



## CONSELHO INDÍGENA DE RORAIMA - CIR

Friday 18 PM #145

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Sixth Session, May 14 - 25, 2007

Mrs. President,

KAIMEN Y NAU - UNGARY JOENIA WAPICHANA

Thanks for the opportunity to speak here.

I am from the Wapichana people of the State of Roraima, in the Brazilian Amazon.

Today I speak on behalf of the Indigenous Council of Roraima (CIR), with the support of the Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB), the Gateway to the Xingu Indigenous Organization, the National Guarani Commission of Rio Grande do Sul, the National Commission of Indigenous Women (CONAMI), the Rainforest Foundation US, the Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program at the University of Arizona, and the Forest Peoples Programme.

I share with my indigenous sisters and brothers their concern with the situation of our lands and environment in relation to our human rights.

I therefore request the continued attention of this Forum to the struggle for indigenous rights, in particular:

1. That the Permanent Forum recommends to the international human rights system, and in particular to the Inter-American system, which is an observer to this Forum, that it continues working for the protection of territorial rights, calling upon States to title lands. But we ALSO ask that the Forum recognizes that the protection of our lands does not end with land titling. If outsiders remain on our lands and exploit our resources without our consent, land title on its own has no meaning. Beyond demarcation and titling, States must protect indigenous lands through public policies which strengthen indigenous organizations, through land monitoring projects, and above all, guaranteeing our international rights before domestic legislation. LAND TITLING ON ITS OWN IS NOT ENOUGH TO GUARANTEE THE FULL ENJOYMENT OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.
2. The Brazilian experience, in particular that of the indigenous peoples of Raposa Serra do Sol, demonstrates that guaranteeing our land rights on the domestic level depends on more just legal responses and the continued monitoring and protection of indigenous lands. In RSS, we had our lands demarcated and titled in 2005, BUT we continue



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suffering because of land insecurity, exploitation, and threats from local court decisions. The Brazilian State has not yet removed all of the non-indigenous settlers on our land, as mandated by national law. Land titles have no value if the State does not guarantee complementary rights, including our rights to control and manage our lands and resources according to our customs, values, and social organization.

3. **I request that the Forum notes, in its report, that in Brazil, as in other parts of the world, indigenous peoples continue to demand the demarcation and titling of their lands. I note in particular the case of the Guarani people of Brazil. It is of particular concern that many indigenous peoples are threatened with removal from their traditional lands, with monoculture plantations, and with environmental degradation. And violence continues, even within DEMARCATED lands.**
4. **I request that the Forum recommends, within its report to ECOSOC, that the protection of our lands does not end with titling and demarcation on their own. The state has the obligation to fully recognize our rights, and as such, it should do much more.**
5. **I also request a specific mention of the 2007 recommendations from CERD to the Brazilian government, regarding the RSS case in Roraima.**
6. **For additional information, attached please find the final declaration from the Brazilian Indigenous Movement, which met during the "Indigenous April" mobilizations, and offers a snapshot of the general human rights situation of indigenous peoples in Brazil.**

Thank you very much!