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A N T H R O P O L O G I C A L  
A S S O C I A T I O N

December 21, 2006

President of Brazil  
Exmo. Sr. Presidente da Republica Federativa do Brasil  
Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva  
Palácio do Planalto  
70150-900 - Brasilia - DF  
BRASIL

Excellency:

On behalf of the 11,000 members of the American Anthropological Association, we write to express our concern for the safety and well-being of several hundred members of the Guarani-Kaiowá indigenous community of Nanderu Marangatu, Mato Grosso do Sul. These indigenous people lost their homes and livelihoods on December 16, 2005 when federal and military police violently evicted them from their ancestral lands leaving them encamped in precarious conditions along the MS-384 highway. While inhabitants of this community have now returned to their reservation, they continue to live in conditions of extreme social deprivation as a decision to ratify the demarcation of their lands is held up.

Amnesty International and other local NGOs repeatedly warned that the eviction referenced above would result in further serious violence. These warnings, we are sorry to learn from Amnesty International, have been borne out. A woman who was seven months pregnant miscarried after falling during her eviction and a one-year-old baby died from dehydration and diarrhea after being expelled. Nine days after the eviction, on December 24, 2005, thirty-nine year old Dorvalinho Rocha was shot in the chest in the municipality of Antônio João, Mato Grosso do Sul. Reports indicate that he was killed by a private security guard hired by local landowners. Dorvalino Rocha was the 38th indigenous activist killed in Brazil in 2005. According to the Indigenous Missionary Council (CIMI), 2005 witnessed the greatest number of indigenous assassinations in over a decade.

We understand that on March 29, 2005, you officially allocated lands to the Nanderu Marangatu community after its demarcation as set forth in the Brazilian Constitution. However, despite your ratification, a Supreme Court (STF) ruling suspended the order and the Guarani-Kaiowá were expelled from their land. We are especially concerned that this case be resolved given that the state of Mato Grosso do Sul has the highest incidence of conflict over returning ancestral lands to indigenous peoples.

We respectfully urge you to see that the Nanderu Marangatu community is allowed to return to its ancestral land as soon as possible and see to it that their constitutional right to these lands is upheld. We also request that you investigate local private security companies to determine their culpability in the assassination of R. Dorvalinho Rocha. Further, we urge you to set out clear policies and specific strategies for resolving the persistent human rights issues that affect Brazil's indigenous populations

The American Anthropological Association has repeatedly expressed similar concerns about the status of indigenous people in Brazil, and we continue to monitor their situation. Once again we call upon the Brazilian government to fulfill its constitutional and international obligations, such as Decree 143/2002 that approves 169 OIT and Decree 65.810/1969 that endorses the International

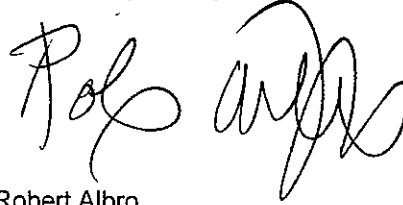
Convention on the Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, to resolve all outstanding indigenous land claims in Brazil.

We look forward to receiving information about the measures you are taking to restore the Guarani to their land and to protect their basic human rights. Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,



Alan H. Goodman  
President  
American Anthropological Association



Robert Albro  
Chair  
AAA Committee for Human Rights

Cc: Exmo. Ministro da Justica da Republica Federativa do Brasil  
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