

Statement by the Chief Ladio Veron on the latest happenings in the Takuara village and about the goals of his trip to Europe

REPORT of attack on TAKUARA VILLAGE on MARCH 25, 2017
Yesterday (March 25, 2017), on my first night in Greece, arriving from Spain, and during my meeting with the fellows who received me in Tessalonika, at 7:43pm (Greece local time), I have received the tip that in the Takuara village (Juti municipality, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil), two helicopters flew ostensibly the region, one of which would have landed, and that heavily armed and hooded men walked the area and addressed a young indigenous lady, intimidating her and announcing that they were going to “wipe the Takuara” throughout the day.

In Brazil and throughout the world, in a few hours, the complaint was relayed to attorneys, political organizations, social movements, and activists. Many supporters of the Guarani Kaiowá people have mobilized to collect from Brazilian federal authorities clarification and ask for immediate action.

Due to the enormous difficulties of communication by telephone or internet in the villages, I couldn't talk directly to my family members until 10:49pm (Greece local time). Being so far away from my people along this trip brings me apprehension and suffering; I would like to know, all the time, about my people's situation in all the villages, but, unfortunately, today it appears impossible. After spending hours of despair, it was reassuring to know that my mother and other indigenous residents of Takuara were fine. Now, I and the 73 families from the Takuara village denounce this kind of intimidation and human rights violation. We want to know who sent the helicopters and what are the reasons. Also, we call on all supporters to build an infrastructure that will allow us to register and disclose any violation of human rights in Takuara and in other territories inhabited by the Guarani Kaiowá in Mato Grosso do Sul.

The lack of a minimum infrastructure in indigenous territories to register and report any event is one of the factors that allows the abuse of power and impunity of the perpetrators of these abuses. The permanent violations against the Guarani Kaiowá people, often denounced in social networks without the proper documentary record that would offer a reliable register of the facts, could be easily distorted or even disqualified. For now, what I can say is that the ostensible helicopters overflying the Takuara territory without any prior communication to indigenous is a very serious and unacceptable fact, that needs to be investigated urgently. Furthermore, we received reports that one of the helicopters has landed, followed by intimidation and threats of eviction. Another aggravating factor is that *some news and versions* claimed that the violence was even worse, and that the aircrafts belong to the military. This needs to be clarified.

In 2007, the Brazilian State ratified the Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples from the United Nations (UN). This document established a list of principles, including “*the right to free political determination, with legal and political institutions, in order to establish one’s belonging to an indigenous nation.*” Concerning the relationship between military institutions of a nation and indigenous peoples, the Declaration establishes in its 30th article:

1. Do not develop military activities in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples, unless justified by a relevant public interest, or by free request from the indigenous peoples concerned.

2. Each member State shall conclude effective consultations with the indigenous peoples concerned, for the appropriate procedures and, in particular, with their representative institutions, prior to using their lands or territories for military activities.

As we can notice, even a military exercise in the absence of any prior communication from the State to the Guarani Kaiowá living in Takuara, configures itself an illegality. What to say, so, about the other complaints?

OBJECTIVES OF THE EUROPEAN TOUR

I’m in Europe as a speaker elected at the Aty Guasu (Guarani Kaiowa Big Assembly) that occurred last February. My mission is to represent the Guarani Kaiowa People to:

- a) Denounce the unworthy situation to which we have been subjected for decades, due to the growing power of agribusiness and the participation of capitalist groups in the implementation of policies that are harmful to the environment and opposed to the Guarani Kaiowa people, as well as to indigenous peoples in general;
- b) Denounce the privatization project of the Guarani Aquifer and its terrible consequences;
- c) Consolidate an international support network able to strengthen our resistance.

From Tesselonika I thank the solidarity of all those who do not bypass the massacre we face and are willing to fight this fight with us, shoulder to shoulder, in defense of human rights and in respect to the Guarani Kaiowá people’s desire of self-determination. Right now, we need your support to keep charging Brazilian federal authorities to investigate these complaints, position themselves officially, and undertake to not allow further violations.

Ladio Veron, representative of the Guarani Kaiowá Aty Guasu^[1]

Source: <http://www.midiamax.com.br/cotidiano/indios-relatam-sobrevoo-helicoptero-ameaca-encapuzados-acampamento-335947>

Source: https://pib.socioambiental.org/files/file/PIB_institucional/DECLARACAO_DA_S_NACOES_UNIDAS SOBRE_OS_DIREITOS_DOS_POVOS_INDiGENAS.pdf

Atenciosamente, Christina Gonzalez

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