

Main points of the submission to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

- The Petition is presented by Survival International and CIMI (Indigenous Missionary Council, Brazilian NGO), against the State of Brazil on behalf of the Awá Guajá tribe. Its purpose is to seek redress for the violation of the Awá's rights to their ancestral lands and natural resources.
- The Awá will not survive without their lands, yet the Brazilian government has so far failed to take measures to protect the land against the illegal invaders who continue to encroach upon it.
- The opening up of the Awá's lands by the Great Carajás Project of the 1980s and the resultant persecution have drastically reduced the Awá's population; now, it is estimated at only 450, of whom about 100 are uncontacted.
- The Awá's lands are now demarcated, but the invasions continue and more and more forest is being destroyed. Loggers are operating ever closer to the Awá. Game has become increasingly hard to find, and many Awá dare not hunt at all in case they are attacked by loggers.
- Experts have warned that the Awá face 'genocide' and 'extinction'.
- A Judge ruled that all invaders were to be evicted from the Awá Indigenous Territory by the start of April 2013. The deadline has come and gone, and the invaders remain in place.
- The Awá's rights to their land are affirmed by the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights and the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, as well as by other provisions of international human rights law, and the Brazilian constitution.
- Survival and CIMI ask the Commission to hold Brazil to account for violations of the Awá's rights and urge that Brazil should, in consultation with the Awá, ensure that the Awá's lands are devoted to the use of the Awá, that invaders are evicted, that all illegal activities are brought to a halt and that the land is protected from future invasions.