seriously, as in the past similar threats were acted upon in attacks against indigenous leaders and facilities of indigenous organizations. The recent threats have included death threats and threats of violence against their persons and destruction of community infrastructure. Coordinators of the Conselho Indígena de Roraima (CIR) (one of the Submitting Organizations) and CIR’s lawyer, Joenia Wapichana, have received a number of threatening phone calls whose time and content have been sufficiently suspicious to warrant that they change their telephone numbers, be increasingly vigilant and take extra security measures. In addition to these threats, indigenous leaders Nelino Galé, tuxaua (leader) of Homologação and the Regional Coordinator for CIR in the Baixo Cotingo region of RSS, and Junior Constantino, tuxaua of Jawari, also in Baixo Cotingo, are also being targeted with wrongful accusations that they were responsible for the burning of five houses belonging to indigenous people opposing the removal. The indigenous peoples of RSS have reason to believe that the rice growers and their employees are responsible for the burning of these houses – a tactic used to foment conflict and incite racial hatreds and divisions among indigenous peoples as well. Additionally, Walter de Oliveira, CIR’s Regional Coordinator for the Surumú Region

within RSS has begun receiving death threats, also by word of mouth. <sup>2</sup> Protecting the lives of these defenders of human rights is our highest priority. We ask the Committee for their assistance. Their physical security cannot be compromised because of their support for their community and for CIR's involvement in local, national and international actions to protect their peoples' rights.

8. CIR has also received more reports of indigenous individuals and families having their lives and livelihoods threatened. In November, Jair Cunha and his family had to leave the Homologação indigenous community fearing threats and discrimination by non-indigenous occupant Raimundo Cardoso Sobrinho. Similarly, the non-indigenous employee of Fazenda Sao José, known as Coronel Wilson, is threatening indigenous families in that area, and rice farmer Ivalcir Centenaro prohibited indigenous people from fishing or hunting near his occupation and is building fences to limit the transit of indigenous peoples in RSS. Indigenous communities of Cantão and Canta Galo are also being prevented from fishing and hunting on their lands. To clarify, these restrictions and impediments to carrying out traditional subsistence activities are occurring in areas that are within the demarcated and titled RSS lands. During the same month six soldiers from the Federal military unit stole a cow from the indigenous community of Pedra Branca. Despite a confession of the crime and witnesses, the case was closed by Ministerio Público Federal alleging lack of proof.<sup>3</sup>

9. Despite the Committee's requests as well as those of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights,<sup>4</sup> no new investigations or sanctioning of perpetrators of violence and instigators of racial hatred have been pursued or announced. This is not a resource issue but one of political will. To illustrate, recently the assets of Paulo Cesar Quartiero were frozen by the national government. The Committee is familiar with this ex-mayor of Pacaraima as he has been cited in prior reports to this body because of the four unexecuted warrants for his arrest for his alleged involvement in the November 2004 raids on four indigenous communities in RSS and his involvement in the attacks of June and July of 2007.<sup>5</sup> This action was taken not because of Mr.

---

<sup>2</sup> As the Committee might recall, Surumú is where 150 armed and hooded individuals attacked in 2005, burning a school and church, and is one of the areas particularly affected by the Pacaraima municipal laws. It was also the site of the last CIR General Assembly, where indigenous participants were not protected by federal police, were harassed by non-indigenous individuals, and one indigenous security guard was brutally beaten.

<sup>3</sup> Also, on 13 November, Dobercio Mendez, a Macuxi indigenous leader from Macaco community, fell victim to the drunken rage of a non-indigenous occupant in Vila Normandia. (Vila Normandia is an area that is a part of the traditional territory of the indigenous of Raposa but was excluded from the ratification and titling of RSS. This incident only demonstrates the problem that the indigenous peoples have had with securing protections for their people and controlling their territory – in particular the continued entrance and sale of alcohol by illegal settlers which causes strains on the community and families and feeds conflict between residents. This is a prominent problem in areas where non-indigenous people still occupy RSS.

<sup>4</sup> Precautionary Measures issued by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on 6 December 2004 and reaffirmed during the hearing of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007 calling the State to: 1. Protect the life and personal integrity of the members of the Ingaricó, Macuxi, Patamona, Taurepang and Wapichana indigenous peoples, respecting their cultural identity and their special relationship with their ancestral lands. 2. Assure that the beneficiaries can continue to live in their communities without any type of aggression, coercion or threat. 3. Abstain from illegally restricting the right of free circulation of the members of the Ingaricó, Macuxi, Patamona, Taurepang and Wapichana indigenous peoples. 4. Investigate seriously and exhaustively the facts which led to the request for precautionary measures.

