

16 August 2002

Further information on UA 216/02 (AMR 19/012/2002, 17 July 2002) - Fear for Safety

BRAZIL **Hipãridi Top'tiro(m), Indigenous leader and President of the Xavante Warã Association and members of his family**
Dr Mariana Ferreira (f), Anthropologist
Anthropological and ethnological researchers working in Sangradouro indigenous territory

On 9 August, Hipãridi Top'tiro and members of the Xavante Warã Association were reportedly threatened again by the regional administrator of the National Indigenous Foundation (*Fundação Nacional do Índio, FUNAI*) in Primavera do Leste. Amnesty International is concerned for their safety.

The regional administrator of FUNAI allegedly has strong links to landowners in the region, and has been intimidating and threatening Hipãridi Top'tiro and his family for a long time.

According to reports, FUNAI's regional administrator stated to an indigenous leader at FUNAI's office in Primavera do Leste that "*ninguém me tira daqui, porque tenho amigos poderosos: o governador de Mato Grosso, oito deputados e o próprio presidente da Funai. Hipãridi Top'tiro iria pagar caro por tê-lo denunciado à Anistia Internacional e que os dias do presidente da Associação Xavante Warã estavam contados*"; ("Nobody will throw me out because I have powerful friends; the Mato Grosso Governor, eight members of Parliament and the President of FUNAI. Hipãridi Top'tiro will pay dearly because he reported me to Amnesty International, and the days of the president of the Xavante Warã Association are numbered"). FUNAI's regional administrator also reportedly stated that he would tie up the feet and hands of Hipãridi Top'tiro and throw him into a dustbin; and that the staff of Xavante Warã Association should be careful because nobody treats him that way. Though Dr Mariana Ferreira was not explicitly threatened, she remains in danger through her association with Hipãridi Top'tiro.

The threats against Hipãridi Top'tiro and his family allegedly relate both to his work on *Salve o Cerrado* (Save the Sierra), an environmental project, and a legal action that he brought against local landowners for allegedly deforesting part of an indigenous area. Dr Ferreira, who works with Hipãridi Top'tiro on *Salve o Cerrado*, has reportedly received veiled death threats, and even what appear to be attempts on her life.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, Portuguese or your own language:

- in the light of the new threats, expressing serious concern for the safety of Hipãridi Top'tiro, his family, Dr Mariana Ferreira and other anthropological and ethnological researchers working in Sangradouro indigenous reserve;
- asking the authorities to investigate the new threats they have received and to bring those responsible to justice;
- calling on the authorities to provide federal protection, as deemed appropriate by those under threat, to guarantee their safety;

- expressing your concern that consistent reports of threatening behaviour by the regional administrator of FUNAI in Primavera do Leste have not been investigated;
- should these reports be verified, calling on the authorities to implement all appropriate disciplinary and legal sanctions to address threatening behaviour by the regional administrator of the FUNAI in Primavera do Leste.

APPEALS TO:**Federal Secretary for Human Rights**

Sr. Paulo Sergio Pinheiro
 Secretaria de Estado dos Direitos Humanos
 Ministério da Justiça
 Esplanada dos Ministérios,
 Bloco T, 4º andar, Sala 420
 70064-900 Brasília - DF, Brazil

Telegrams: Secretario de Estado dos Direitos Humanos, Brasília - DF, Brazil

Fax: + 55 61 226 7980

Salutation: Exmo. Sr, Secretário/Dear Federal Secretary

President: National Indian Foundation

Exmo. Sr. Presidente da
 Fundação Nacional do Índio - FUNAI
 Otacílio Antunes dos Reis Filho
 SEPS Quadra 702/902 Projeção A, Ed. Lex
 70390-025 Brasília - DF, Brazil

Telegrams: Presidente da Fundação Nacional do Índio, DF, Brazil

Fax: + 55 61 226 8782 (When someone answers say 'Me da tom de fax por favor')

Salutation: Exmo. Sr, Presidente/Dear President

Federal Attorney General: Mato Grosso State

Dra Fabiola Dorr Kaloy
 Procuradora da República - Mato Grosso
 Rua Osório Duque Estrada 107, Ed. Capital - Bairro Araés
 78005-720 Cuiabá - MT, Brazil

Telegrams: Procuradora da República - Mato Grosso, DF, Brazil

Fax: + 55 65 612 5085

Salutation: Exma. Sra, Procuradora/Dear Federal Prosecutor

COPIES TO:**Mato Grosso State Governor**

Exmo. Sr. Governador do Mato Grosso
 Sr. José Rogerio Salles
 Palácio Paiaguás, Centro Político Administrativo
 78050-970 Cuiabá - MT, Brazil

Telegrams: Governador do Mato Grosso, DF, Brazil

Fax: + 55 65 613 4120

Salutation: Exmo. Sr, Governador/Dear Governor

Indigenous Rights Organization

CIMI Regional Mato Grosso
 Rua dos Nambikuara, 32
 Santa Helena - Caixa Postal 147
 78005-970 Cuiabá - MT, Brazil

and to diplomatic representatives of Brazil accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 September 2002.