

Tuxaua Joao Davi Maraxi Yanomama
Spokesperson of Yanomami Council
Amazonia and Roraima, Brazil
Chief of Community Paapiu



doCip
ARCHIVES

tervention on the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues
May 20, 2002 - Translated directly from Portuguese

Our preoccupation in Brazil, we don't have much what the others have, a good education.
In some villages, they have very few lessons.

School of the white's is very limited, many Yanomami want to study in an "official" school, so that's why we have also problems.

The Brazilian government does not give much legal assistance to the Yanomami. Yanomami are so many, that a school inside the Yanomami area is very important for us also , to be able to write in both languages , our language also ,

We don't want to loose our language -which we have guarded all this time.

And also, when we lost, how we let things go, we where ourselves the ones letting it go, nobody is forgetting this, it is already in our mind!

In our heart is our culture that works in our head in the thinking,- with our own eyes we peoples have seen how it is bad to leave our culture Yanomami behind.

Many times -we Yanomami preserved our culture, and many times we Yanomami preserved our culture because this is of interest to us- but very different to the white culture.

Us Yanomami , for us is most important that we live like very very long time ago , ancient , until today we live like that -the same ,

with our culture , ceremonial festivals , and shamanism, also healing ourselves , we have everything to make our medicines , we have this also.

We search very much how to do it, how to guard this too, for not to loose our own medicaments, -and they work as good as the whites medicaments, also this we save very much.

Tradition exists also, lot's of parties/fiestas, and we do party with a lot of fun and happiness.

.This is very good for us.

Even so, some whites which are no -Indian , which we don't want,... it's bad,... they come to study inside of our communities !

We Yanomami do not want whites who study our culture, because the white does take our knowledge

- our hearts -
- and our live - ,

this is what we Yanomami want We want to be without the white taking our knowledge and doing something with it , without us Yanomami knowing what is done with it.

It is important to know, that's why we don't want it!

Other issue also....us Yanomami have seen how the white say's to us, in Brazil, that Yanomami are no humans,... is that it, human rights?

They say we are no humans,

We are,... we are humans.

With rights as Indians also, and the whites also have to respect all human beings!

Another issue also , our land is demarcaded , and that is also not respected !

And another issue also,2 years ago we went to Porto Seguro [Brazil's celebration for 500 years of Portuguese colonialism] and the police threatened us at our demonstration.

there were many of our indigenous relatives from all over Brazil, we suffered so much from travelling so far to be at the demonstration in Porto Seguro , this is what I wanted to do , to bring this also ,.... here to you bigger authorities -to bring this to you so this it is , in my head was existing all this...

Yes there is another thing,..... I remember now all by a sudden, there is another issue,....

there is the Funai [Bureau of Indian Affairs] in Brazil, who tries to help us Yanomami, the Funai would like to help us very much, but the government doesn't give the financial aid, they stay with the aid, never give sufficient for the Funai which would like to work,

the government never gives it's money -forwards the financial aids to the Funai, which would like to protect us Yanomami very much,

Yanomami wants to renew the demarcation- line of our territory which we have!

The demarcation path is very old from many years ago, the demarcation-path is fainting (growing back),

We Yanomamis want somebody to help Yanomami to renovate -so that the whites respect more the marked /demarcated -path to not invade us any more, it is this which I wanted to say,

and what I remembered,

only this,

Good day for all of you.

(Please forward this intervention always together with the messenger bird Yaro)

Translation from Yanomama into Portuguese by Joao Davi Yanomama

A nossa preocupacao no Brasil ,nos nao temos muito assim que os outros tem uma educacao certo. En algumas aldeias tem muito pouco aula.

Escola de branco e muito pouco ,muito Yanomamis que querem estudar em escola oficialmente ,entao e isso que temos problema tambem,

Governo tambem de Brasil que nao da muita assistencia muito legalmente para nos Yanomami .Yanomami e tao grande que a escola dentro de yanomami aerea e muito importante para nos tambem fazer escrever em todas as linguas e a nossa lingua yanomami tambem.

Nos nao queremos deixar a nossa linguagem- que todo tempo nos guardadamos.

E tambem como deixara como deixamos nos somos mesmo aquela pessoa , ninguem deixa larga isso ja esta dentro da cabeca dentro do coracao a cultura que funciona aqui na cabeca no pensamento, com os proprios olhos nos a gente ve que e ruim de deixar a nossa cultura yanomami . Muitas vezes se nos Yanomami preservamos a nossa cultura e se muitas vezes nos Yanomami preservamos a nossa cultura muito interessado pra nos , mas muito mais diferente da cultura de branco .

Para nos Indios Yanomamis que e mais importantes que e viver muito muito antes antiguamente , ate hoje estamos vivendo igual a nossa cultura , festa ceremonia , e pajelanca tambem- curar de nos , e tambem temos para fazer os a medicinal , nos temos isso ai tambem - e procuramos muito como fazer temos guardado isso ai tambem , para nao deixar a nossos proprios remedios

-e como funciona igual remedio de branco tambem isso seguramos muito bem

Existe tradicao tambem, muita festa- e nos fazem muito festa com alegria, e muito bom pra nos. Mesmo assim alguns brancos que nao e indio qui nos nao queremos- e muito ruim- para estudar la pra dentro a nossa comunidade ,

Nos Yanomami nao querem brancos que estudam a nossa cultura porque o branco fica levando nossa sabedoria -nossos coracoes-

- e nossa vida-

Isso que nos Yanomamis queremos que nos qurem ficar sem o branco levar a nossa sabedoria e eviando alguma coisa tambem,

Nos Yanomami sem saber, ninguem sabe o que estao fazendo , pra fazerimportante por nos, isso nos nao queremos isso ai .

Outra coisa tambem ,nos Yanomami que vejo que o branco diz , em Brasil: Nos Yanomami nao somos humanos ,.... o que e isso , direitos humanos?

Disse que nos nao somos humanos ,

Somos sim !

Somos humanos com direitos indigenas tambem !

E os brancos tambem tem que respeitar os seres humanos .

E outra coisa..... nossas terras sao demarcadas tambem e tambem nao e respeitada.

Outra coisa tambem, dois anos atraz fomos em Porto Seguro, e a policia ameacaram nos na manifestacao, Tinhiam muitos parentes do povo indigena de tudo brasil, soffremos de viajar tanto para estar manifestar em Porto Seguroisso ai que eu queria fazer uma colocacao tambem aqui voces autoridaes maior.... colocar isso pra voces.

So isso mesmo na minha cabeca que existia , e isso mesmo ,,,Sim tem outra coisa eu me lembrei drepidente...

tem outra coissa ...tem a Funai que eu gostaria muito que a Funai no Brasil que faz uma forca para nos Yanomamii, a Funai... ela quer a judar nos Yanomami muito , mas o governo nunca repassa a verba ,somentre fica segurando a verba,

nunca faz um bom suficiente para a Funai que quer trabalhar,

ela nunca repassa dinheiro do governo ou repassa a verba para a funai,

Funai quer proteger Yanomami muito tambem.

Nos Yanomami quer renovar a demarcacao - que tem ela ja e muito velho feito a muito tempo... e parece que os caminhos estao sumindo!

Nos Yanomami quer renovar a demarcacao o caminho,

nos Yanomami quer alguem ajuda Yanomami para renovar,

para o branco respeitar mais o caminho novo -para nao invadir!

E isso que eu queria e que me lembrei, e so isso,

Bom dia para voces.