<sup>5</sup> As described in earlier communications to the Committee, on 17 June indigenous traditional leader from the Barro community, Anselmo Dionisio Filho, was followed and intimidated by a white car (L200) and 4 passengers filming

Quartiero's probable involvement in attacks upon and instigations of violence and racial hatred against indigenous peoples, but because of administrative actions related to a charge of fraud and mishandling of funds while he was a mayor. This measure itself shows that where there is a will, there is a way to sanction, but when it comes to protecting indigenous peoples, the State is not exerting any will. This further evidences the discriminatory application of the rule of law in Brazil as it applies to indigenous peoples.

## **II. No removal date is planned and illegal occupants resist compensation and removal, seeking to expand their economic activities**

10. In September 2007, the Federal Government suspended its work to determine compensation for the smaller non-indigenous occupants and carry out their removal. The government alleged that it was now making the removal of the rice growers a priority.<sup>6</sup> The results of this announcement have been unremarkable. There is no new date for the removal of the rice growers in RSS, and the smaller occupants are also still there.<sup>7</sup> Approximately 53 illegal, non-indigenous occupations remain within RSS. In December, because of pressure from indigenous communities themselves, FUNAI published a new list of 12 occupants to receive compensation and leave RSS sometime between January and March 2008<sup>8</sup>; none of these 12 includes the rice growers. In addition, FUNAI, appears to have no plan to actually enforce these and previous removals.

11. CIR has received reports from indigenous communities that at least one illegal occupant who has already received compensation and has refused to move, has enlarged his house, and is renting that space to a *garimpeiro* that has come to RSS along with others now interested in exploiting minerals along the Maú River. This same occupant has boldly asked the Government to compensate him for this addition to his property. This is not an isolated incident. Even if areas such as these are relatively small areas, these occupants still cause major problems among the indigenous communities: they have been providing support and shelter to *garimpeiros*; bringing further non-indigenous people to the area; encouraging the use of alcohol which foments social disruption in the communities; and lately, CIR has received reports of smaller landowners negotiating to sell their parcels to rice growers. For instance, the Fazenda Sao José is being negotiated with former mayor Quartiero (mentioned above). The rice growers are

---

his every move on the road accessing RSS and Uiramutã. Indigenous leader asked them to leave but the car kept following him. Among the occupants of the white car were the most vocal opponents to RSS indigenous people: Congressman Marcio Junqueira and rice grower Paulo Cesar Quartiero. Later the same day, Mr. Quartiero and Anisio Pedrosa entered the Parawani settlement area in the same white car followed by another vehicle loaded with 30 hooded armed men who encircled the 6 indigenous adults and 1 child who were there. The attackers shot bullets into the air, destroyed many of the few belongings of the indigenous people, and then sequestered the indigenous people on a truck, carried them to another location, and threatened them with death if they returned to the settlement. Then on 21 June, indigenous men Heliomar Gomes de Souza, Lindomar Lauro Brasil, and Histarley Souza faced threats by the same white car and gun shots by hooded men on the main bridge of access to RSS, while traveling from Surumu to Canta Galo community.

<sup>6</sup> Minutes from the September 2007 CIR Executive Committee Meeting (Reunião Ampliada).

<sup>7</sup> In early January one of many repeated reports and occasional rumors regarding imminent removals surfaced. In response, on January 4, a senior federal government representative is quoted in the local *Folha de Boa Vista* newspaper as saying that no federal removal of rice growers will be taking place in January and that there is "no date set" for carrying out such removals. *Folha de Boa Vista* newspaper, (4 January 2007).

<sup>8</sup> Document from FUNAI, Ofício n. 074/CP/PORT n. 1.233/PRESS/07, (21 December 2007).

preparing for another planting season in March and April, and moving to expand their cultivations.<sup>9</sup>

12. Considering that in a March 2007 hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Brazil stated that rice growers would be impeded from planting new crops in 2007 and that removal was imminent, the Government of Brazil's inaction and incompetence are one year older. As a result, non-indigenous occupants feel more powerful and the indigenous peoples continue in their suffering.

### **III. Municipal laws of Pacaraima remain in effect, proposed national laws to limit constitutional protections for indigenous peoples continue unchecked, and a new threat arises in the form of a hydro power plant.**

13. Continuing legislative activity at the local and national level indicates that the State has not made people aware of the rights of indigenous peoples living in RSS and throughout Brazil and has not exerted any authority to guarantee those rights through enforcement. In fact, these ongoing activities demonstrate that those who oppose the rights of the indigenous peoples in RSS (or elsewhere) feel neither impeded by the protections affirmed in the national laws of Brazil, nor do they fear any imposition of State sanctions or restrictions on efforts they undertake which will harm the indigenous peoples of Brazil.

