



Federación por la  
**Autodeterminación**  
de los **Pueblos Indígenas**

Personería Jurídica  
Decreto Poder Ejecutivo Nro. 5084 /10

## STATEMENT FROM FAPI

### **FAPI condemns the violent death of the spiritual leader of the Yvy Pyte community and demands concrete responses from the State to protect ancestral and legalised lands.**

The Federation for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples (FAPI), which represents 13 indigenous groups across Paraguay, vehemently condemns the violent death of Mr. Arnaldo Benítez Vargas, the spiritual leader of the Yvy Pyte community in Cerro Corá, Amambay, on Sunday 22 October 2023. His murder was carried out by individuals acting on behalf of those encroaching upon the Yvy Pyte community's lands.

We call upon the Paraguayan government to investigate this killing and to utilise all available resources to safeguard the community's ancestral and legally recognised lands, which are now being claimed by third parties in bad faith, manipulating national authorities, as reported by community members.

It should also be noted that explicit death threats continue to be made against the other leaders of Yvy Pyte and, therefore, they are also at high risk. The national government should put measures in place to protect them from all potential harm.

The Yvy Pyte community and its members from the Pai Tavytera tribe have faced continuous violence for a long time. Supported by citizens and advisers, they are steadfastly defending their sacred lands, previously ratified by the Paraguayan government but now challenged by deceitful legal manoeuvres aiming to undermine their land rights.

This year, numerous national and international entities have pledged their support to the community's defence of their land, which fundamentally champions human rights, spiritual values, and environmental protection.

Yet, the escalating violence, persecution, and the state's inadequate response have culminated in the violent killing of one of the community's key figures, its spiritual leader.

We stand in solidarity with our brothers of the Pai Tavytera people and demand unrestricted respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples.