

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

DECLARATION BY THE INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATIONS OF THE VENEZUELAN STATE OF AMAZONAS (COIAM) on the recent MASSACRE OF YANOMAMI INDIGENOUS PEOPLE in the Community of IROTATHERI committed by illegal Brazilian miners

On August 27th 2012, gathered in the City of Puerto Ayacucho, we the Indigenous peoples and communities of the Venezuelan Amazon together as the Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon (COIAM), made up of the **Regional Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon (ORPIA)**, the **Indigenous Organization United Piaroa of Sipapo (OIPUS)**, the **Ye'kuana Organization of the Upper Ventuari (KUYUNU)**, the **Indigenous Organization Jivi Kalievirrinae (OPIJKA)**, the **Yanomami Organization (HORONAMI)**, the **Organization of Indigenous Women of the Amazon (OMIDA)**, the **Organization of Indigenous Huôtтуja Communities of the Parhuaza Sector (OCIUSPA)**, the **Association of Piaroa Teachers (Madoya Huarijja)**, the **Piaroa Organization of Cataniapo "Reyö Aje"**, the **Indigenous Organization of the Negro River (UCIABYRN)**, the **Piaroa Organization of Manapiare**, the **Ye'kuana Organization of the Upper Orinoco (KUYUJANI Originario)**, **Yabarana Organization of Parucito (OIYAPAM)**, the **Political Movement- Multi-Ethnic People United of the Amazon (PUAMA)**, make the following declaration about the recent **MASSACRE OF INDIGENOUS YANOMAMI PEOPLE** which took place in the community of IROTATHERI, in the Municipality of the Upper Orinoco, committed by illegal miners from Brazil. This information was shared by the survivors and witnesses during the month of August 2012:

1. We stand in solidarity with the Yanomami People in Venezuela and their organization HORONAMI, who, in the month of July 2012, have been the victims of a **NEW MASSACRE IN THE IROTATHERI COMMUNITY** in the headwaters of the Ocamo river in the Municipality of the Upper Orinoco. The area of the massacre is within the area of influence of various Yanomami communities such as; MOMOI, HOKOMAWE, USHISHIWE and TORAPIWEI, of which all have been attacked, assaulted and invaded by illegal miners from Brazil (GARIMPEIROS) for more than 4 years.
2. We strongly deplore this new violent attack against the Yanomami people, which has killed an unknown number of people, allegedly **leaving only 3 survivors of approximately 80 Yanomami people who lived in the community of Shapono in the Upper Ocamo**. According to witness and survivor testimonies, Shapono was **burnt and attacked with firearms and explosives. Witnesses and survivors were relocated to the community of Parima "B"** between 15th and 20th August 2012, where they informed members of the organization, HORONAMI, Venezuelan Authorities of the 52nd Brigade of the National Army and the Centre for Investigation and Control of Tropical Diseases (CAICET) of the tragic events.
3. We express our **preoccupation that as of the year 2009 various entities of the Venezuelan State have been informed about the presence of GARIMPEIROS in the Upper Ocamo** and about the different aggressions that have been perpetuated against the communities of **MOMOI and HOKOMAWE**. These communities have been victims of physical violence, threats, gender violence and contamination of their water from the use of mercury that has left a number of Yanomami dead. Nevertheless, **NO EFFECTIVE MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO REMOVE THE GARIMPEIROS (BRAZILIAN MINERS) FROM THE AREA** or to create and implement a control plan regarding their access and mobility in the region when there has been an known increase in illegal mining in all of the Brazilian Amazon.

4. This situation not only affects the rights to LIFE, PHYSICAL INTEGRITY and HEALTH OF THE YANOMAMI COMMUNITY, but also constitutes a **new genocide and a new threat to the physical and cultural survival of the Yanomami**, at a time when 2013 marks 20 years since the Massacre of the HAXIMÚ, where 16 women, children and elders were killed.
5. We call on the National Government and other bodies of the Venezuelan State to carry out an **URGENT JUDICIAL INQUIRY** , an **IMMEDIATE VISIT TO THE CRIME SCENE** and **THE ADOPTION OF BILATERAL SAFEGUARD MEASURES WITH BRAZIL** in order to control and monitor the entry of *garimpeiros* to the UPPER OCAMO, the place of the massacre and where Yanomami people are threatened by the uncontrolled actions of illegal miners (*garimpeiros*). It should be remembered that the **failure to investigate and take effective measures, as in the case of the HAXIMÚ, could compromise the Venezuelan State's international responsibility**, for allowing foreign agents to attack Venezuelan nationals in their own territory.

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Political Movement- Multi-Ethnic People United of the Amazon (PUAMA)

José Gregorio Díaz Mirabal

Vice-Cordinator CONIVE

Guillermo Guevara

(Indigenous Consituyent 1999)