14. The municipal laws of Pacaraima (Laws No. 110/2006 and No. 111/2006) discussed in earlier communications to this Committee remain in effect. There has been no Court decision or State action which has clearly resulted in the whole or partial repeal of the same or cessation of implementation of these laws. These laws continue to be formally in effect and continue to impact the rights of the indigenous peoples of RSS. The law's newly created "Surumú District" within RSS, still exists and an association of non-indigenous inhabitants of Surumú District was recently created to oppose CIR and the indigenous peoples. The association's headquarters is located in the former police unit within Surumú upon decision of the imposed municipal administrator of the area.

15. Efforts at the national level to adopt a proposed federal law (PLP 260-90) which would undermine the constitutional protections for indigenous lands still has significant support within the national legislature and continues to be a threat to the rights affirmed by Brazil's constitution and federal laws. In fact, since the Supreme Federal Court overturned its prior decision to enjoin the removal of certain rice growers from RSS, the rice growers and their political supporters have increased pressure on Congress. They seek a legislative fix in their favor. This is simply another example of the power of these anti-indigenous influences and their alliances in Congress. This sector remains powerful in the absence of a clear message being sent by the State regarding the importance of the rights of indigenous peoples within its borders and Brazil's compliance with its international obligations under the Convention and other international laws.

---

<sup>9</sup> Rice grower and former Mayor of Pacaraima, Mr. Quartiero, affirmed to a major Brazilian newspaper that rice production will be increased by 20% and that he is confident that the demarcation of the indigenous land RSS will be overturned in the Federal Supreme Court. *Folha de Sao Paulo* newspaper, (29 December 2007).

Most recently, a new threat looms large. In January the Senate's Commission on the Environment and Sustainable Development approved a bill proposed by Senator Mozarildo Cavalcanti of Roraima (PDC 2540/06) authorizing the construction of a hydro power plant on the Cotingo River in Roraima, in RSS. This approval supplements the one provided on 15 August 2007 by the congressional Commission for Amazonia, National Integration and Regional Development. Still to date, and contrary to the rights affirmed in the Convention, no consultation or consent from the indigenous peoples concerned has been sought. Many still believe it is just an attempt to eventually require the removal of indigenous peoples from the area.

### **Concluding remarks**

16. An incident took place on January 12<sup>th</sup> which serves as a perfect illustration of the problems that persist due to the permanence of non-indigenous occupants in RSS; lack of enforcement of indigenous rights by the State; and entrenched racism. We conclude this update with a brief description of this event, because it so well demonstrates the worsening human rights situation in RSS, as well as the necessity for greater State action.

17. On January 12, 2008, a group of indigenous leaders from communities near Lake Caracaranã placed a monitoring barrier and post on the BR433 road – both within RSS – in order to inform visitors that the area is demarcated indigenous land and to tell them not to litter.<sup>10</sup> Lake Caracaranã is sacred to the indigenous peoples of the area, but it has also become an important tourist attraction, attracting visitors from Boa Vista, Manaus, and beyond. According to the communities, visitors throw their garbage – cachaça bottles and beer cans, used diapers and wrappers – on the sides of the road and near the lake; speed along the road; and curse and otherwise disrespect the communities as they go through. A non-indigenous occupant, Joaquim Correia, lays claim to an area along the road. Despite having received compensation as determined by the Supreme Court and having been paid by FUNAI, he remains in the area taking advantage of and encouraging the tourist trade. The presence of non-indigenous occupants such as Correia and the free access of tourists to the region led community members to take non-violent action by setting up the barrier and monitoring post.

18. In 12 January, one of the visitors stopped at the barrier was apparently an army official visiting the lake<sup>11</sup>. The official became so enraged with the community action that he pulled a gun on Tuxaua Clodomir Malheiro,<sup>12</sup> a respected community leader and CIR Regional Coordinator of the Raposa region. A scuffle ensued. When the Federal Police returned later to investigate, the group who had set up the monitoring post willingly went to meet with them, believing they could offer important testimony to clarify what occurred and the peaceful purpose of their actions. Instead of taking down the indigenous peoples' testimony as they had with the non-indigenous occupants, the Federal Police treated the community members like criminals.

---

<sup>10</sup> This was a community initiative, but people from CIR's Vigilance Program were there to provide support. This CIR program used to receive support from PPTAL and was done in partnership with FUNAI. This support has ended and the program is operating merely through CIR's minimal resources.

