



Professor Vesna Vucinic Neskovic
Chair
World Council of
Anthropological Associations

21 December, 2015.

Dilma Vana Rousseff
President
República Federativa do Brasil

gabinetepessoal@presidencia.gov.br
sg@presidencia.gov.br

**Ref: Guarani Kayowá and Guarani Nandeva Indigenous Peoples Situation,
Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil**

I am writing on behalf of the World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA), a global network of fifty two national, regional and international professional anthropological associations. I am writing to endorse the Associação Brasileira de Antropologia's formal statement of protest against the treatment of the Guarani Kayowá and Guarani Nandeva Indigenous Peoples, in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, by the Brazilian National State. As is well known, these communities are engaged in securing and protecting their traditional lands, and as a result have come under severe armed attack, ultimately backed by agribusiness interests and others, in what amounts to a war against these ethnic groups. The Brazilian Federal Government, according to the 1988 Constitution of Brazil, is obligated both to protect and to safeguard indigenous lands. Despite that constitutionally mandated requirement, such protection on the part of the government seems to be largely absent.

Brazil is known world-wide for its long and notable history of recognition of and respect for the rights of its Indigenous population, which together constitute a unique heritage of human diversity under one single nation-state (more than 305 different indigenous peoples speaking around 274 different languages). Given that record, we are deeply concerned about the silence of the Brazilian government and its failure so far to honour this tradition of ensuring the rights of Brazilian Indigenous peoples. The threats against Indigenous peoples are various, but those affecting the Guarani are now among the most aggressive and extreme.

As anthropologists who are dedicated to understanding and protecting Indigenous rights we appeal to the Brazilian government to reconsider its current policies and act according to the principles established by Brazilian law and international conventions.

We look forward to your reply and information on how you intend to undertake to protect the Guarani people and their land.

We hope that this issue will be efficiently resolved for the good of all the people involved.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vesna Vucinic Neskovic', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Vesna Vucinic Neskovic
World Council of Anthropological Associations, Chair
www.wcaanet.org

Professor
Department of Ethnology and Anthropology
University of Belgrade
Cika Ljubina 18-20
11000 Belgrade, Serbia

Tel. +381 11 3089098
Mail. vvucinic@gmail.com, vvucinic@f.bg.ac.rs