<sup>11</sup> The *Folha de Boa Vista* identifies him as a police officer, "LAGO CARACARANÃ -Índios fecham rodovia e ferem militar," (14 January 2008).

<sup>12</sup> Testimony given to the police by Clodomir Malheiro on January 12, 2008, Police Report IPF (December 2008). Corroborated by other eyewitness accounts.

They frisked all of them. Finding a few bullets in Clodomir Malheiro's pocket, they subsequently asked a community member to go to Malheiro's house to find his weapon – which was not on him.<sup>13</sup> Clodomir was publicly handcuffed, thrown on the ground, kicked and humiliated, and his pants were torn off to the applause of non-indigenous observers<sup>14</sup>. He was then arrested for possession of a weapon (which was in fact found in his house). Tuxaua Clodomir was held overnight and subsequently released with remaining charges for the possession of a weapon. CIR is unaware of any investigations into the actions of the official who actually pulled a gun on people. All the indigenous involved in the monitoring were subsequently taken to the police station in Boa Vista, being treated like criminals on their own land. Federal Police taking these community members to the station threatened them and called them names, demonstrating their ingrained racism and their complete disdain and disregard for indigenous peoples and their rights.<sup>15</sup> Reports in the local press and statements made by politicians have distorted the events, further stirring up anti-indigenous sentiment in Roraima<sup>16</sup>.

19. We conclude this report with this incident, as it demonstrates the tensions flourishing due to the failure of the State to implement this Committee's recommendations and complete the "final and total removal of all illegal non-indigenous occupants"; implement measures for security; investigate and prosecute perpetrators of violence and those "responsible for the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred"; provide reparations to the indigenous of RSS for "the illegal use of their lands and the environmental damage suffered", and take measure to increase tolerance and prevent discrimination.

20. In closing it should be highlighted that since the Submitting Organization's last communications with the Committee, the State has rebuffed numerous attempts by CIR to engage in dialogue and address renewed violence in the area. It has also not consulted with CIR regarding plans to peacefully remove the non-indigenous occupants from RSS. To this end, CIR has written several letters to the Government, all of which have gone unanswered.<sup>17</sup> In the

---

<sup>13</sup> Report filed by Jankiel de Campos, Anthropologist with the Ministerio Público Federal (MPF), who accompanied the Federal Police. Relatório no. 01/2008, Perícia Antropológica/MPF-PR/RR (14 January 2008).

<sup>14</sup> MPF Report (14 January 2008).

<sup>15</sup> Report written by Gercimar Morais Malheiro, Tuxaua Clodomir's son and employee of CIR's Vigilance Program. He participated in the barrier and was taken for questioning to the police station. The report states that the Federal Policeman who took him in said "he even has a credit card – how can you be an Indian and drive a truck? How come you're not naked, if you're an Indian?", and threatened him "if you'd stopped me, do you know where you'd be? In hell! I'd have shot your head full of bullets." "Á Serviço da Minha Terra, Trazido Como Preso Pela Policia Federal", 13 January, 2008.

<sup>16</sup> Folha de Boa Vista, 14 & 15 January 2008.

<sup>17</sup> Letter from CIR to FUNAI regarding the participation of indigenous peoples on the preparation of the removals and request for security measures to ensure the integrity of the indigenous peoples (8 March 2007); Letter from Rainforest Foundation, University of Arizona and Forest Peoples Programme to the President of Brazil supporting CIR's request for urgent security measures in RSS (31 May & 19 June 2007); Letter from CIR to FUNAI requesting urgent security measures after the attack by 30 hooded men (18 June 2007); Letter from CIR to Ministerio Publico and Federal Police in Roraima regarding the attacks in the Paruwani indigenous community and threats by Marcio Junqueira and Paulo Quartiero (19 June 2007); Meeting with the Federal Government and the different indigenous organizations from RSS regarding a peace settlement before removals of non-indigenous occupants (18 August 2007); Letter from CIR to FUNAI and Ministry of Justice informing on conflicts perpetrated by non-indigenous occupants against indigenous communities of Baixo Cotingo region of RSS (5 December 2007); Letter from CIR to Ministerio Publico Federal in Roraima, regarding threats and violence against an indigenous family and involving the military police in RSS (5 December 2007).

meantime, the State's actions and omissions have cursed the indigenous peoples of Raposa Serra do Sol to reside among and encircled by hostile neighbors who are irreparably damaging their lands, causing them to live in fear, and depriving them of the control and means to provide for their families. For these reasons, the Submitting Organizations respectfully reiterate their request that this Committee adopt a decision on this case affirming that Brazil has violated the Convention and calling upon it to take immediate actions to bring an end to these violations.